

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 6:00 – 6:44 p.m. October 18, 2023

Members Present:

Arlene Cabana, Presiding Officer
Bill Brockob
Charles Zona
Mary Lenzen
Becky Walters

Members Absent:

Jason Nash
Tarryne Marchione

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present with Superintendent Dave Palzet were staff members Jennifer Ban, Griffin Sonntag, Kathleen Tomei, Jeanine Arundel, Beth Parker, Tousha Summers, James Mukite. Community members in attendance included Tom Arra, Linda Arra, Thomas Lisowski, Karyn Lisowski, and Jen Houch. Students and their parents included Macayla Gainer, Brooke Slightom, Delilah Morrissey, Ula Garbauskas, Gabriela Grujic, and Gigi Sisto.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by members of the seventh grade girls basketball team who were honored for their work in raising awareness of and raising funds for Breast Cancer Awareness at the annual Pink-Out basketball game.

BOARD RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION

Board President Cabana, on behalf of the Board, presented Superintendent Palzet and Principal Tomei with a gift of appreciation for their work in securing a National Blue Ribbon Award for the elementary school. The recognition was extended to the teachers and staff as well.

OPEN FORUM

Tom Arra addressed the Board about the current construction/improvement proposal the Board is considering. Karyn Lisowski addressed the Board about the superintendent's goals and communication with teachers. Jen Houch addressed the Board regarding the importance of early childhood education and the construction/improvement proposal.

ACTION NO. 5

Consent Agenda

Motion by Lenzen, second by Brockob, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented consisting of meeting minutes of September 20, 2023 Regular Board meeting; payment of September payroll/October warrants; Illinois School Maintenance Project Grant; Curriculum and Instruction (sec. 6) Board

Policies; Superintendent's Goals for the 2023-24 School Year; and PA 097-0256, PA 097-0609, PA 096-0434. Motion carried by a roll call of 5 ayes (Brockob, Cabana, Zona, Lenzen, and Walters, Absent: Nash and Marchione).

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Facility Development Update

Dr. Palzet provided the Board with an update on the work of the Citizen Engagement Committee and the Community Information Sessions hosted at both schools on October 12, 2023. Additionally, Dr. Palzet informed the Board that a website dedicated to providing information to the community has launched and can be accessed via the District website. In an effort to gain additional community feedback a survey has been mailed to community members. The survey can be completed and mailed for analysis or residents can choose to take the survey online through the QR code included in the mailer. The survey will remain accessible until November 1, 2023. If more than one voter resides in a household they can choose to take the online survey in addition to the paper survey. Finally, the Citizen Engagement Committee will hold its final meeting on November 9, 2023 where the survey data will be presented, voter analysis will be shared, and feedback from the Community Information Sessions will be discussed. The committee will then make a recommendation to the Superintendent who will, in turn, make a recommendation to the Board of Education.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Palzet updated the Board on work completed toward a new long term strategic plan. To date, the District's consultant has interviewed stakeholders, held focus groups, provided an online feedback forum, and distributed a community survey. The survey resulted in nearly 300 responses. The next step in the process is to convene a Strategic Plan Steering committee made up of staff, administrators, parents, community members, and students. This committee will meet four to five times in the coming weeks and will provide the Board with a draft plan early in 2024.

Elementary and Middle School 2023-24 Improvement Plans

Building administrators Kathleen Tomei and Jeanine Arundel presented their school improvement plans. These plans are created in collaboration with the schools' building leadership teams and reflect the unique needs of each school. Examples of school improvement goals include implementing the new literacy program with fidelity at the Elementary School and implementing new Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives at the Middle School.

Review Finance (sec. 4) Board Policies

The Board frequently reviews policies to ensure the policies reflect the realities of running a district. At the October 18, 2023 meeting the Board reviewed policies from section 4, Finance. The reviewed/revised policies will be on the November 15, 2023 agenda for approval.

Superintendent Evaluation Tool

The Board reviewed the superintendent's evaluation tool to determine if changes are necessary. The evaluation tool focuses on the duties and responsibilities laid out in the superintendent's job description and includes four areas: managing human resources, finance and facilities, communication, and the student experience. The Board asked some clarifying questions about the process but made no substantive changes to the evaluation tool.

Items for Next Agenda

Facilities Update; Strategic Plan Update; Preliminary Tax Levy 2023; Approve Finance (sec. 4) Board Policies; Transportation Service Update.

OPEN FORUM

Karyn Lisowski addressed the Board regarding the tabulation of results for the community survey. Thomas Lisowski addressed the Board regarding the Superintendent's motivation for implementing a building/improvement proposal given the high socioeconomic status of the District's residents.

WRITTEN
REPORTS

The Board fulfilled Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests from SmartProcure regarding vendors the district does business with. From Tom Lisowski regarding consultant fees, raw data from the Strategic Planning Survey. The Board fulfilled a FOIA request from Karyn Lisowski that sought video footage of the Citizen Engagement Committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lenzen, seconded by Walters, that the regular meeting adjourns at 6:44 p.m. Motion carried by a roll call of 5 ayes (Brockob, Cabana, Zona, Lenzen, and Walters, Absent: Nash and Marchione).

App. __ President _____ Secretary _____