

JANUARY 23, 2017
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Alice Schaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Alice Schaff, Kimberly Alcantara, John Flanagin, Tracy Kearney,
Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica

Members Absent: Mark Steen

Administrators Present: Ray Lechner, Gail Buscemi, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee,
Denise Thrasher

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Kelly Jackson introduced band directors Kimberly Farris and Ann Dufek as well as members of the seventh and eighth grade Jazz Bands. The bands performed *Blues by Five* by Red Garland. They then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

President Schaff noted the McKenzie third graders learned about complementary color sets and using value to create the illusion of depth in their artwork. Students connected to the math curriculum by using parallel lines and practiced the concept of shading to create their Op Art Tunnels. Students revisited these concepts and applied their knowledge of plants from an earlier science unit to create their depiction of flowers in the style of artist Georgia O'Keefe.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Ms. Levine moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2016 Levy Hearing, regular and executive session meetings. The minutes were approved as amended by **General Consent**.

AUDIENCE PRESENTATIONS

None

Board Committee/Liaison Reports

Strategy Committee – Ms. Levine stated the next meeting is January 30, 2017.

Facility Development – Mrs. Alcantara stated the committee met on January 9th. The committee received an update on 2017 projects. STR Architects presented design plans for Learning Commons at Romona and McKenzie. Mrs. Buscemi noted the cost projections are well within contingencies of the budget. The committee received an update on the Highcrest Middle School space study, which is still in preliminary stages. Mrs. Buscemi reviewed rental agreements and organizations utilizing District 39 buildings. Dr. Lechner presented preliminary requests from buildings for capital projects. The next meeting is February 13th.

Insurance Advisory Committee – Mrs. Kearney stated the next meeting is on February 27, 2017.

Community Review Committee – Mrs. Kearney stated the committee met on January 9th. The committee is currently moving through their exploration of school climate. Of the three subcommittees, two school are studying school climate and school safety. The third group is focused on the audit review of a previous CRC report. The team is developing survey questions to be presented after the next meeting, which is on February 6th.

Educational Foundation – Mr. Panzica stated the Foundation met on January 18th. He noted they are in the middle of their annual donations campaign. The group is finalizing details for Trivia Night, February 4th. They are sponsoring a science fair open house on February 11th at Wilmette Junior High. The Foundation is celebrating its 10th annual Distinguished Citizen award by honoring “10 Every Day Heroes” in the District 39 community. The next meeting is on February 15th.

WCSEA – Mrs. Kearney stated the next meeting is March 20, 2017 at Marie Murphy.

School Finance – Mr. Flanagan stated the committee met on January 9th. The committee continued the conversation on performance contracting for capital improvements with Ingersoll Rand (IR). IR projected payback periods for lighting upgrades. The committee discussed IRs assumptions on energy costs and financial advantages of flexibility on pace/scale for potential upgrades. Mr. Flanagan noted there was a regulatory issue being discussed with legal counsel about the U.S. Communities Master Contract that had been certified by Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). School districts could adopt this contractual structure without replicating the bidding process. However, ISBE has not renewed that certification. He noted legal counsel supported adopting the HVAC contract, but was wary of the lighting contract, which has been tabled for now. Further discussion will continue at the Strategy Committee meeting on January 30th. The next meeting is February 13th.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Alcantara stated Senate Bill 500, requiring all schools and day care centers to test for lead in water, passed in both chambers and waits for the Governor’s approval. She noted in the last hours of the last general assembly session, Senate leaders unveiled a proposed budget compromise package. She stated amendments were filed to raise new revenues and borrow money to pay old bills. She noted the package included provisions to increase minimum wage, address Chicago teachers pensions, and included items such as pension reform, property tax freeze, and workers’ compensation act reform. She said negotiations would continue.

Mrs. Kearney had questions about requiring a levy, property tax freeze, and the modified cost shift.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board received written communication from Julie Hanahan of Glenview regarding the start of 2017-2018 school year beginning after Labor Day.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner announced the Board meeting scheduled for Monday, April 24th would be moved to Tuesday, April 25th to align with Cook County canvassing of electoral votes from the April election. He noted three outgoing Board members would be honored at the April meeting.

Dr. Lechner stated the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was published at 2.1%. He noted this figure is the basis for employee salaries and is to be used for the 2017 Aggregate Levy. However, there is pending legislation in Springfield to implement a two-year property tax freeze. This freeze would impact the levy for 2017 and 2018. He noted District 39 has planned for a possible tax freeze in its financial projections.

