

Regular Board Meeting MINUTES  
Tuesday, November 10, 2020 6:00 PM

Harlem High School, Auditorium, One Huskie  
Circle, Machesney Park, IL 61115  
8605 North Second St  
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115

## **Agenda Minutes**

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

2. Roll Call:

Board members:

Sue Berogan, Patti Lawrence, Michael Sterling, Rich Meister, Jill Berogan, Evelyn Meeks

Other Attendees:

Kris Arduino, Recoding Secretary

Dr. Julie Morris, Superintendent

Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

Scott Rollinson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Ralston Elementary students led the Pledge and cited their School Creed via video

4. Approval of Agenda

Changes:

No student travel, 10(A)(1) & Consent Item 11(B)

No Action Item 15(A) Consideration and Possible Approval to Appoint an Individual to fill the Vacant Board Seat

**Motion to approve Agenda with noted changes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan Meeks, S. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**5. Motion to approve Board Meeting Regular Minutes: October 26, 2020, with a correction to the open meeting minutes per discussion between Kris and Patti, Special Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2020, October 22, 2020, October 28, 2020 and November 4, 2020 , both Open and Closed Minutes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> S Berogan**

**Lawrence, Sterling Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

6. Awards and Recognitions: National School Board Member Day - November 15 thanking and recognizing all Board members

Recognized and thanked employees who are Veteran's for their service

**Presenter:** Jason Blume, Director of Stakeholder Engagement

## 7. Comments from the Community

1. Leah Krippner, expressed concerns about the District continuing to offer in school learning. At the end of all comments at the previous board meeting Board members said they are concerned in making their decisions and look at metrics. When colleagues call the Health Department they are told to work with the School Board. ISBE has changed the close contact definition "a close contact is anyone with or without a face covering who is within 6 feet of Covid19 with or without a face mask for 15 minutes or more within 24 hours, so it is 15 total minutes within 24 hours. Virtually everyone in the building is a close contact. The Board needs to fix your own mess and don't rely on someone else to take make hard and urged the Board to make the hard decision and move the District immediately to remote learning.

## 8. Approval of Bills

8.A. Payables Summary \$278,547.75

8.B. Voided Checks

8.C. Payroll Voucher(s) \$2,923,257.07

8.D. Accounts Payable Warrants

Mr. Aurand reviewed the expenditures by Fund in the total of \$3,201,804.82

No questions

**Motion to approve bills as reviewed**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

**Sterling, Meister, J. berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan, Lawrence – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

## 9. Communications and Committee Reports

9.A. Sue Berogan, President

Thanked Ralston for the Pledge and School Creed video

Thanked fellow Board members for participating in our journey and hard work

Thanked Veterans for their service

Gave a Personal statement:

"I am aware of the staff shortages and the degrees to which the staff are going above and beyond to make it through each day. None of this is going unnoticed! All that is being done is very much appreciated!

We need to come together and figure out a plan gloing forward. A plan that is not only for the time between the holidays, but a plan for today, tomorrow, next week, and beyond. As

much as we want to believe otherwise, this virus is not going to be gone after January 18<sup>th</sup>.

The several emails we have gotten from employees regarding the proposal have been centered around the opportunity to quarantine to be able to see over the holidays. My opinion is that it would be great if every company would be able to do this. However, the reality is that companies will not be doing that.

The several emails we have gotten from families have been centered around the need for their children to receive in-person learning, for several different reasons. The families have stated their children have struggled to learn since everything was shut down, from March on. Parents and teachers have tried their best, but remote learning just has not worked for some students. Not every parent can be a teacher.

This is such a difficult time. I want to do what is best for everyone, but the only way this can be done is if we all come together and work out a plan. We all need to come together with an open mind and focus on what is best – not just the staff but the students also, and not just the students but the staff also.

I am aware of the staff's frustration and the level of defeat staff are feeling. We are aware that some parents and students need to have their student receive in-person learning.

All of us need to ask ourselves – Where can we go from here? What is the answer that is best for us? What can we do going forward that will work for everyone to get through the entire school year?

9.A.1. Board Evaluation Report: October 26, 2020

4 returned satisfactory and 1 satisfactory minus

9.A.2. Next Regular Board Meeting: December 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

9.A.3. Next Regular Policy Committee Meeting: January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

9.A.4. Recommendation to approve First Reading of Policy Update Recommendations from October 19, 2020 Policy Committee

9.A.5. Recommendation to approve Second Reading of Policy Updates from September 28,

9.A.6. Delegate Assembly Update – we need your answers on whether to adopt or not to adopt and there is questions on 7 and 8 with 8 having more information as to local school districts and making decisions based on their student and it is recommended not to adopt.

