

JUNE 19, 2017
WILMETTE, IL
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, June 19, 2017 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Mark Steen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Steen, Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica,
 Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler

Members Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Becky Littmann introduced representatives of Central's Mileage Club who introduced themselves, reported on their mileage accomplishments, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

President Steen noted Wilmette Junior High School held an art exhibit in the Learning Commons on May 25th titled "Courageous People". The exhibit was part of the District 39 Ed Foundation's grant for an Artist-in-Residence program. The program featured Swiss Artist Verena Brassel. Each student studied the qualities of courageous individuals in history, and then used new art techniques to express the meaning of courage.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to accept the minutes of the May 22, 2017 Regular and Executive Session meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Erin Stone, Wilmette, commended Principal Denise Welter's career and her impact on McKenzie students and the community.

Sylvie Legere, Wilmette, as a member of the District 39 Safety and Civics committee, in collaboration with Wilmette police, produced a short safety video to be shown on curriculum nights. She also commented on the CRC School Climate survey, human rights, and freedom of expression for students.

Board Committee/Liaison Reports

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Panzica reported on the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 5th with combined Strategy, Facility and Finance meetings. He noted Erin Stone, CRC President, presented the initial School Climate report. The committee discussed topics for consideration for next year's CRC report. Dr. Lechner met with representatives of the Village, Police, Fire and Library to obtain a community survey rating overall performance for each public body. Mr. Panzica said Mr. DeMonte presented a technology vision review and results of Chrome pilot held in 3rd grade at Central school. The Chromebooks were the tool of choice among students who used them. The Committee agreed to continuing to have the option to use paper/pencil. He noted the next Strategy committee meeting would be added to the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 11th.

Mr. Panzica reported on the finance portion of the meeting noting the committee reviewed bond debt and investment policies. Dr. Lechner offered to have a financial investment representative at next meeting. Mr. Panzica reported on the facilities portion of the meeting noting Mrs. Buscemi reviewed the Health and Life Safety report created by STR Architects. She presented a detailed timeline for projects to be addressed. Mr. Panzica noted the next Committee of the Whole meeting is August 28th at 5:00 p.m. prior to the August Board of Education Meeting.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Kearney stated Governor Rauner requested a special session of the Illinois General Assembly for the purpose of considering legislation, new or pending, to addresses a balanced budget and structural reforms. She reported the Republicans in the House and Senate announced a package of bills that address these issues. Overall the proposed Republican compromise would take components of the Grand Bargain and reintroduce them with adjustments. The special session is called for on Wednesday, June 21st.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board received written communications regarding the Culture of Empathy Initiative; Laura Fisher Hetler, Jennifer Manning, Lauren Litchfield, Emily Downs, Julie Davis Lipford, and Julie Cho.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner noted the eighth-grade graduation was held on June 6th at New Trier Gates Gym. It was an incredible celebration honoring 420 students as they proudly move to high school. Next year's tentative graduation date is Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

Dr. Lechner said June 14th was the first day of the Summer Enrichment Program at Wilmette Junior High and Central Elementary School. 474 students were enrolled attending one or more of the 70 enrichment classes. He noted a full report would be presented to the Board of Education in the fall.

Dr. Lechner introduced Elena Ryan as the new Assistant Principal for Romona and Harper Schools. Elena Ryan comes from Glenview District 34, where she served as a Curriculum Coordinator. She also served as Glenview's Summer School Principal for grades 3-7. Mrs. Ryan received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from DePaul University and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. Mrs. Ryan expressed her gratitude and excitement in her new position.

Dr. Lechner stated as all of the official business has been addressed for Fiscal Year 2017, the July Board meeting would be cancelled. The next Board of Education meeting is on August 28th beginning with a budget hearing and the regular meeting immediately following.

Dr. Lechner reported the District received two FOIA this month: Dan Fogel requested all correspondence private or official (via mail, email, fax, text, messenger, or IM service) received by District 39 employees and Board members regarding the intervention in property tax appeals on or after April 25, 2017; Michael Timothy of National Association of Environmental Engineering Students requesting the transportation contact for maintenance of buses.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. Community Review Committee (CRC) School Climate Report

Dr. Lechner introduced CRC President, Erin Stone. Mrs. Stone stated the CRC produced two reports, the Audit report presented in May, and now the School Climate report. Mrs. Stone stated the topic of school climate stemmed from increased concerns about disturbing trends and incidents occurring in schools regarding racial and/or religious tensions and social conflicts/bullying within social media settings. The CRC unanimously decided to pursue school climate focusing on interpersonal relationships and safety. Mrs. Stone stated the CRC submitted surveys to all District 39 parents, K-8 teachers, and students in grades 5-8. The data from the surveys was analyzed to identify trends.

