

WILMETTE, IL
APRIL 23, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 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, Ellen Crispino, Romy Decristofaro, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Rachel Filippi and Assistant Principal Meghann Young introduced fourth grade English Language Arts students who spoke about their recent project-based learning experience. Students researched, wrote, and spoke about the toys they made for their prekindergarten buddies. Fourth grade teachers Ms. Eckholm and Ms. Blomberg explained the skills students utilized for these projects. The group then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

President Steen noted Paige Lunde's 7th & 8th graders provided the amazing artwork in the boardroom this month. The artwork represented a range of projects from 2D Art to drawing and painting courses. Seventh graders studied Artist Winslow Homer and practiced various watercolor techniques. They also explored the *One Sky Initiative*, sponsored by Wilmette artist Ben Whitehouse, and photographed images of the sky. Students discussed climate change and worked to express colors they value in the sky. Eighth graders studied perspective drawing and used their imagination to illustrate an image representing their favorite book or favorite city.

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Steen reminded everyone that this is a public meeting and all are among neighbors and fellow residents. He stated appropriate conduct is expected from everyone. He asked that people speak only when called upon, that everyone treat each other kindly and with proper respect, and refrain from distracting behaviors such as such as loud conversations, cheering, clapping, or booing.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2019 Regular and Executive Session meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beth Feeley, Wilmette, stated her appreciation for the time and effort given by every board member. She thanked Tracy Kearney for her exemplary board service.

Betsy Hart, Wilmette, thanked all Board members for their service. She thanked Tracy Kearney for her courage and commitment to constituents during her service on the Board.

Joan Lasonde, Wilmette, thanked all the Board members for their service and specifically Tracy Kearney for her integrity and courage to question the status quo.

Meg Joseph, Wilmette, thanked all District 39 Board members for their service. She gave special thanks to Tracy Kearney for pursuing truth, clarity, and understanding toward progress in District 39.

Sue Blomberg and Mary Pearlman of Wilmette, thanked Alice Schaff for her eight years of service on the board and over 20 years helping to improve education in District 39. They expressed appreciation for her time, passion, and dedication.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

School Finance – Mr. Panzica reported the committee met as part of Committee of the Whole on April 15th. The committee discussed incorporating flexible furniture for elementary grade levels. The pilot was initiated at McKenzie School through the support of their PTA. The variety of furniture designs support different learning styles and classroom needs. Administration plans to introduce these furniture designs in other schools over time. Mr. Panzica reported the Harper construction bids were received and came in below estimates. The Harper construction will help ease increasing enrollments and provide classroom space for kindergarten enrichment. The committee discussed the District’s current practice for air conditioning, and cost projections were presented for increasing air conditioning in large spaces school by school. The committee discussed operating funds tentative budget, year over year staffing, lunch fee policy, and the process and timing for involvement in Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) resolutions.

Facility Development – Mrs. Schaff reported the committee did not meet this month. She noted the Board would review and vote on Harper construction bids as part of the Consent Agenda. The next meeting is on May 13.

President Steen noted the Community Review Committee (CRC) and Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) reports would be provided at the May Board of Education meeting.

Ed Foundation – Mr. Cesaretti reported the April 17th meeting was incredibly well attended as Dr. Ray Lechner was recognized for his leadership with the *Ray of Light Fund*. Seventh grade science teacher Dr. Peter Ower gave a fantastic presentation on Moticams, which are microscopes with cameras on them. Mr. Cesaretti noted the Foundation’s movie night was a success. The Foundation will host a Pub Crawl on May 16th and the Fashion Show on November 13th.

Legislative Update – Mrs. Kearney reported that several bills were pending. The Physical Education bill was halted as a sponsor declined to move it forward due to opposition from IASB and ED-RED. The teacher salary bill that would increase minimum teacher salary to \$40,000 by 2023 was approved by House and Senate. The consolidation bill that addressed forced school district consolidation continues to move forward. The bill to lower compulsory age for students to start school is being rewritten due to problems with language. Bills to amend the Illinois Pension Code are being discussed that would revert back to 6% rule for end of career earnings increases.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board did not receive any written communication this month.

B. Administrative Announcements from Superintendent and Staff

1. McKenzie Interim Principal

Dr. Lechner stated Dana Nasiakos was chosen as McKenzie's Interim Principal for the 2019-2020 school year. With the Principal position at McKenzie opening up so late in the year, incoming superintendent Dr. Cremascoli and Dr. Lechner both agreed an interim position was best for McKenzie.

Dr. Lechner reported Dana has been the assistant principal at Central Elementary School for the past two years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois, a Master's in education from DePaul University, and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University. Before coming to D39, Dana taught in District 31 at Winkelman Elementary School and District 28 at Northbrook Junior High. At Central, Dana demonstrated strengths in instructional coaching and effectiveness in developing cohesiveness amongst students, parents, and teachers.

Mrs. Nasiakos expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to join the McKenzie team. She congratulated Dr. Lechner on his upcoming retirement and looks forward to working with new superintendent, Dr. Cremascoli. She thanked Becky Littmann for her mentorship and guidance at Central School.

2. New Assistant Principals

Dr. Lechner stated with recent internal promotions we have two new Assistant Principal hires. He noted Dr. Cremascoli was an integral part of these hires.

Dr. Lechner introduced Anthony Haduch. Anthony was recommended as the new Assistant Principal for Central and McKenzie. Anthony is currently a third-grade teacher at Central. Prior to District 39, he taught fourth grade at Estrella Vista STEM Academy in Avondale, Arizona. Anthony received his Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Western Michigan and received his Master's in Educational Leadership from Arizona State.

Mr. Haduch thanked Dr. Lechner and Dr. Cremascoli for the opportunity to serve as Assistant Principal. He also thanked Becky and Dana for leadership, guidance, and support. He stated he is grateful for opportunity to work together.

Dr. Lechner introduced Linda Moric. Linda was recommended for the new fifth grade Assistant Principal at Highcrest. Linda recently taught fourth and fifth grades at River Trails School District 26 for sixteen years. She obtained both her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and Master's Degree in Curriculum & Instruction from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She also earned a Master's in Education Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University.

Ms. Moric thanked for opportunity HMS team and fifth grade administrator. She is excited to begin this fall.

3. New Communications Director

Dr. Lechner stated as Holly Goldin retires in June, Chike Erokwu has been appointed as the Communications Director. Mr. Erokwu was the Communications Coordinator for the last four years in Kenilworth School District 38. Prior to District 38, he worked three years at the Gannet Media Company reporting local news throughout central Ohio. Mr. Erokwu also served as Assistant to the Director of Communications at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Mr. Erokwu has a Bachelor of Science in News Writing and Editing from University of Akron.

Mr. Erokwu thanked the school board, Dr. Lechner, and Dr. Cremascoli for the opportunity to serve as Communications Director in District 39. He looked forward to working with Mrs. Goldin to continue the District's excellent communications program.

4. Annual Student Registration

Dr. Lechner stated District's 39 registration process is under way for the 2019-2020 school year. Parents were sent log in and general registration instructions last week.

5. Community Email Lists

Dr. Lechner noted in an effort to build better connections with residents who do not have children in schools, District 39 initiated Neighbor Email Lists. These email lists will provide news about District changes, individual school events, or construction for those who live near D39 buildings.

Residents can sign up on the District website and choose the neighbor email list for the school of their choice. The District shared these lists through the village emails, on the District website, through newsletters, and on social media.

6. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Dr. Lechner reported the District received three FOIA this month: Bethany Simpson of SmartProcure submitted a commercial FOIA request for any/all purchase orders and vendor ID numbers, names, addresses, contacts and email addresses; Olivia Deloian of NBC5 Chicago requested documents regarding school buildings and Storm Shelters; Esteban Barraza requested information regarding the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant and Board Secretary positions, including compensation/stipends, job description, as well as 2018-2019 Board of Education meeting schedule, including regular and special meetings.

C. Annual Business

1. Harper 2019 Construction Bids

Dr. Lechner stated as the District steps toward Kindergarten Enrichment, each elementary school will require some construction. Harper's construction project begins this summer and will require two summers to complete. The District received many qualified bidders, and the bids came in lower than estimated.

Mrs. Crispino stated the bid opening for Harper construction was held on April 4th and included the construction of three new classrooms. Construction supports the kindergarten enrichment program and the ability to move the Therapeutic Intervention Program (TIP) from Central to Harper. The move of the TIP program allows additional space for kindergarten enrichment at Central School. She noted the bids came in at \$3.5M, which was less than \$3.6M estimated in projections.

2. Harper 2019 Variance for Fire Protection System

Dr. Lechner stated the Harper 2019 construction requires a fire alarm system variance. District 39 wants to continue to use sprinklers rather than a voice evacuation fire alarm system.

Mrs. Crispino said, based on occupancy, Illinois School Code requires a voice evacuation fire alarm system for the Harper addition. The existing building has a traditional horn/strobe notification system and would be confusing to have a building with two different fire alarm systems. Input was sought from STR engineers, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), North Cook Intermediate Service Center (NCISC) for the Regional Office of Education (ROE) and the Wilmette Fire Department. Code does not require sprinklers in the addition, however, the input received noted sprinklers are considered to be superior to the voice evacuation system.

Mr. Panzica noted that beside sprinklers being more appropriate and efficient they are also less disruptive to students than the voice evacuation system.

3. Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Funds Tentative Budget

Dr. Lechner stated the Operating Funds represent 98% of the total District budget. He stated Fiscal Year 2020 budgeted revenue for operating Funds is projected to be \$63.1 million which is a 3.2% increase over the prior year's budget. The Operating Funds expenditures are estimated at \$61.5 million, representing a 4.2% increase from the FY19 budget.

Additional expenditures of \$3,822,257, which includes construction costs, results in a projected net overall operating funds deficit of (\$2,131,801) for FY20.

Mrs. Crispino presented the tentative budget with local revenue assumptions at 2.1% Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Levy Year 2018 and 1.9% CPI increase for 2019. She noted \$413,000 is estimated for new property growth. Collections are estimated at 98% with Interest Revenue budgeted at 1.8% of prior year's fund balance.

She stated the FY20 Operating Funds revenues are budgeted at \$63,143,663 and projected expenditures are budgeted at \$65,275,464. The budgeted year-end fund balance is estimated to be \$34,076,695 or 55.5% of annual expenditures in fund reserve.

4. 2018-2019 Final School Year Calendar

Dr. Lechner reported that due to the weather-related school closing on November 26th, the school calendar needs to be adjusted. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) refers to these school closing days as *Emergency Days* (ED). Because the District meets the legally required number of student attendance days, one ED is moved to November 26th. The last day of the school year continues to be June 14th, an early release day.

5. Revisions to Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan

Dr. Lechner stated Section 125 Plan specifies the logistics for offering Flexible Spending Accounts, Dependent Care reimbursement, Health Reimbursement Arrangements, etc. The D39 Plan, was last revised in 2014. Since that update, the District has joined Cooperative 90's and the insurance plan year has changed. The resolutions presented for approval align the dates of the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) with the new plan year. Additionally, this allows the superintendent to adjust any plan logistics with the law, as well as Board approved plan changes.

D. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Board of Education Policies 4:63, 4:70, 4:80, 4:90, 4:95, 4:100, 4:110, 4:115, 4:130 and 4:140

Dr. Lechner stated policies for second read were revised based upon Board feedback from the first reading. Additionally, based upon the Committee of the Whole discussion, policy 4:130 Food Service has not been changed at this time. However, a review can be considered after the Nutrition Committee completes their work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Anne Zordani, Wilmette, thanked Tracy Kearney for her Board service and for clarifying Board discussions to educate all side of the issues.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Mr. Panzica moved seconded by Mrs. Schaff to approve the personnel report dated April 23, 2019 which included licensed full-time reemployment of **Carole Deitchman**, effective August 26, 2019; **Amanda Gehrls**, effective August 26, 2019; **John Lee**, effective August 26, 2019; licensed part-time reemployment of **Hillary Rosenthal**, effective August 26, 2019; licensed full-time employment of **Alison Ansay**, effective August 26, 2019; **Melanie Newman**, effective August 26, 2019; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Chike Erokwu**, effective July 1, 2019; temporary employment of **Maria Hassan**, effective April 1, 2019; **Samantha Kopley**, effective August 26, 2019; **Sarah Lessels**, effective August 26, 2019; **Megan Pelos**, effective August 26, 2019; **Zoe Turner**, effective August 26, 2019; licensed resignation of **Elizabeth Hutchinson**, effective June 14, 2019; **Jenna Oskey**, effective June 14, 2019; **Penelope Straub**, effective June 14, 2019; educational support personnel resignation of **Ellen Kim**, effective May 23, 2019; **Nelson Torres**, effective April 18, 2019; **Hannah Worrell**, effective May 22, 2019; licensed retirement of **Debra Honigberg**, effective the end of the 2023-24 school year; **Pamela McCann**, effective the end of the 2023-24 school year; **Douglas Wilson**, effective the end of the 2023-24 school year; educational support personnel retirement of **Leslie Williams**, effective the end of the 2022-23 school year; tenured leave of absence of **Stacey Dana**, from approximately November 18, 2019 to the end of the 2019-20 school year; **Sarah Quinn**, from approximately November 18, 2019 to the end of the 2019-20 school year; licensed request from sick leave bank for **Employee 16727**, grant 2 days from WEA sick leave bank; **Employee 16939**, grant 7 days from SSU sick leave bank: award base bid package plus Alternate 1 per bid specifications for the Harper Elementary School three classroom addition and renovation for a total of \$3,494,982. Albrecht Enterprises for an amount not to exceed \$807,000; J&E Duff, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$308,317; McKinney Steel for an amount not to exceed \$73,221; Monarch Construction for an amount not to exceed \$385,500; L. Marshall Roofing for an amount not to exceed \$122,348; Krull Window Co. for an amount not to exceed \$194,467; Hargrave Builders, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$409,450; Nelson Fire Protection for an amount not to exceed \$35,714; Chas. F. Bruckner & Son for an amount not to exceed \$172,990; DeKalb Mechanical for an amount not to exceed \$611,975; Argon Electric Company for an amount not to exceed \$374,000; total Harper Elementary School project cost: \$3,494,982: adopt the attached resolution approving the variance for the Harper Fire Protection System; and, approve the Application for Approval of Variance dated April 23, 2019 as written: to approve the appointments of Linda Moric as the 2019-2020 Highcrest Middle School fifth grade Assistant Principal and Anthony Haduch as the 2019-2020 Central/McKenzie Assistant Principal: approve the 2018-2019 final school year calendar: to approve the resolution dated April 23, 2019 to restate the District 39 Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan: to approve the resolution dated April 23, 2019 restating Section 105 Health Reimbursement Arrangement: to approve as second and final reading of Board of

Education Policies 4:63 *Quality Purchasing*; 4:70 *Energy and Resource Conservation*; 4:80 *Accounting and Audits*; 4:90 *School Activity Funds*; 4:95 *Petty Cash*; 4:100 *Insurance Management*; 4:110 *Transportation*; 4:115 *Bus Warm Up*; 4:130 *Food Services*; and 4:140 *Waiver of Student Fees*: approve to release to the public the executive session minutes of April 28, 2015; August 27, 2018; October 15, 2018; October 22, 2018; November 5, 2018; November 12, 2018; November 14, 2018; November 26, 2018; November 27, 2018; November 28, 2018; November 29, 2018; December 10, 2018 (1), December 10, 2018 (2), December 12, 2018; December 13, 2018; December 17, 2018 (1); December 17, 2018 (2); January 14, 2019; January 28, 2019: approve to dispose of executive session audio recordings pursuant to District policy for the following dates: November, 14, 2016; December 12, 2016; February 13, 2017; February 27, 2017; March 20, 2017; April 3, 2017; April 25, 2017: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between March 19, 2019–April 23, 2019 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$418,807.65; O&M Fund \$299,239.69; Transportation Fund \$150,122.89; Capital Projects \$55,422.00; total all funds: \$923,592.33: to approve the manual checks issued between March 19, 2019 and April 23, 2019 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$574,181.34; O&M Fund \$5,269.09; Transportation Fund \$133.77; total all funds: \$579,584.20.

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.

Comments by Audience Prior to Reorganization

None

Comments by Board Members Prior to Reorganization

President Steen thanked Mrs. Kearney and Mrs. Schaff having served with each member four and six years respectively. He noted Mrs. Schaff’s 23 years of services including time spent with the CRC and Educational Foundation as well as room parent and serving lunches. He commended Mrs. Kearney’s service on the CRC and Educational Foundation as well as leading the Romona PTA. He stated the community should be aware of the amount of work and incredible service these women have provided.

Mrs. Schneider-Fabes thanked Mrs. Kearney and Mrs. Schaff for their years of service and demonstrated leadership. She valued this board’s diversity of opinions, skills, and interests. She also thanked Mr. Steen for his outstanding service as Board President. She was humbled by his leadership and led the Board with grace and professionalism.

Mrs. Schaff thanked everyone for their kind comments, noting it was an honor and privilege to serve on the District 39 Board for eight years. She is proud of the accomplishments of the District over that timeframe. She was grateful to have worked with Dr. Lechner, the administrators, past and present, and board members, past and present. She learned a great deal and is optimistic for the future of District 39, new Board members, and new Superintendent Dr. Cremascoli. She wished them all wisdom, insight, creativity, patience, as well as humor and luck for future success. She thanked the residents for electing her and allowing her to serve the Wilmette community.

Mrs. Kearney shared her gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the District 39 Board of Education. She reflected on her favorite project, the Romona Early Childhood playground, which led to work on auditoriums, PTA, Educational Foundation, and the Giving Tree on the Mikaelian Education wall. She noted while she has not always agreed with Dr. Lechner it had always been a nice and respectful

relationship. Mrs. Kearney thanked Dr. Glowacki for her kindness and leadership. She recognized her children's most impactful teachers. She thanked her constituents and community members who recognized her Board service. She recommended the community continue to stay informed with local boards.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Dr. Lechner explained District 39's tradition of hanging student art at the MEC in honor of outgoing board members. He then introduced Central 1st grader Mia Bederman, who painted the *Monet Water Lily Pond*. Mia Bederman presented her artwork to Alice Schaff in honor of her eight years of service to the Board of Education.

Dr. Lechner introduced Highcrest 6th grader Benjamin Toft who created the *After the Storm* artwork. Benjamin Toft presented his artwork to Tracy Kearney in honor of her four years of service to the Board of Education.

Adjourn Sine Die to Reorganizational Meeting

At 8:12 p.m. Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to adjourn sine die to the reorganizational meeting.

President

Secretary