

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m.– 9:45 p.m. June 20, 2018

Members Present:

- Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
Jon Buralli
Vipul Dedhia
Mary Lenzen
David Negrone
Michael Rak
Kristin Violante

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Catherine Chang, Jennifer Ban, Kathleen Tomei, Frank Adams, Brianne Malatt, Denise Spetter, and Karyn Lisowski; and residents Harry Fournier and Colton Parchem.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Middle School students, Rocco and Joey Buralli, led the pledge of allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

Board President Mark Mirabile wished Business Manager Catherine Chang well and thanked her for her work in the district. Catherine retires from the district June 30, 2018.

Business Manager Catherine Chang addressed the Board and thanked them for the reception and gift. She also thanked them for their guidance, support and trust through the years. She will miss Pleasantdale greatly.

Board Secretary Kristin Violante stated that many districts are in financial trouble but, thanks to Business Manager Catherine Change, this something our district does not need to worry about.

ACTION NO. 32 Consent Agenda

Motion by Violante, seconded by Dedhia, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of May 16, 2018; closed session meeting minutes of May 16, 2018; payment of May payroll/April warrants; Prevailing Wage Resolution; voluntary student insurance; transfer of interest; designation of depositories for school district funds; Board Resolution for Serious Safety Hazard Approval; Resolution Authorizing Certain Payments; and June 2018 Personnel Report containing the hiring of Frank Adams, Business Manager (CSBO) and Brianne Malatt, Middle School Assistant Principal effective July 1, 2018; Brooke Martyn, elementary resource teacher, Bethany George, English Language Teacher (.80 FTE), and Therese Porod, speech/language pathologist effective August 21, 2018; salary increases for administrators and confidential employees; and merit bonus for Reginald Daniels, middle school custodian. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negrone, Rak, Violante).

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Pleasantdale Middle School Assistant Principal and Business Manager Introductions
This Spring the district began the process to replace our Business Manager, Dr. Catherine Chang, who will retire on June 30th. The district received over forty applications and a dozen applicants were screened by administration. Four candidates were selected to participate in the committee interview process. The interview committee was made up of teachers,

staff, parents, Board members, and administrators. After completing this rigorous process, the district offered the position to Mr. Frank Adams. Mr. Adams is currently the Business Manager in Beach Park School District #3 in Lake County (IL) and brings a wealth of knowledge, as well as an innovative spirit, to our district.

Over the course of the past several months the district has worked to identify the next assistant principal for our middle school. Over 50 candidates applied for the position and 15 candidates were screened by the administration. Of the candidates screened, four were brought back for committee interviews. The interview committees were made up of teachers, staff, parents, Board members, students, and administrators. Mrs. Brianne Malatt was the successful candidate. Mrs. Malatt is currently the Dean of Students at Jefferson Middle School in Woodridge School District #68. As the Dean of Students, Mrs. Malatt has great experience working with students, parents, and staff in a very similar role to that of an assistant principal. We welcome Mrs. Malatt to the district.

Strategic Blueprint Update

Superintendent Dr. Dave Palzet provided the Board with an update on the progress of completing the goals of the Strategic Blueprint. Over the course of the last month the district has made great progress in completing the action steps laid out in our Strategic Blueprint. This month's work focuses on Building Learning Capacity and Building Human Capital. In the goal area of Building Learning Capacity the district hosted a Writer's Workshop training for 22 teachers at the elementary school. This model of instruction requires students to write more frequently and allows for more robust feedback from teachers. In the goal area of Building Human Capital, the district hosted a co-teaching workshop. The co-teaching model pairs a classroom teacher and a special education teacher who plan and implement lessons together. This research based method not only benefits students who may receive special education services, but benefits all students in a given classroom.

School Safety Planning

Over the course of the past two months the district has convened a school safety planning task force to review our current safety procedures and make recommendations for improvement. This task force was made up of teachers, secretaries, parents, students and administrators. Dr. Palzet reviewed the process of the committee and the year-one recommendations. These recommendations were then shared and discussed with the Board.

ACTION NO. 33

School Safety

Motion by Rak, seconded by Buralli, that the Board of Education approve year one of the School Safety Improvement Plan as presented. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negron, Rak, Violante).

Community Survey Results

Every other Spring, the district distributes a survey to parents, staff, and students in grades four through eight. The goal of the survey is to collect data to confirm the great things we're doing for students and families as well as discover areas where we can improve. Additionally, the district works in conjunction with other elementary school districts (in Lyons Township) to administer a graduate survey to all ninth graders at LTHS. Dr. Palzet presented the results of the surveys and outlined how this data would be used to improve our schools.

Middle School Gym Floor Repair

The Board discussed the need to make repairs to the floor in the north gym at the middle school. It was discovered that the floor is de-bonding in several areas and repair work can be done in different ways. The Board discussed the cost of the various repair options and chose to replace the gym floor with a material similar to the current gym floor. The Board directed administration to prepare the \$100,000 bid paperwork.

Board Self-Evaluation Process

As a high functioning governing body, the Board of Education reviews its own progress and evaluates its effectiveness on an annual basis. The Board discussed various options for this year's self-evaluation. The Board has chosen to engage in a self-evaluation in July, pending ISBA representative's, Perry Hill, availability.

Spring Testing Report

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Jennifer Ban shared with the Board that each Spring the Board receives an update about how our students performed on various standardized measures of achievement and growth. Dr. Ban provided an in-depth view of our students' PARCC and MAP scores.

Class Size Planning Update

The Board reviewed the current enrollment numbers at each grade level and compared these numbers to the Board class size guidelines. Additionally, the administration reviewed the process taken to add a section if enrollment goes well above the Board guideline. The administration will continue to monitor these numbers and make decisions that are in the best interest of the students, school, and community.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the August agenda include:
Gym Floor Bid Approval; School Libraries; Establish Petty Cash Fund; Summer Academy Update; Hiring Status Report (written); Declassify Executive Session Minutes; Graduation Reflection; Class Size Update; Review Personnel (sec. 5) Board Policies; and Tentative Budget.

ACTION NO. 34

Closed Session

Motion by Violante, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 9:12 p.m. to discuss student disciplinary cases; and the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 7 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negron, Rak, Violante).

The Board came out of closed session at 9:44 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Violante, seconded by Buralli, that the regular meeting adjourns at 9:45 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ___ President _____ Secretary _____