#### Page 9 – Resolutions

1. Loan Program – Recommended Not to Adopt – all agree
2. Gun Storage – Recommended Not to Adopt – all agree
3. School Report Card – Recommended Not to Adopt – Meister, Adopt, Sterling Adopt, Lawrence Not to Adopt, S. Berogan Not to Adopt, Meeks Not to Adopt, Jill Not to Adopt. 4 to 2 Not to adopt
4. Pre-K Teacher Licensure – Patti noted that an email was received that teachers take a reading class to get their licensure and even though not recommended not to adopt she

- would agree to adopt as it is a large part of math and reading, Lawrence to Adopt, Meister to Adopt, Sterling, to Adopt, Sue to Adopt, Meeks to Adopt, Jill to Adopt
5. Teacher Shortage – Recommended to Adopt – all agree
  6. E learning on Election Day recommended to Adopt – All Agree
  7. and 8. Local Control Pandemic – recommended to adopt, but there is a lot of talk about Chicago and the different counties. Patti said 7 looks at the size of county and number of covid cases and 8 says not to adopt because they feel it s a duplicate of 7 and she does not believe a duplicate and 8 looks at details such as teacher population and student base and the impact on students and not just the size of the county.

Lawrence will support adoption of 7 and 8

Sue noted that 8 gives more control and information than just the surrounding communities and each individual district.

Sterling agrees to both, Meister agrees to both S Berogan, Meeks and J. Berogan agree to adopt both 7 and 8

9 – 11 Unanimous to Reaffirm and 12 to Adopt - Meister, Sterling, Lawrence, S. Berogan, Meeks, J. Berogan

#### 9.B. Patti Lawrence, Vice President

Thanked Ralston students for leading the Pledge and Creed, and thanked Principal Christy Brown

Thanked Jason for the video

Thanked Veteran employees and community for their service

Noted that the Board had multiple meetings regarding the selection of the next Harlem Superintendent and two meetings tonight

Attended the virtual Kishwaukee Meeting

Updates:

9.B.1. Next Education Committee meeting: December 16, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

9.B.2. Next Equity & Social Justice Committee meeting: November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (High School Commons)

9.B.3. Equity & Social Justice Committee meeting: December 9, 2020 at ~~6:00~~ 6:30 p.m.

Thanked Leah Krippner for her Comment

#### 9.C. Evelyn Meeks, Secretary

Wished everyone a good evening

Thanked Ralston students for the video leading the pledge

Thanked the Board for their hard work

Thanked Leah Krippner for her Comment

Thanked the Veteran employees, community and country for everything they have done and it does not go unnoticed

Attended the virtual Kishwaukee and Northwest Division Combined meeting last week and the speaker did a great job on the pandemic and she will bring his ideas to the Board

9.C.1. Next Equity & Social Justice Committee meeting: November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (High School Commons)

9.C.2. Equity & Social Justice Committee meeting: December 9, 2020 at ~~6:00~~ 6:30 p.m.

9.D. Michael Sterling, Board Member

Thanked Ms. Krippner for commenting on her concerns

Thanked Christy Brown and her students leading pledge

Thanked fellow Veterans

Noted here will be some good news as to property tax relief which will affect all residents

9.D.1. Next Business Services Committee meeting: December 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

9.E. Jill Berogan, Board member

Thank you to Ralston students for the great video

Thanked Leah Krippner for her Comment

Attended the virtual Kishwaukee meeting and it was very informative with things that can be considered to implement into our District

Noted the last Equity & Social Justice meeting provided a lot of growth and feels confident in the committee growing and bringing that into the schools and growing our schools as far as equity and social justice for all our students

Thanked Veterans, staff, community and Mr. Sterling for his service

Wished happy Marine Corp birthday to all

9.F. Rich Meister, Board member

Noted the students at Ralston did a great job on the pledge on video as much as in person

Thanked Harlem Veterans for their service and sacrifices as well as Mr. Sterling

Thanked Leah Krippner for the Comment

## 10. Administrative Reports

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

10.A.1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests: none

10.B. Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

10.B.1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property: Harlem High School

10.B.2. Recommendation to approve Facility Requests

Harlem Girls' Track practice

10.B.3. Recommendation to approve 2020 Tax Levy Resolution

10.B.4. Recommendation to approve Resolution to Levy 2020 Taxes for Certain Purposes

The Tax Levy Certificate is attached to the Tax Levy Resolution and this is the final part of the process that we began in October

No changes and no questions

10.B.5. Recommendation to approve Resolution Providing for Abatement of 2020 Taxes in Order to Ensure Inclusion of Property Tax Relief Grant in State Funding Determination in the amount of \$4,357,702.00

A reminder that the District will only get 4,306,000.00 and this money will go into PDF funds and with bond reductions it is a couple of years of less taxes

10.B.6. Recommendation to approve digital subscription from RAZ Plus for K-3rd grade teachers and students using funding source of Title I and Title IV for a cost of \$15,817.98 and Storia for 4th-6th grade teachers and students using funding source Title I and Title IV for a total cost of \$16,526.00

Training for teachers will be included with RAZ and also our PD Specialists and Storia has a self-guided training and PD specialists can also help with that

10.B.7. Recommendation to approve Hudl online subscription service for the remainder of FY21 in the amount of \$3,400 and \$12,000 for FY22 school year

10.B.8. Recommendation to approve the Collaboration Agreement with Equal Opportunity Schools for the Sustain Equity Phase for a cost of \$14,500 at Harlem High FY21, plus the cost of travel for EOS

10.C. Scott Rollinson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

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

Reviewed: We are removing one item from Transfer Cynthia Mattox will be brought back in December, 1 Transfer, 1 Leave of Absence, 5 Employments and 1 Staff using Federation Bank and a new position for a para at Parker Center

10.C.2. Informational only: Resignations

6 resignations accepted since last meeting

10.D. Dr. Julie Morris, Superintendent

10.D.1. Freedom of Information Act Request dated October 18, 2020 from Tanner of K12 Transportation Search regarding District owned yellow bus fleet and FY19 and FY20 transportation fund expense ledger information summarized by vendor and by total annual spend with each vendor via email and the District's response dated October 26, 2020.

10.D.2. Freedom of Information Act Request dated October 9, 2020 from Robert Degre requesting various records pertaining to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's (IDEA) and the District's request for a five-day extension on October 15, 2020. The District sent a response on October 21, 2020.

10.D.3. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request dated October 19, 2020 from Vince Espi of LocalLabs regarding copies of contracts involving guest speakers for the 2019 (previous) and 2020 school year as well as virtual guest speakers and the District's response dated October 23, 2020

Patti brought up it is a recommendation to extend response time from 7 days to 14 days.

## 11. Consent Agenda

11.A. Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

11.B. Approve Student Travel Request(s) none

11.C. Approve Facility Request(s)

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 11 A and 11 C**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan, Lawrence, Sterling – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

## 12. ACTION ITEMS

**12.A. Motion to approve First Reading of Policy Update Recommendations from October 19, 2020 Policy Committee**

**1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Berogan**

**J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan, Lawrence, Sterling, Meister – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.B. Motion to approve Second Reading of Policy Updates from September 28, 2020 First Reading**

**1<sup>st</sup> J. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**Meeks, S. Berogan, Lawrence Sterling, Meister J. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.C. Motion to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

**S. Berogan, Lawrence Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.D. Motion to approve 2020 Tax Levy Resolution**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawrence**

**Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.E. Motion to approve Resolution to Levy 2020 Taxes for Certain Purposes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawrence**

**Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.F. Motion to approve Resolution Providing for Abatement of 2020 Taxes in Order to Ensure Inclusion of Property Tax Relief Grant in State Funding Determination in the amount of \$4,357,702.00**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**

**Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan, Lawrence – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.G. Motion to approve digital subscription from RAZ Plus for K-3rd grade teachers and students using funding source of Title I and Title IV for a cost of \$15,817.98 and Storia for 4th-6th grade teachers and students using funding source Title I and Title IV for a total cost of \$16,526.00**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Berogan**

**Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan, Lawrence, Sterling – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.H. Motion to approve Hudl online subscription service for the remainder of FY21 in the amount of \$3,400 and \$12,000 for FY22**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawrence**

**S. Berogan, Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**12.I. Motion to approve the Collaboration Agreement with Equal Opportunity Schools for the Sustain Equity Phase for a cost of \$14,500 at Harlem High FY21, plus the cost of travel for EOS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawrence**

**Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

13. Announcements and Discussion: none

**Motion to go into executive session to discuss Pending Litigation**

**1<sup>st</sup> J. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawrence**

**Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, S. Berogan, Meeks, J. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

*The Board took a brief recess for five minutes*

14. 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).

#### 15. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

15.A. Consideration and Possible Approval to Appoint an Individual to fill the Vacant Board Seat. - withdrawn

15.B. Consideration and Possible Approval of Settlement Agreement

**Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement with Caren Coffman**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**Motion to adjourn sine die and reconvene at the Board office for closed session**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**All voted aye – 6**

**Motion carried**

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. to reconvene at the Harlem Administration Office.

#### 16. Adjournment

**The meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m. at Harlem Administration Center**

Roll call:

Board members:

Sue Berogan

Patti Lawrence

Michael Sterling

Rich Meister

Jill Berogan

Evelyn Meeks

Other attendees:

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary

**Motion to go into executive session to discuss Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**All voted aye – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

The Board went into closed session at 7:36 p.m. and returned to open session at 10:32 p.m.

**Motion to appoint Sharon Ranieri to fill the Vacant Board Seat**

**1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawrence**

**S. Berogan, Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**Motion to adjourn**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Berogan**

**All aye – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kris Arduino,*

Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_