The CRC's recommendations were to identify areas of difference and develop ways to promote these differences; assess the effectiveness of all areas where social-emotional learning is taught; engage and utilize student leadership; teach parents the importance of school climate and provide tools to support their children; develop a protocol to educate and improve communication about policies and processes with respect to bullying and social conflict; and promote "upstander behavior" in students to directly or indirectly say 'no' to bully-victim behaviors.

Board comments/questions included improvements to the report using the new format; if inclusions or exclusions occurred during clubs or extra-curricular activities; if the CRC had any preference regarding prioritizing the recommendations; modeling student leadership to the New Trier Advisory program; how incidents affect attendance; linking survey questions to percentage of responses; and varied responses for students with disabilities being less aware of bullying situations.

2. Review of the 2016-2017 District 39 Strategic Plan

a. New and Continuing Initiatives

b. School Attendance Update

Ms. Lee, Dr. Thrasher, Dr. DeCristofaro and Dr. Kick presented these reports simultaneously. Ms. Lee provided updates regarding initiatives for School Climate, school day schedules, school attendance, Response to Growth Intervention (RtGI), sustainability planning and practices, and learning commons. She noted next steps for school climate are to review the social emotional learning curricula, strategies, and resources for the Response to Intervention(RtI) and Social Emotion Learning (SEL). The school day schedules have been revised and will be implemented in 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Lee reported the RtGI goal is pending the implementation of Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment starting next fall. She reported the District would improve environmental literacy among students and develop five and ten year facility plans to include cost effective sustainability projects. She stated the goals for learning commons at Central, Harper and WJHS have been met. Dr. Kick provided highlights of learning commons activities.

Dr. DeCristofaro and Dr. Thrasher presented an update on school attendance. Dr. DeCristofaro noted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes chronic absenteeism as an indicator reflecting 10% of a school's quality score. Positive attendance is defined as a student being present for 95% of school days or more (absent less than 9 days). Chronic absences are defined as missing 10% of school days (18 or more absences). It was reported that 2.4% of chronically absent students (approximately 90 students) districtwide are impacted by school refusal more commonly identified at middle school and junior high levels. Avoidance from negative affect and escape from evaluative or social situations are the two most common reasons for missing school in upper grades. The recommendations for next year are to adjust the goal of positive attendance from 80% to 75%. Attendance will continue to be monitored, appropriate and timely interventions provided, and parent education will help develop consistent guidelines for absences.

Board questions ensued regarding the transfer of assessment data into the eduCLIMBER data storage warehouse; displaying early childhood attendance data separately; tracking attendance data by gender and chronic absence reasons; tracking environmental literacy; defining excused and unexcused absences; encouraging the focus on construction for environmentally safe materials and practices in buildings; having realistic assessments and evolving reports to summarize achievements; drawing the connection between strategic goals and individualized education, specifically for school refusal students to achieve their specific growth goals.

c. **Statement of Inclusion**

Dr. Lechner stated the statement is ready for first read approval. Upon final approval in August, the statement would be placed on the website along with the Mission Statement.

D. Annual Business

1. **Resolution Authorizing July Bill Payments**

Dr. Lechner stated the Board would be obligated to make payments for various recurring bills and previously approved construction-related services and materials during the month of July. As there would be no Board meeting in July, approval of this resolution enables the treasurer to fulfill required financial obligations between the June 19, 2017 and August 28, 2017 Board meetings.

2. **Resolution Providing for the Issue of General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2017, for Refunding Purposes**

Dr. Lechner stated this resolution authorizes the District to issue \$3.7 M of Limited Tax Bonds for the purpose of refunding the remaining Series 2007 Limited Tax Bonds. Refunding of bonds will produce savings of approximately \$163,000, which goes directly back to taxpayers.

3. **IDOT Serious Hazard Finding Application**

Dr. Lechner reported District 39 received a written petition requesting a combined safety hazard study be completed and findings submitted to IDOT for children crossing Glenview Road at Big Tree Lane and Skokie Blvd. at Wilmette Ave. The District's assessment determined the crossings are considered a hazard. These results will be submitted to IDOT for their review and determination along with the resident's petition. Dr. Lechner noted District 39 meets the requirements for hazardous areas by offering bus services in these areas. This application has no impact on District 39.

