

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m.– 8:15 p.m. April 18, 2018

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer  
 Jon Buralli  
 Vipul Dedhia  
 Mary Lenzen  
 David Negron  
 Michael Rak

Absent:

Kristin Violante

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Erika Sawosko, Catherine Chang, Jennifer Ban, Debbie Lubeck, Kathleen Tomei, Griffin Sonntag, Meg Knapik, Maggie McCarter, Meagan Bubulka, and Peg Riordan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Grade Five students who attended Outdoor Education displayed pictures of the event, led the pledge of allegiance. Also on display were projects done by Annette Szymczak’s transitional Spanish class.

ACTION NO. 23  
Consent Agenda

Motion by Lenzen, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of March 21, 2018; closed session meeting minutes of March 21, 2018; payment of March payroll/April warrants; 2018-19 Strategic Blueprint Action Steps; and April 2018 Personnel Report consisting of the retirement of Business Manager Catherine Chang effective June 30, 2018; resignation of Lynne Kafkas, Middle school instructional aide, effective March 23, 2018; and a Resolution of Reduction in Force of Instructional Aides. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negron, Rak) absent – Violante.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

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 progress on goals in the Building Human Capital and Building Learning Environments categories. The district's hiring process is now fully aligned with the mission, beliefs, and the portrait of a graduate that is laid out in the district's Strategic Blueprint.

Hiring rubrics have been updated and a process to assess how well candidate's values and beliefs align to the district's beliefs and mission have been implemented. Additionally, the district launched a staff recognition campaign called the People of Pleasantdale which honors two members of our staff each Wednesday through district social media sites.

Bond Rating Update

The district received word this month that its bond rating would be upgraded. It is because of the Board's sound financial management that the district's bond rating has been upgraded from Aa2 to Aa1. While we often hear about school district's ratings being downgraded, we rarely hear when a district is able to upgrade its ratings; these upgrades occur very infrequently. The Board has held the administration accountable for cutting costs while increasing service, and we have responded. The Board understands that the district's bond rating can impact the overall cost to the taxpayer. Just as is the case with our personal credit

rating, a school district's bond rating can impact the cost of borrowing money. Also, the bond rating (similar to a credit rating) is an indicator of overall financial health. Our improved bond rating is just one example of the positive outcomes that result from a great governance team and the leadership they provide.

#### Middle School Math Resource Adoption

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Jennifer Ban and Assistant Principal Mrs. Meg Knapik reviewed the work that has been done at the middle school to select a new math resource. A committee of teachers and administrators has worked collaboratively to identify the best resource for our students. This work included piloting several high-quality resources in our classrooms as well as having teachers engage in professional development and training. After an exhaustive two years of study, the committee recommended a Big Ideas Math as the primary resource and CMP3 to support mathematical investigations in our 6-8 math classrooms. The committee believes that these resources along with ongoing professional development for teachers will ensure our students are ready for the rigors of high school and beyond. Board Secretary Mary Lenzen confirmed with administration that professional development will continue for the math programs. Board President Mark Mirabile confirmed that Big Ideas will support classroom activities and CMP3 would give the students some hands on experiences.

#### Summer Construction Projects

Business Manager Dr. Catherine Chang provided an update of upcoming summer projects. Keeping our facilities in good condition and ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and visitors is a top priority. Each summer, the District completes projects to improve the efficiency and safety of our schools. The Facilities Advisory team met on November 15, 2017 and made several recommendations for projects to be completed over the summer. A few of these projects include boiler replacements and nurse's office improvements at the elementary school and flooring improvements and bathroom updates at the middle school.

#### Review of School Board (sec. 2) Board Policies

Each month the Board reviews its policies to ensure that the current policy reflects the current realities of running a school district. This month the Board reviewed Board Policy (sec. 2) Board Policies. These policies will be on the May Consent Agenda for approval.

#### Review of Service Contracts

In an effort to ensure that the District is getting the best value from contracted service providers, District contracts are reviewed annually. At this month's Board meeting, Business Manager Dr. Catherine Chang reviewed our contracts and made recommendations for paper, transportation, auditing, food, and custodial services. These bids will be on the May Board of Education meeting agenda for approval.

#### NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the May agenda include:

Election of President, Vice President, and Secretary; Appointment of Recording Secretary; Establish Regular Meeting Day, Time and Location; Approve Middle School Math Resources; Approve paper Bid; Approve Cleaning Service Contract; Approve Transportation Contract; Approve Audit Contract; Approve School Board (sec. 2) Board Policies; Food Service update; and Hot Lunch Fees.

#### ACTION NO. 24

Closed Session

Motion by Buralli, seconded by Lenzen, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the findings shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes; student disciplinary cases; security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and

equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negron, Rak) absent – Violante.

The Board came out of closed session at 8:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rak, seconded by Dedhia, that the regular meeting adjourns at 8:15 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. \_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_