

**APRIL 3, 2017
WILMETTE, IL
SPECIAL MEETING**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, April 3, 2017, at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with President Alice Schaff presiding.

Members Present: Alice Schaff, Kimberly Alcantara, John Flanagan, Tracy Kearney, Cindy Levine, Frank Panzica, Mark Steen

Members Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Lechner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. K-4 School Day Schedule

Dr. Lechner noted no changes were made to the K-4 school day schedule since presented at the March Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Glowacki reviewed the scheduling committee's improvements to the K-4 schedule, which included uninterrupted blocks of core content instructional time, both morning and afternoon plan time for classroom teachers, dedicated intervention time, and common planning time for grade level staff. She noted no changes were made to Early Childhood and Kindergarten schedules and these children would not have an early dismissal day.

Ms. Lee reiterated having uninterrupted blocks of instruction allows teachers the opportunity to personalize learning for students, lessens transition times, allow more instructional time, and flexible learning environments.

B. Start/End Times

Dr. Lechner stated for several years the District has considered changes to school schedules and start and end times for the school day. He reviewed the rationale for changes to daily schedules, which included additional instructional time, research on teenage sleep patterns, weekly early release, and before school wait times at Highcrest Middle school. The impact of these changes included bus schedule changes, review of park district program schedules, after school activities and before school care. Band and orchestra schedules were also studied.

Dr. Lechner reviewed reports presented to the Board beginning with the Community Review Committee's (CRC) report on Cultivating Growth Minded, Resilient Students presented in May 2015. That CRC report initiated the school day schedule and start/end time review. Multiple subsequent reports presented to the Board were noted through October of 2016. In November 2016, the teacher contract was ratified. Initial proposals for school day schedules, early release day, and start and end times were presented at the February 27, 2017 Board of Education meeting. After receiving staff and parent feedback, a revised proposal was presented at the March Board meeting.

Dr. Lechner stated the final K-4 schedule, start and end times, and proposed transportation funding proposals are now presented for final approval.

C. Transportation Funding and Fees

Dr. Lechner stated based on the proposed longer K-4 school day, and the prospect of a later start at Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS), the District developed an initial proposal for changing the start/end times in all buildings. Originally administration maintained the current three-tier bus system to avoid any additional costs. Based on Board and parent feedback, the administration proposed an alternative bus schedule that was presented at the March Board meeting. This proposal added five buses and offered several funding scenarios. The District recently re-negotiated a reduced rate for regular bus transportation. The new reduced per bus rate provided an approximate savings of \$95,000 annually, while five additional buses would cost \$265,100. At the March meeting, the Board expressed interest in establishing an ongoing practice of maintaining a 50/50 split of transportation costs between the District and bus-riding families, aligning with the District's practice of sharing student instructional materials fees. As a result, an additional scenario was added. Scenario #5 shows the District and families sharing the total transportation costs equally, including five new buses. Dr. Lechner noted with this proposal the fund balances are projected to reach 28.9% in 2022, preserving District finances long term. The increased fees are reasonable with a proposed daily cost for round trip bus service of \$3.27 (\$1.89 for one way). Other benefits include more buses for PTA/O enrichment at a lower cost, flexibility to end Highcrest five minutes earlier, and more buses for unique runs/shuttles that are frequently needed.

Mr. Panzica expressed concern regarding District spending for transportation and recommended reviewing transportation costs for the future to maintain a healthy fund balance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. Flanagin to approve the Consent Agenda which included approval of the K-4 School Day recommendations made by the K-4 Scheduling Committee beginning in the 2017-2018 school year: twenty additional instructional minutes per day for students in grades 1-4; one hour weekly early dismissal on Fridays for students in grades 1-4; no changes to early childhood and kindergarten instructional day; approve the following recommended start/end times beginning in the 2017-2018 school year: 2017-2018 K-8 schedule which includes AM Kindergarten start at 8:35 a.m. and end at 11:10 a.m.; PM Kindergarten start at 12:40 p.m. and end at 3:15 p.m.; grades 1-4 start at 8:35 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 2:15 p.m. on Fridays; WJHS start at 8:25 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m.; HMS start at 8:50 a.m. and end at 3:35 p.m.; 2017-2018 Early Childhood AM class start at 8:45 a.m. and end at 11:05 a.m. and Early Childhood PM class start at 12:40 p.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.; Full day Early Childhood class start at 8:45 a.m. Monday –Thursday and end at 2:10 p.m.; and Full day Early Childhood start at 10:40 a.m. on Fridays and end at 2:10 p.m.; approve an increase in 2017-18 student bus fees to \$575 for round trip and \$333 for one way transportation.

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

Motions Carried.

Mr. Steen moved, seconded by John Flanagin, to adjourn to executive session to discuss specific personnel. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:18 p.m.

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

Motion Carried.

Being no further business, Mr. Flanagan moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education at 7:33 p.m. by **General Consent**.

President

Secretary