4. 2017 District Title I Plan

In order to be compliant with ISBE rules and regulations, the administration requires the Board of Education approve the updated District Title I Plan. District 39 applies for Title I funding every year. Therefore, the 2008 District Title I Plan has been updated to reflect current practices. Title I is required to meet the needs of low income families so all students have access to quality education. Ms. Lee explained Title II funding addresses teacher quality by providing professional development opportunities. She noted District 39 serves as the local public agency for non-public schools, which means allocating appropriate funds among local non-public schools for professional development.

Members of the Board questioned the Title II annual allocated amounts to non-public schools over the last several years, and if Title I eligibility guidelines remained consistent over the past several years.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Revised Board of Education Policy 7:340

Dr. Lechner stated the Board had suggestions regarding the release of student records. The revisions have been suggested by legal counsel and in consideration of Board input. The policy reflects District practices and is ready for final approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ann Stevens, Wilmette, thanked the Board and CRC for work on School Climate and empathy. She also appreciated the Statement of Inclusion and the important focus on race and equity.

Karen Joshi, Wilmette, thanked the administration for support on positive school climate and the relationship between positive school climate and school attendance. She suggested monitoring the use of Second Step skills throughout the day.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the personnel report dated June 19, 2017, which included licensed full-time reemployment of **Michele Gohde**, effective August 31, 2017; **Austin Gregorcy**, effective August 31, 2017; **Arlene Imburgia**, effective August 31, 2017; **Randall Stotz**, effective August 31, 2017; licensed full-time employment of **Elyse Kunzel**, effective August 31, 2017; **Jennifer Less**, effective August 31, 2017; **Kelly Mack**, effective August 31, 2017; **Caitlin Merkle**, effective August 31, 2017; **Julia Mahowald**, effective August 31, 2017; **Wesley Needle**, effective August 31, 2017; **Kelsey Person**, effective August 31, 2017; **Frank Theodorakakis**, effective August 31, 2017; **Christina Troy**, effective August 31, 2017; temporary employment of **Susan Dinh**, effective June 13, 2017; **Michael Egan**, effective June 13, 2017; **Anne Hughes**, effective June 13, 2017; **Allison Kane**, effective June 14, 2017; **Annie Sheehan**, effective June 13, 2017; licensed resignation of **Kelly Brennan-Divis**, effective June 9, 2017; **Irene Lo**, effective June 9, 2017; educational support personnel resignation of **Lauren Gutierrez**, effective June 9, 2017; **Bonnie Hawkinson**, effective June 9, 2017; **Peter Lenz**, effective June 9, 2017; **Eve Loumpouridis**, effective June 9, 2017; **Kaitlin McKeon**, effective June 9, 2017; **Susan Pigott**, effective June 9, 2017; licensed

retirement of **Kathleen Brandeisky**, effective the end of the 2021-22 school year; educational support personnel retirement of **Mary Ann Esler**, effective June 30, 2021; **Patricia Gaber**, effective August 29, 2017; **Lisa Winter**, effective the end of the 2020-21 school year: adopt the resolution dated June 19, 2017 authorizing payment for goods and services between June 19, 2017 and the next Board meeting scheduled for August 28, 2017: to approve the new Harper/Romona Assistant Principal contract: approve the application of a serious safety hazard finding for submittal to Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT): approve the 2017 District Title I Plan: approve as second and final reading revised Board of Education Policy 7:340 *Student Records*: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between May 23, 2017 – June 19, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$666,655.45; O & M Fund \$270,233.73; Debt Service Fund \$112,346.25; Transportation Fund \$237,387.29; Capital Projects Fund \$94,266.00; total all funds: \$1,380,888.72: to approve the manual checks issued between May 23, 2017 – June 19, 2017 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$443,288.18; O&M Fund \$30,820.78; Transportation Fund \$44.94; Capital Projects Fund \$8,401.00; total all funds: \$482,554.90.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler, and Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent –none: **Motions Carried.**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the resolution dated June 19, 2017 providing for the issue of not to exceed \$3,700,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2017, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of Wilmette Public School, and pay for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler, and Mark Steen; voting “nay” –none; absent –none: **Motion Carried.**

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

President Steen thanked Dr. Welter for all her years of service to the District and wished her well in her retirement.

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary