

REGULAR  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
February 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice President Tamara Peterson called the regular meeting of the Board of Education in Bloomingdale Elementary School District 13 to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022 in an in person and virtual setting. The District invited the public to join the School Board this evening by Zoom webinar platform.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Patrick Devitt, Mr. Michael Lenisa, Mr. Terry McKeown, Mrs. Linda Wojcicki, Mrs. Kari Zehme, Ms. Tamara Peterson

Absent: Mr. Matt Boebel

Others Present: Dr. Jon Bartelt, Shannon Whitaker, Nicole Gabany, John Reiniche, Rick McCall, Greg Leyden, Patrick Haugens, Angel Frattinger, Matt Puchalski, Carly Torracco, Kristina Unzicker, Pawel Bunko, Karolina Kapral, Jelena Magazin, Marc Kapral, Jessica Bowman, Tim Schwind, Kristina Giedra, Jim Long, Danielle Bolek, Alison Ventrella, Eric Kowalik, Ray Grinvalds

**Recognition of Exemplars** – Board Member, Linda Wojcicki recognized this month's Student Exemplar, Luis Cabrera, and Staff Exemplars, Susan Hanneman and Lisa Thompson.

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Mr. Devitt and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki to approve the items in the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the Regular and Closed Session Board Meeting held on 1-24-22. Approval of Bills in the Education Fund in the amount of \$119,912.17; the Operations and Maintenance Fund for in the amount of \$86,304.00; Debt Service in the amount of \$1,864.30; Transportation Fund in the amount of \$60,681.38; Capital Projects in the amount of \$0.00; and Tort Fund in the amount of \$100.00; Payroll (2-10-2022) in the amount of \$448,828.82 and (2-25-2022) in the amount of \$456,422.95 as shown in (F.D. 2/28/2022-1); the Fund Balance Report as shown in (F.D. 2/28/2022-2); the Balance Sheet as shown in (F.D. 2/28/2022-3); the Revenue Report as shown in (F.D. 2/28/2022-4); the Expenditure Report as shown in (F.D. 2/28/2022-5); and Activity Report as shown in (F.D. 2/28/2022-6); **New Hires**, None; **Resignations/Retirements**, Dustin Cartina, Paraprofessional at Westfield effective 12/17/21, Caitlin Shah, Teacher at Westfield effective the end of the 21/22 School Year, Anna Lisa Borsellino, Teacher at Erickson effective the end of the 21/22 School Year, Sarah Miller, Social Worker at DuJardin effective the end of the 21/22 School Year, Nick Salloum, Custodian at Westfield effective 2/11/22; **Re-Hires**, Claudine Scanlon, Paraprofessional at Erickson effective 2/25/22; **Change of Position**, Jacqueline Holm, Teacher-Job Share at Erickson effective the 22/23 School Year, Jennifer Ikens, Teacher-Job Share at Erickson effective the 22/23 School Year;

**Leaves**, Dina Guido, Maternity effective 3/4/22, Stefania Hughes, Maternity effective 4/16/22, Mallory Pagano, Parental effective 6/15/22, Vicki Flaws, FMLA effective 2/28/22.

#### Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Devitt, Wojcicki, Lenisa, McKeown, Zehme, Peterson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### Winter MAP Results

Mrs. Gabany shared the results of the Winter MAP testing. She indicated that the results were divided into two pieces. First, fall versus winter scores, which shows each grade level on average has grown. Next is the results of District 13 winter scores versus the national norm for both Math and ELA, which shows that District 13 trends higher than the national norm. On the Math scores, we are keeping an eye on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade which are trending closer to the national norm to see what types of intervention may be needed.

#### Return to Learn

Dr. Bartelt indicated that there has been a lot of questions regarding the data that's been monitored since the beginning of the year. He then pulled up the website from Northwestern University where he monitors data for the District by zip code. In addition, the CDC came out with some new guidelines last Friday where they've altered their research and are now calling our area a low transmission area.

Dr. Bartelt shared with the group that the CDC indicated that masks were no longer required on buses, and that information was shared out with the parents over the weekend so that would start today with that in place. He also stated that we are now a mask recommended, but not required district. Other plan mitigations that we've had in place include three feet of social distancing, cleaning, with an emphasis on hand cleaning in schools, improved ventilation and on-site testing.

### **Public Comment**

Alison Ventrella had the following questions for the Board members that she was seeking answers to:

1. Why are the current Board members on the Board, and do they have children in the District?
2. Are the Board's decisions made based on what they personally think is best as opposed to making decisions after listening to those who are impacted daily by the curriculum and safety decisions? She stated that perhaps it would help to

ask teachers, students and parents their thoughts, opinions and feelings, and to send out surveys and communicate.

3. Where do the funds come from to pay the Superintendent?

Ms. Ventrella also expressed her concern over a Tweet that was sent to Dr. Bartelt on February 4<sup>th</sup> from a parent regarding the mask mandate, and wanted an explanation of the events proceeding that parent's Tweet.

Dr. Bartelt replied, asking the parents who were present at the meeting to please sign the sign-in sheet, and he would follow up with a meeting with those individuals.

Jessica Bowman – Would like information that was emailed out regarding the need to mask for five days upon returning from quarantine due to COVID clarified. Would only the person who had tested positive be required to wear a mask for five days upon their return, or would an entire class be required to mask? Dr. Bartelt clarified that it would only be the one person returning from quarantine that would be required to wear a mask upon their return to school for five days.

Carley Torracco – Would like to know what the parameters are that would dictate that children need to mask again. Ms. Peterson replied that it was premature for us to indicate that at this time.

Marc Kapral – Asked that since guidance changes so frequently, if there has been discussion by the Board of the District coming up with our own guidance?

Pawel Bunko – Asked that since the courts have already established that the masking mandate is illegal, why are we still having the discussion of the potential of returning to masking? Mr. Bunko believes that it should be the parents who are deciding what is best for their kids, not the CDC or DuPage County Health Department.

Eric Kowalik – Wanted to know if there has been any data or indication of speech or other effect of masking? Do we have more kids with slower reading in Kindergarten or First Grade? He also asked about House Bill 1722 proposing legislation to potentially use funds to allocate to private schools.

Tim Schwind – Indicated that while he is happy the masking has been lifted, he said that the kids are not only in school to learn, they are there to socialize. He feels that making them sit apart at different tables is not teaching them what they need. He said that we can all take our children and homeschool them, but we can't get the social aspect out of it. We need to move forward and continue with not only the masks, but with all of the social parts of it.

Kristina Unzicker – Stated that she had to show her daughter the email word for word, and her daughter still focused on the word that masks were recommended. She said she has no data to show her daughter why masks would still be recommended. She would like to see data for our three schools for how many cases and hospitalizations

and deaths just for our District. She also indicated that she is concerned about the Tweet being deleted and wanted to know why it was deleted.

Dr. Bartelt again stated that he would follow up with the group of parents at a future meeting specifically to answer the questions and concerns raised this evening.

### **Board Reports and Requests**

BIG – Mr. Lenisa indicated that there was no BIG meeting.

D13 Has Character – Mrs. Wojcicki reported that they have a meeting coming up.

Education Foundation – Mrs. Wojcicki indicated that they received 27 grant requests from staff that they are still reviewing. The grants will be awarded at the Spring Fling.

NDSEC – Ms. Peterson reported that they did not have a governing board meeting, but that there was an Operational Board meeting to approve a maintenance agreement for HVAC. Dr. Bartelt added that they also discussed the hourly rates for teachers and paraprofessionals that teach the extended school year in the summer and the approval of two ten-month administrators who are acting as coordinators for Medinah and private placements.

Bloomington Council of Teachers – Ms. Peterson shared that there has been no meeting, however we have set a date for the interest based bargaining training. Shortly after that training begins, negotiations will begin for the upcoming contract.

LEND - Mrs. Zehme indicated that there were several new bills that were being introduced. One bill they highlighted was the bill that provided originally five mental health days for teachers. The decision was made to combine it with sick time rather than giving an additional five days on top of their sick time, so they can use five of the days as mental health days if needed. The next meeting is March 18.

School Report – None.

### **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

Dr. Bartelt gave an overview of the FOIA requests that have been received since last month's meeting.

### **Action Items**

#### **Approval of Contracts (F.D. 2/28/2022-7)**

A motion was made by Mr. Devitt and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to approve the contracts mentioned for costs associated with three summer projects not to exceed \$264,906 as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Devitt, Wojcicki, Lenisa, McKeown, Zehme, Peterson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6 - 0

NDSEC Classroom Rental Agreement (F.D. 2/28/2022-8)

A motion was made by Mrs. Wojcicki and seconded by Mrs. Zehme for the Board to approve the classroom lease agreement with NDSEC as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Wojcicki, Zehme, Devitt, Lenisa, McKeown, Peterson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

Resolution Regarding Local Control to Mitigate COVID-19 (F.D. 2/28/2022-9)

A motion was made by Mr. Devitt and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to approve the attached resolution regarding local control to mitigate COVID-19, as presented.

Mr. McKeown asked if the wording in Item Number 3 stating strongly recommending should be changed to mask optional. After discussion by the Board, it was agreed upon to make the change indicated above.

The motion for the Board to approve the attached resolution regarding local control to mitigate COVID-19, as presented. was rescinded by Mr. Devitt and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki

A motion was made by Mr. Devitt and seconded by Mrs. Wojcicki for the Board to approve the attached resolution regarding local control to mitigate COVID-19, as amended.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Devitt, Wojcicki, McKeown, Lenisa, Zehme, Peterson

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

**Discussion Items**

**Special Meeting for Facilities**

Dr. Bartelt shared that there will be a Special Meeting for Facilities on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be followed by a closed session with IASB to discuss governance.

**Topic(s) for Future Agendas**

None.

**For Information**

**Enrollment Update**

Available for review in the Board packet.

**NDSEC Profile**

Available for review in the Board packet.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. McKeown and seconded by Mr. Devitt to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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Tamara Peterson, Vice President

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Linda Wojcicki, Secretary