

Minutes

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. by President Sterling

2. Roll Call

Mike Sterling, Kurt Thompson, Sue Berogan, Larry Smith, Jill Berogan

Absent: Sharon Ranieri and Evelyn Meeks

Other Attendees:

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary

Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Josh Aurand, Chief School Business Official

Motion to appoint Secretary Pro Tem – Jill Berogan

1st Smith 2nd S. Berogan

Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling – 5 ayes

Motion carried

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Rock Cut Elementary Students

Presenter: Ryan Reinecke, Marquette Principal

4. Motion to approve Agenda

1st Thompson 2nd Smith

S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson – 5 ayes

Motion carried

5. The Mission of the Harlem Consolidated School District, as a vital part of the community, is to help diverse learners realize their unlimited potential by providing an educational program dedicated to academic excellence and the development of strong character in a safe and respectful learning environment.

Presenter: Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

6. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve Regular & Closed Minutes of January 18, 2022

1st Thompson 2nd Smith

Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – 5 ayes

Motion carried

7. Awards and Recognitions:

Harlem Boys' Bowling Team

Harlem Competitive Dance Team

Presenter: Jason Blume, Director of Equity & Community Engagement

He introduced the 2022 Nic 10 Varsity Dance Champions – 1st in the Nic 10

He introduced the 2022 Nic 10 Boys' Bowling Team – Conference Champions, Regional Champions and Sectional Champions

18 of 21 competitions were victories and the others second place finishes. Finished second at State for 2022.

8. Comments from the Community

Mike read the rules regarding Public Comments

1. Dane Youngblood addressed the Board as a parent of a 4th grade student at Olson Park regarding mitigation strategies and first of all the lack of notice of the decision made regarding facemask changes in a timely manner. On Sunday an email was sent at 5:30 p.m. for 7:30 classes the next morning. Second concern is there is no health data or relevant information that shows the decision was based on any public health metrics or what was best for the kids. from which to make the decision. The Harlem School District is its own governing body and is responsible for providing our children a safe environment. Masks do prevent spread of diseases. He asks that wearing masks not be a parental choice as rules are put in place to keep students safe when choices harm other students. Inconvenience should not impact safety. Please continue to require students to wear masks in schools until the medical community directs.
2. Carolyn Wolfe addressed the Board as a parent in the District to say thank you to all for making our schools good. She noted that we all have the same goals which take on many faces with students. You are trying your best to accommodate for all of this and she wanted to show her appreciation to keep in person learning in schools. She noted she felt she should start here and noted her appreciation of the Board's decision as well as administrators, teachers and staff. She sees you, hears you and thanks you for your strength and passion as we continue to move forward.
3. Erica Hafferty addressed the Board thanking the Board for their optional mask decision. Her children have never been masked and they have been disenrolled from the District. She has a medical exemption and cannot wear masks. They are thriving academically and making friends at their new school. She does not want to live in fear and noted diseases that had far higher death numbers than Covid. What about mental and behavioral safety with masks? This needed to be discussed ahead of time and it should be a parental decision.
4. Sherri Cayo addressed the Board and noted she has brought the Board plenty of information on the laws and mandates in the past and Governors cannot make laws. This is falling on deaf ears. She noted that it would be a smart choice for Harlem to follow suit in the law case. Freedom is making choices. The Union is trying to take away our children's civil liberties. She knows she can get the money to make sure Harlem is included in the lawsuit so that our children can have freedom.

5. Steven Fertitta addressed the Board as a parent. He noted that Monday his student went to school without a mask and very happy. Oldest daughter had an anxiety attack trying to sneak a mask in her backpack. Don't make my kids wear a mask and his kids will not be wearing masks again. What about the psychological signs we are seeing in kids with masks. To be a leader at the top is lonely. Our kids have been programed with fear of a virus.
6. Carlie Buetsch, student addressed the Board, as a sophomore and thanked the Board for removing the mask mandate. Things have been ongoing for two years. She feels like she is trapped and watching life go by. She has been experiencing this since 8th grade. Her grades have gone from A's to C's and D's. Also her athletics have been difficult wearing masks. She loved to learn two years ago and misses the way things were taught but is just going through the motions. She wants to learn. She has many friends and herself that struggle with mental health as well which Covid has impacted.
7. Madaline McKenzie addressed the Board noting she is a Harlem graduate and all 7 of her family and parents attended Harlem, as well as her husband. The administrators, teachers and coaches were instrumental for her education. She wrote a letter supporting the Board's decision when she was in high school and is supporting the Superintendent's recent decision. Parents' choice is better late than never. There are almost 600 districts that allow choice. She thanked the Board and Superintendent and encouraged them to stay the course.
8. Heather Sharp addressed the Board thanking Dr. Yarbrough. In medical settings they do not wear masks to stop a virus but to stop particles from dropping in surgery in the air when they sneeze and cough.

9. Approval of Bills

- 9.A. Payables Summary \$1,373,415.80
- 9.B. Voided Checks \$ 17,378.51
- 9.C. Payroll Voucher(s) \$8,570,289.59
- 9.D. Accounts Payable Warrants \$9,943,705.39

Mr. Aurand reviewed total expenditures split out by fund totaling \$9,943,705.39

Motion to approve bills as reviewed

1st Thompson 2nd S. Berogan

Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – abstain – 4 yes

Motion Carried

10. Communications and Committee Reports

10.A. Michael Sterling, President

10.A.1. Next Regular Board Meeting: February 28, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m., at which time we will be reviewing the Superintendent Evaluation and on into the March meeting

- Recognized the Dance Team and Boys' Bowling Team

- Thanked the Rock Cut Elementary students for leading the Pledge and thanked Principal Reinecke
- Thanked the people making public comments
- Noted hearing from the student was wonderful as we are in an ever-changing environment

10.B. Jill Berogan, Vice President

10.B.1. Next Policy Committee Meeting: February 22, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

- Thanked Rock Cut pledge students and Mr. Reinecke
- Congratulated the Boys' Bowling Team and Dance Team
- Thanked people making comments

10.C. Evelyn Meeks, Secretary - absent

10.C.1. Next Equity & Social Justice Meeting: February 24, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. at HHS in W 145

10.D. Kurt Thompson, Board member

10.D.1. Next Business Services Committee meeting: March 2, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

- Noted the Dance and Bowling Teams accomplishments, noting that this is the first-time students have led the pledge in person
- He noted that with all emails and different views he wants noted that everyone has been very disrespectful in the Harlem area, and every single one was about students and what is best for them and that is what the Board is trying to do, but it is complex and there are no simple answers
- Noted that the Kaleidoscope concert is coming up

10.E. Larry D. Smith, Board member

10.E.1. Next Education Committee meeting: February 16, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

- He urged people to attend the Education Committee meeting
- Congratulated the Dance Team and Boys' Bowling Team on their accomplishments
- - Addressed the TRO of February 4, 2022. This Temporary Restraining Order was for Executive Orders 18, 22 and 24, masking, vaccinations, testing and quarantining

The judge stated there is a strong interest in stopping the virus but the Judge established the levels in looking at all the legislation, it is the due process rights of people being violated but nothing to do with the merit of the decisions but everything to do with due process. It is important to follow due process. She rules that the due processes were not followed to protect the people in Illinois. Balancing of hardships, she again reiterated it is the due process rights being addressed and the rules were in place by the legislature and could be the remedy for the defendants and also said that citizens could be subjected to vaccinations, testing, quarantining when necessary; but it is the local health department's role to issue those types of orders. She ruled on 18, 24 and 25 which was not stated in the original

portion of the ruling. It was an extension of another emergency order. Following the decision on February 6 the Harlem School District announced the change in the guidelines and he has received numerous emails and comments from both sides. He appreciates all of the comments. What he heard in some of the comments was an attempt to dismiss or vilify those that didn't agree with them on the issue and that is the greatest concern to him. We are a community and it is easy to get along with no problems, but where we need to show our strength is when we don't agree. Dave Mason was quoted as "*there ain't no good guy, ain't no bad guy, just you and me and we can disagree*". He is concerned about the message we are sending to our students. They will look at this as lessons as they look to us to learn. Our School District is a vital part of our community and a point of pride. We have to make decisions in order to assure we have the structure in place to fulfill our Mission. Only time will tell what we should or should not have done. The passion being shown by parents, teachers and community members is promising regarding our students and he hopes that this passion continues to help students learn. They need to know they should not bully somebody but that they can do anything they want if they work hard and apply themselves regardless of the circumstances that surround them.

10.F. Sue Berogan, Board member

- Thanked Mr. Reinecke and pledge students

- Congratulated the Dance Team and Bowling Team

- Noted that she does not know what is the right thing but she knows the people that we have lost, students, and staff that have been lost to Covid. We don't have teachers to teach, students to learn and that is our biggest mistake. The mask does not protect me but protects you from getting the virus from me. It is a tough call but it would not be fair to you for me to take my mask off. School Bus drivers have watched their spouse's die. The 5-year-old who died with Covid. It is tough talks and tough decisions, and I will give up my right to breath unmasked air to protect you. How can anyone feel they are more important than another.

10.G. Sharon Ranieri, Board Member - absent

11. Administrative Reports

11.A. Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

11.A.1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests:

Wrestling Tournaments - Sectional Wrestling Tournament

Baseball

University of Chicago was canceled

11.B. Josh Aurand, Chief School Business Official

11.B.1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property: Harlem Administration Center, Windsor, and Transportation Dept.

We reached out and we were able to sell our buses at \$30,000 more than what we thought. We are doing the surplus so that they can pick up.

11.B.2. Recommendation to approve Facility Requests:

Baseball team, Roller derby, Six flags, Baseball

11.B.3. Recommendation to accept November and December 2021 Treasurer Reports

11.B.4. Recommendation to approve three (3) year Lease Agreement with Regional Office of Education for lease of Hoffman Campus.

We did a shorter two-year last time to see how it went but this time they would like a three year as they want to put things in place. We need to make sure we have ample time to plan anything out if we need something with that building. If there is only 3 years that should be good. Both Kurt and Mike noted that they are good with the 3 years.

11.B.5. Recommendation to approve an agreement with ASM Rockford for the rental of BMO Harris Bank Center on Saturday, May 28, 2022, for graduation ceremonies at the cost of \$2,500 plus labor costs. We do have the morning.

11.B.6. Recommendation to approve Jostens Yearbook Agreement for Harlem Middle School for 2022-2023 school year at \$37.75 per copy

11.B.7. Recommendation to approve Brain POP and Brain POP Jr. digital subscriptions for one (1) year at a cost of \$23,256, paid with Title I funds, also a special education program at the high school is included

11.B.8. Recommendation to approve online teacher licenses with Reading A to Z for a cost of \$3,456 funded by Title I and ESSER II and Science A to Z for a cost of \$972 funded by Title I

11.B.9. Recommendation to approve an agreement with UCLA to provide professional services for implementation of Early Development Instrument (EDI) for a cost of \$15,000 Which will be written into ESSER II

11.B.10. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Monica Genta to provide virtual Professional Development at Harlem Middle School for a cost of \$4,250, paid with Title II funds which could be expanded to the high school as well. Kurt asked that staff and students be informed that they could take advantage of this as well

11.B.11. Recommendation to approve a one (1) year agreement with Panorama Education for the Harlem Middle School MTSS Team at a cost of \$16,500, paid with Title 1 funds

11.B.12. Recommendation to approve electricity services bid and approval for the CSBO to lock electricity rates and we are working with someone who is not working with any vendor as referred to by the solar company

11.C. Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

11.C.1. Recommendation to approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

Reviewed as 18 employments, 7 transfers, 1 leave of absence and 4 requests from Federation Bank and 9 positions to post 5 for permanent sub positions, not long-term written into the ESSER III grant for this year and following two years as a result of absentee

rates in specific buildings, 1 social worker for PC due to enrollment, 1 Life Skills at LP, 2 paras at Olson Park and Parker Center

11.C.2. Informational only: Resignations

12 Resignations accepted since last meeting

Sue asked if we have a person hired as a CTE teacher resigned. Shelley noted that she does not have a formal notice yet but did resign in a couple of days. Shelley noted that the high school has indicated and Terrell noted that we will be bringing forth the plans and details. Kurt asked about exit interviews which Shelley said they are offered but the majority

11.D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

- Thanked Mr. Reinecke for bringing the students to lead the Pledge

11.D.1. Request for 3 Superintendent Vacation days, February 9, 10 and 11, 2022 as well February 16, 17 and 18

11.D.2. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) dated 1/18/22 submitted from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association requesting retiring certified staff names and email addresses and the District's responded on 1/19/22

12. Consent Agenda

12.A. Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

12.B. Approve Student Travel Request(s)

12.C. Approve Facility Request(s)

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item 12 A

1st S. Berogan 2nd Thompson

J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson S. Berogan, Smith – 5 ayes

Motion carried

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item 12 B

1st S. Berogan 2nd Thompson

Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan – 5 ayes

Motion carried

Motion to approve facility requests

1st Smith 2nd J. Berogan

Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan – 5 ayes

Motion carried

13. ACTION ITEMS

13.A. Motion to Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

1st S. Berogan 2nd Thompson

Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling – 5 ayes

Motion carried

13.A. Motion to Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

1st S. Berogan 2nd Thompson

Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling – 5 ayes

Motion carried

13.B. Motion to accept the November and December 2021 Treasurer Reports

1st S. Berogan 2nd J. Berogan

S. Berogan Smith, J. Berogan Sterling, Thompson – 5 ayes

Motion carried

13.C. Motion to Approve three (3) year Lease Agreement with Regional Office of Education for lease of Hoffman Campus

1st Thompson 2nd J. Berogan

Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – 5 ayes

Motion carried

13.D. Motion to Approve an agreement with ASM Rockford for the rental of BMO Harris Bank Center on Saturday, May 28, 2022, for graduation ceremonies at the cost of \$2,500 plus labor costs

1st J. Berogan 2nd Smith

Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – 5 ayes

Motion carried

13.E. Motion to Approve Jostens Yearbook Agreement for Harlem Middle School for 2022-2023 school year at \$37.75 per copy

1st S. Berogan 2nd Thompson

J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith – 5 ayes

Motion carried

13.F. Motion to Approve Brain POP and Brain POP Jr digital subscriptions for one (1) year at a cost of \$23,256, paid with Title I funds

1st S. Berogan 2nd Smith

Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan – 5 ayes

Motion carried

13.G. Motion to Approve online teacher licenses with Reading A to Z for a cost of \$3,456 funded by Title I and ESSER II and Science A to Z for a cost of \$972 funded by Title I

1st S. Berogan 2nd Thompson

Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Smit, J. Berogan

Motion carried

13.H. Motion to Approve an agreement with UCLA to provide professional services for Implementation of Early Development Instrument (EDI) for a cost of \$15,000

1st S. Berogan 2nd J. Berogan

Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling – 5 ayes
Motion carried

13.I. Motion to Approve an agreement with Monica Genta to provide virtual Professional Development at Harlem Middle School for a cost of \$4,250, paid with Title II funds

1st S. Berogan 2nd Thompson
S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan Sterling, Thompson – 5 ayes
Motion carried

13.J. Motion to Approve a one (1) year agreement with Panorama Education for the Harlem Middle School MTSS Team at a cost of \$16,500, paid with Title 1 funds

1st Smith 2nd S. Berogan
Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – 5 ayes
Motion carried

13.K. Motion to Approve electricity services bid and approval for the CSBO to lock electricity rates

1st S. Berogan 2nd Smith
Smith, J Berogan, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – 5 ayes
Motion carried

13.L. Motion to Approve Request for Superintendent vacation days: February 9, 10 and 11, 2022 and February 16, 17 and 18, 2022

1st S. Berogan 2nd J. Berogan
J. Berogan, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith – 5 ayes
Motion carried

14. Announcements and Discussion: none

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), at 7:22 p.m.

1st J. Berogan 2nd S. Berogan
Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan – 5 ayes
Motion carried

The Board took a brief recess at 7:23 p.m.

15. Executive Session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3), Pending Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Student Discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Placement of Individual Students in Special Education Programs and Other Matters Relating to Individual Students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10), Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), Self-Evaluation, Practices and Procedures or Professional Ethics (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16), Sale or Purchase of Securities, Investments or Investment Contracts (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7), Security Procedures (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8), Establishment of Reserves or Settlement

of Claims as provided in Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)12), and Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

16. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

16.A. Motion to Approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Education and Harlem Federation of Teachers regarding adjustment of time for March 11, 2022, SIP Day

1st J. Berogan 2nd Thompson

Thompson, S. Berogan, Smith, J. Berogan, Sterling – 5 ayes

Motion carried

17. Motion to adjourn

1st J. Berogan 2nd Smith

All voted aye, Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Arduino,

Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

President

Secretary

Dated: _____