

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m.– 7:50 p.m. October 18, 2017

Members Present:

Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
Jon Buralli
Vipul Dedhia
Mary Lenzen
David Negron
Michael Rak
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, and Karyn Lisowski; residents Cinda Pembroke, Shawna Pelko and Michael Pelko.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Elementary Student Michael Pelko was recognized for his courage in helping a family who's house was recently on fire. He lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION NO. 5 Consent Agenda

Motion by Mirabile, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the amended consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of September 20, 2017; payment of September payroll/October warrants; Finance (sec. 4) and Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board Policies; and October 2017 Personnel Report consisting of the retirement of speech/lang. pathologist Joanne Histed effective October 31, 2017, hiring of resource teacher Hannah Wagner effective October 6, 2017, full time instructional aide Candy Papanicholas effective September 29, 2017 and part time instructional aide Patricia Battaglia effective October 10, 2017. Motion carried by a roll call of 5 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Rak) abstain – Negron, Violante.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Strategic Blueprint Update

Superintendent Dave Palzet provided the Board an update on progress made toward accomplishing the district's mission to *Create A Community Of Inspired Learners*. Over the course of the last month, the district created a new teacher mentoring program and implemented a training series for mentor teachers. The district also has made progress overhauling the teacher evaluation system to focus on sound instruction and reflection on teaching practices. Additionally, we are making great progress implementing a Growth Mindset into our school community with teacher and parent presentations. Finally, this month we came closer to our goal of implementing differentiated instructional practices in our classrooms as Dr. Jessica Hockett began her work with our middle school teachers at our October 10 institute day.

Principal Recognition

October is National School Principal's Month, and the Board of Education recognized our building leaders. Dr. Palzet talked about the importance of strong leadership in relation to student outcomes and thanked Ms. Tomei (PES Principal), Mr. Sonntag (PMS Principal), and Mrs. Knapik (PMS Assistant Principal) for their contributions in moving our schools from great to greater and helping the district achieve its mission.

Elementary and Middle School 2017-18 Improvement Plans

The building leaders at both schools presented their plans to move our schools forward. The School Improvement Plans were created in cooperation with each school's leadership team. These plans are closely tied to the district's [Strategic Blueprint](#), and will help us achieve our district goals. The plans are connected to the Blueprint goal areas of *Building Learning Capacity*, *Building Human Capital*, and *Building Learning Environments*. Each plan also included building specific goals that will improve the student experience at each school.

Class Size Update

Principals Ms. Tomei and Mr. Sonntag provided the Board with an update on class sizes at both schools. The goal of the administration is to ensure that class sizes remain at or near the guidelines that are established in Board policy 7:65. As stated in Board policy, if any class goes over the Board guideline, supports will be put in place for the teacher and students within that class. Class sizes in Pleasantdale remain manageable, and our students continue to enjoy reasonable class sizes. Board members expressed an interest in reviewing the policy to see if some modifications could be made that would give the administration more flexibility in staffing regarding class sizes. Administration will review the policy and provide the Board with a written update on procedures for moving forward. The Board will discuss in January.

Tax Levy

Each year the Board of Education of Pleasantdale School District 107 adopts the proposed levy and authorizes the publication of the public hearing notice at the October Board of Education meeting. The levy is the amount of property tax dollars a school district requests to operate the district for the subsequent fiscal year. The property tax cycle is the annual process of adopting a levy and then receiving tax money to run the district.

ACTION NO. 6Tax Levy

Motion by Rak, seconded by Dedhia, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed 2017 tax levy and authorize publication of the public hearing notice. Motion carried by a roll call of 7 ayes (Buralli, Dedhia, Lenzen, Mirabile, Negron, Rak, Violante).

Board of Education Information Requests

Board Secretary Kristin Violante asked that an update on NGSS and ELA be included in an upcoming Friday Update. Board member Jon Buralli also asked for an update on the vandalism to the elementary parking lot.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the November agenda include:
Strategic Blueprint Update; Audit Presentation (if available); Service Contract Legal Review (written); Superintendent Evaluation Process.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Violante, seconded by Dedhia, that the regular meeting adjourns at 7:50 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. ____ President _____ Secretary _____