The District received a FOIA request from Gabriella Lauricella of SmartProcure requesting all purchase records from September 20, 2016 to the present. He noted this is a quarterly FOIA.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. 2016-2017 Strategic Plan Updates: Continuing Strategic Initiatives and Annual Business
Dr. Lechner explained this report would be the first of two, providing mid-year updates on the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Lee along with building principals and administrators presented the report with updates on sustainability planning practices and learning commons. She noted composting food waste, recycling drives, and utilizing school gardens are examples of sustainability practices across the District. Ms. Lee reported on the cycle of revitalization and repurposing libraries in schools across the District. Central, Harper, and Wilmette Junior High have completed their transition to Learning Commons. Romona and McKenzie have finalized design plans and construction of Learning Commons in these two schools is underway.

Ms. Lee along with building principals and administrators presented annual business updates with reviews on English language arts, world languages, progress reporting/report cards, library media technology, technology infrastructure, grade 5 1:1 learning program, teacher evaluations, and the implementation of the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS).

Board discussion included defining how objectives might be implemented for student growth proficiency in writing; the assessment ACTFL for foreign languages piloted specifically in Spanish as it is a K-8 program; how New Trier assesses incoming freshman; expanding the assessment to multiple languages and grade levels; percentage of students continuing in Spanish as opposed to other languages; hours the junior high learning commons are open; use of Schoology application.

2. Systems of Assessments for Student Growth: Part 2

Ms. Lee presented this report explaining notable features of the two recommended assessment systems, Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) and eduCLIMBER. She noted NWEA MAP is a computer adaptive assessment used to monitor student achievement and growth over time. eduCLIMBER has the capability to auto-sync with Power School and the NWEA MAP assessment system, which is greatly beneficial. Adding these assessments coincides with other New Trier sender districts allowing an ability to share township wide data.

Mr. Panzica noted transitioning between assessments loses longitudinal data. His discussion included range of improvement and predictive scores, comparing how data is presented on student reports, teachers having training and professional development. Mrs. Kearney brought discussion on assessments aligning with the Illinois Learning Standards.

D. Annual Business

1. 2018 Fiscal Year Budget Calendar and Resolution

Dr. Lechner noted each year the Board is required to establish its fiscal year, prepare a tentative budget, and develop a budget calendar.

Mrs. Buscemi stated the budget calendar is developed to ensure all publications, hearings, and formal adoption of the annual budget are in accordance with State statute and meets all State requirements.

2. January Special Education Child Count

Dr. Thrasher reported that District 39 is responsible for 506 students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). She noted this number increased since 2016. District 39's percentage of students receiving special education services is 13.81% which is comparable to the State average, however, high for the District. Dr. Thrasher provided a summary of types of special needs addressed, noting District 39 is being sought to provide the extensive services special needs students require.

Mrs. Alcantara asked about the decrease in the number of students requiring speech/language services. Mr. Panzica inquired about staffing increases and costs due to the higher number of special education students. Mrs. Kearney noted the State provides some funding for special education students.

3. Fiscal Year 2018 Student Fees

Dr. Lechner stated instructional material fees for FY 2017-2018 will remain at their current levels except for grades 5 and 6, which will include a \$10 increase to cover insurance for the iPad program. All other activity fees have been increased slightly due to labor cost changes in the new Wilmette Education Association contract, as well as to reflect a portion of the credit card processing fees. The \$4.95 processing fee will be charged for online payments of instructional materials fees only. Parents will still have the option to pay by check or cash to avoid the processing fee. All other fees will not be charged a processing fee for online payments.

Mrs. Buscemi stated the credit card processing fee would be applied for instructional materials fee payments only. Cash and check payments submitted for this fee would not incur the credit card processing charge. She noted the fees collected from parents for transportation only cover one third of the actual transportation cost.

Mrs. Kearney expressed concern about saying the District subsidizes fees when the parents tax dollars subsidize school programs. Dr. Lechner clarified that the District subsidizes transportation costs. Mrs. Alcantara explained the credit card processing fee incurred covers only a small portion of the actual processing fee imposed on the District.

4. 2017-2018 School Calendar

Based on input from the Board at last month's meeting, the calendar is presented for final approval. After Board approval, the calendar would be submitted to the State.

Mrs. Alcantara received parent comments regarding the start of school beginning after Labor Day. She reviewed the history of start and end dates for past years. She noted a difference of two or three days is not significant. President Schaff noted Labor Day is early in 2017.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Revised Board of Education Policies 2:125; 2:150; 5:60; 7:100; 7:110; 7:130; 7:140; 7:150; 7:160; 7:170 and 7:185

Dr. Lechner stated recommended Board revisions to Policies have been made and are presented for approval as second read.

Mrs. Kearney requested Policy 7:140 *Search and Seizure* contain language regarding parents being contacted in advance of a child's property being searched/seized. Legal counsel stated there is no legal requirement to notify the parents in this event and language about contacting parents is not necessary. Dr. Lechner explained District 39's practice is to always notify parents unless there is an emergency. Mrs. Alcantara noted the legal aspect of adding unnecessary language places the District in a precarious position open to lawsuits. Ms. Levine requested additional language in the policy be rewritten for clarity. President Schaff recommended pulling Policy 7:140 from the Consent Agenda for further review.

2. Resolution Authorizing the Regulation of Expense Reimbursements

Dr. Lechner explained with the passing of Public Act 99-604, local government agencies were required to revise and align policies pertaining to expenses and establish a maximum allowable reimbursement for travel, meals, and lodging. The resolution proposes a maximum reimbursement amount of \$3,500 per person, per event. This amount is in line with area township districts.

AUDIENCE PRESENTATIONS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Kearney asked to have the personnel report pulled from the Consent Agenda. President Schaff requested Policy 7:140 *Search and Seizure* be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Levine moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to adopt the resolution dated January 23, 2017 establishing the school district 2018 fiscal year and direct the superintendent to prepare a tentative budget; and, approve the budget-planning calendar dated January 23, 2017 as written: approve the fiscal year 2018 student fees as contained in "Exhibit A" of the report dated January 23, 2017: approve the 2017-2018 District 39 school calendar: approve the resolution dated January 23, 2017 authorizing the regulation of expense reimbursements: motion to ratify a settlement agreement between parents of Student 15632 and District 39: approve as second and final reading of revised Board of Education Policies 2:125 *Board Member Expenses*; 2:150 *Board Committees*; 5:60 *Expenses*; 7:100 *Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations, Immunizations, and Exclusion of Students*; 7:130 *Student Rights and Responsibilities*; 7:150 *Agency and Police Interviews*; 7:160 *Student Dress*; 7:170 *Vandalism*; and 7:185 *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*; approve as second and final read deletion of Policy 7:110 *Transfers*: approve to dispose of executive session audio recordings pursuant to District policy for the following dates: May 15, 2014; June 9, 2014; January 26, 2015: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between December 13, 2016 –January 23, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$331,689.95; O & M Fund \$180,703.65; Debt Service \$120,830.00; Transportation Fund \$99,424.02; total all funds: \$732,647.62: to approve the manual checks issued between December 13, 2016–January 23, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$916,171.59; O & M Fund \$82,230.70; Transportation Fund \$140.52; Tort Fund \$673.42; total all funds: \$999,216.23.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting "yea" – Kimberly Alcantara, John Flanagin, Tracy Kearney, Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, and Alice Schaff; voting "nay" – none; absent – Mark Steen: **Motions Carried.**

Mr. Flanagin moved, seconded by Ms. Levine, to approve the personnel report dated January 23, 2017, which included licensed full-time employment of **Arlene Imburgia**, effective January 4, 2017; **Huei-Ru Shiu**, effective January 24, 2017; educational support personnel full-time employment; **Hebah Abu Obaid**, effective January 17, 2017; **Michelle Harris**, effective January 3, 2017; **Georgette Kendrick**, effective January 23, 2017; **Cindy Leick**, effective January 17, 2017; **Teresa Madura**, effective January 10, 2017; **Elizabeth Mosele**, effective January 30, 2017; **Foteini Vasiloudia**, effective January 19, 2017; temporary employment of **Tresa Stone**, effective January 17, 2017; **Dana Taylor**, effective February 6, 2017; licensed resignation of **Jean Kong**, effective January 23, 2017; educational support personnel resignation of **Andrea Esposito**, effective December 30, 2016; **Arlene Imburgia**, effective January 3, 2017; **Susan Miller**, effective December 16, 2016; **Carter Nelson**, effective January 6, 2017; **Clare Schmisek**, effective January 16, 2017; educational support personnel dismissal of **Brandon Wright**, effective December 21, 2016; educational support personnel retirement of **Ana Hernandez**, effective June 9, 2020; motion to approve the personnel agreement between Employee 016313 and District 39 dated January 23, 2017.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Kimberly Alcantara, John Flanagin, Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, and Alice Schaff; voting “nay” – Tracy Kearney; absent – Mark Steen: **Motion Carried.**

Ms. Levine moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to approve to review Policy 7:140 Search and Seizure for a third read.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – John Flanagin, Tracy Kearney, Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, and Alice Schaff; voting “nay” – Kimberly Alcantara; absent – Mark Steen: **Motion Carried.**

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Schaff noted a Central first-grade student, Nate Butkus would be featured on the Ellen Show January 24th. Nate hosts his own science podcasts and interviews famous scientists.

Being no further business, Ms. Levine moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 9:31 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary