

AUGUST 24, 2020
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, August 24, 2020 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Lisa Schneider-Fabes called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Members Present: Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Jon Cesaretti (remotely), Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Erin Stone

Members Absent: Ellen Sternweiler

Administrators Present: Kari Cremascoli, Corey Bultemeier, Tony DeMonte, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson

President Lisa Schneider Fabes opened the meeting with an announcement to the community. She thanked everyone for their patience, understanding and support while navigating these unprecedented times. She stated getting students and staff into schools was the ultimate goal and an incredibly difficult task. She appreciated everyone's passion and commitment knowing there are no right answers, no guarantees, no risk-free scenarios. She said there was no scenario that everyone would agree upon. She stated the Board had heard a range of perspectives and they have listened to them all. The overarching commitment is to the health and safety of the entire District 39 community. President Fabes stated the Board has heard the community outcry regarding the delay of in-person instruction and have built in a procedure for calendar review. A Metrics Review and Re-opening Advisory Board will meet each Friday beginning September 4th to review a variety of metrics to inform and evaluate the implementation of the reopening plan. Based on that review the committee will recommend adjustments for the subsequent week. The committee will review metrics such as COVID-19 transmission and rate data along with operational staffing, attendance and supply availability metrics. Based on those metrics the Advisory Board could recommend changes to the calendar. Recommendations by the Reopening Advisory Board will be communicated to stakeholders by Monday at 5:15 pm with the first communication expected Monday, September 7th.

President Fabes stated the administration has worked non-stop all summer to create scenarios to meet a range of needs and complies with guidance that changes daily. The progressive approach to reopening allows students and staff increased support for the transitions to start the school year. It allows increased professional development, training, and the ability for staff to practice in their new environments. It supports students with training and an opportunity to practice the new protocols for health and safety. President Fabes stated the school year begins next week despite all of the challenges. It will not be a usual start of the school year, but we should embrace it. The reopening plan is a roadmap that brings students and staff back into buildings safely for in-person instruction in accordance with regulations. She noted the summer school program was a success and the park district ran a successful summer camp. The District has a well thought out plan and has learned from those programs.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to accept the June 15, 2020 Board of Education and Executive Session minutes; August 12, 2020 Special and Executive Session minutes; August 13, 2020 Special Meeting minutes.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Erin Stone, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; voting “nay” – none; absent – Ellen Sternweiler:

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (email public comments to: PublicComment@wilmette39.org)

Michelle Coffey, Wilmette parent, asked the Board to reconsider the revised reopening plan for in-person instruction. She asked that consideration be given to bringing children back to school sooner and more often, perhaps utilizing half days of school.

Ann Rodas, Skokie resident and WEA President, shared a statement on behalf of the WEA. She stated the WEA continues to be grateful collaborators in the implementation of the District 39 reopening plan. Most importantly they appreciate that the District recognizes the importance of changing course when the safety of staff or students becomes compromised. She stated this past week the village saw nearly a 30% increase in positive COVID-19 cases. This is concerning and exactly the data the District has committed to review on a weekly basis and will use to guide decisions as they relate to the return to in-person instruction. She thanked the District for their continued commitment. They are hopeful that mitigation strategies slow the uptick in cases so teachers may see their students safely in a couple of weeks.

Dan Johnson – Wilmette, stated he had posted a petition with over 300 signatures requesting the District revert to the original calendar presented July 30th. He asked that the District consider starting the calendar as presented in July and if there is a spike in positivity rates move to remote learning but not take all of September to get kids back to school.

Yan Qui, Wilmette, spoke on behalf of her child with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). She stated the service providers are great and that in-person instruction is more effective than on-line instruction. She requested the administration explain how they plan to accommodate students with special needs.

Written public comments read by Dr. Glowacki and Tony DeMonte submitted by 7:00 pm were:

Victoria Ehle regarding the revised plan and children suffering from lack of social, emotional, and academic growth. She asked the District to go back to offering in-person instruction.

Kelly Daley wrote that she submitted notice to unenroll her son for 2020-2021 school year. She expressed her disappointment in the District’s short notice change for learning plans in the fall. She said the late announcement left families scrambling to find childcare and educational choices for children.

Jeanne Romas expressed her disappointment in the Board and school district noting the revised school agenda put students’ educational needs last. The state has permitted schools to open in June yet the District thought it prudent to wait until September for any in-person learning. She asked the District to reverse course and offer hybrid learning as originally planned.

Victoria Kluss wrote to voice her full support of D39 teachers, staff, and support staff. She said she could not in good conscience ask teachers to lay their health and their families’ health on the line for an in-person option. She chose remote learning for her children. She said now is the time to support each other and the community.

Debra Manhoff wrote to express her appreciation, gratitude, and support for all D39 teachers. She said teachers should know that there are people who believe they are acting in the best interests of children and the district and parents continue to support them.

Peg Steadman apologized for many people in the community for the snarky, mean comments endured during the last board meeting. She said many agree with supporting teachers' legitimate concerns about risking their health and well-being and those of their students by returning to in-school teaching and learning. She noted her child's 7th grade teacher created outstanding distance learning lessons last spring.

Maya Sterling stated middle school and junior high students were supposed to receive alternating weeks of two and three days of in-person instruction per the reopening plan communicated on July 30. Then it became only two in-person days without explanation. She expressed her frustration with the lack of transparency and communication. She noted the WEA report about confirmed COVID cases was misleading and was used as scare tactics.

Jessica Hopper wrote in support of teachers and staff who are compelled to teach in spite of the risk to themselves and their families. She is grateful for the remote learning option urged everyone to move to remote-only until it is safe for everyone to return to school.

Jennifer Shorr wrote to voice her support of D39 staff and teachers who have worked to pivot through the COVID landscape changes. She said teachers and staff are the reason she chose this community to raise her children, why schools are gold medal schools, and why her kids love to go to school.

Alexandra Eidenberg thanked the D39 Board of Education for their hard work navigating these difficult decisions for the community and children. She confirmed her support of D39 teachers and staff for their commitment to children. She said it is extremely important to maintain the best of relationships with staff and teachers regardless of the tough times presented during this pandemic. She encouraged and hoped to continue an open and positive dialogue with the union and teachers as we embark on the most difficult school year yet.

Vannesa Fowley wrote to say how vital teachers and staff are for her special needs' child. The paraprofessional is the lifeline for her child in general education class and around the school. The LBS is critical piece for her child to access curriculum and have space to regroup. The teacher is the key to her child being included with typical peers. She supports all of them as these teachers put children before themselves.

Justin Gaudio wrote noting they were told their child would have five days of in-person learning and were disappointed to learn the plan would be essentially all remote just a week before the start of the school year as they attempted to juggle multiple work and childcare schedules. There was no explanation for why five weeks of remote learning (instead of one) are necessary, especially after having remote learning for two months in the spring. It is unclear how limiting in-person to once or twice a week for a month will advance learning the in-person health and safety protocols. He requested the District follow through on its plan for five day in-person learning starting the first week of September.

Rachel Heiligman thanked the District for their hard work designing a plan that was a viable for everyone. She said all the New Trier feeder schools are starting in-person learning in some form as planned. The D39 July 30th plan put children first and when the plan changed it was confusing, disappointing, and frustrating. She fears that end of September there will be more push back from the union as they made it clear in the letter posted publicly that teachers have no intention of coming back and that teachers will only teach remotely. She requested a compromise to move the timeline up.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Development Committee (FDC) – President Fabes reported on behalf of Mrs. Sternweiler. The Facility Development Committee met August 17th as part of the Committee of the Whole Meeting. They reviewed summer construction, with Joe Papanicholas of Nicholas and Associates providing updates. He stated projects have been completed in time for the start of the new school year and each project came in slightly under budget. The FDC received a brief update on future construction planning for KEEP39 programming at McKenzie and Romona schools. The administration, architect, and construction teams continue to review plans for potential construction projects at these schools. Good progress continues to be made in both regards, but final decisions regarding pursuit of the project will not be made until January or February. The team also received an update on the Central Avenue road construction project. This project was delayed by the Village, but is being initiated this month. This will cause some noteworthy disruption on Central Avenue throughout fall, however, the District and Village are working to coordinate efforts to ensure the safety of in-person students as they plan for school arrivals and dismissals. Mr. Bultemeier and Mrs. Littmann will remain in close communication with the Village team as the project progresses.

School Finance Committee (SFC) – Mr. Cesaretti reported the Finance Committee met as part of the Committee of the Whole on August 17th. The SFC reviewed and discussed the D39 budget. Mr. Bultemeier provided a review of the D39 budget, with special attention to the many unknowns and adjustments that have been necessary based on the current pandemic environment. The WSCEA budget was also reviewed and remains the same as presented in May. Finally, the Tax Compliance Review was discussed. This is an annual tax compliance that would be presented later on the agenda.

Strategy – Mr. Steen reported the Strategy Committee briefly discussed updates related to the reopening plan. With the Board's special meetings on Wednesday and Thursday just prior, there were only brief additional updates. The Board was provided with a copy of the resolution that the Board is asked to adopt later on the agenda. This resolution takes formal action to officially affirm the plan and provides for policy adjustments, as needed, in light of the pandemic and implementation of the reopening plan.

Parent Teacher Advisory Committee – Dr. Swanson stated the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee met in June to review District policies and procedures related to student behavior and agreed to amend policy 7:190, Student Behavior, to include provisions for supporting students and staff when they are a danger to themselves and others, and prohibit the use of isolated time-out within district schools. The revised policy will be presented as part of the agenda. There are other additions to the policy that reflect new behavioral requirements for face coverings associated with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee (CRC) – Dr. Cremasoli stated the CRC is taking a different approach this year in support of the Districts' strategic planning efforts as well as the unique school year that lies ahead. Ms. Lee stated the District hired the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) to assist with the strategic planning process. The CRC contributes to the process by recommending topics for consideration. This year Nathan Herada will serve as CRC President and Shauna Smith as Vice President. Ms. Lee noted the meeting dates have not yet been set.

Educational Foundation – Dr. Cremasoli noted the first Educational Foundation Meeting will be held on September 16.

Illinois Association of School Boards – President Fabes noted there were no updates at this time.

Legislative Update

Ms. Stone stated the General Assembly is in recess. Public acts enacted since the last meeting in June are: Public Act 101-0643 codified many provisions previously contained in executive orders by the governor and guidance documents and emergency rules promulgated by ISBE; Public Act 101-0642 makes Election Day, this November only, be an official state holiday requiring schools be closed; Public Act 101-0645 extends the amount of days retired teachers who receive Teacher Retirement System (TRS) benefits can substitute in a school from 100 to 120 days, which is aimed at addressing the teacher/substitute shortages.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

Dr. Cremascoli reported there have been many written communications received by the Board of Education regarding the reopening of schools plans. Some in favor of reopening schools, some in favor of opening with remote only, some in favor of the options that have been made available, some in favor of maintaining the original school calendar, some appreciating the adjustments to the calendar to provide additional professional development and a progressive start to in-person, some sharing data and information regarding the spread of COVID-19, and others sharing perspective, insight, and advocacy. These communications are entered into the record. She stated she and all members of the Board of Education have carefully read and considered each of these communications. The insights shared and engagement of the community is very much appreciated. She thanked President Schneider-Fabes for her time responding to these communications on behalf of the Board.

B. Administrative Announcements

Reopening Plans Update

Dr. Cremascoli noted the Board had established, the District's goal to provide in-person learning and connection as often as possible while abiding by state health and safety guidelines. The District has maintained an unwavering commitment to the guiding principles of health and safety of students and staff being a priority. Dr. Cremascoli stated the District is confident in the plans with a commitment to ongoing review and improvement as the world continues to shift and change. Adjustments with the ever-changing pandemic and related adjustments in data and guidelines are followed to protect the health and safety of all.

Dr. Cremascoli shared the enrollment and staffing update. She noted the District received enrollment commitments that aligned near perfectly with the expected estimates, with approximately 79% selecting the in-person model and 21% selecting the fully remote options district-wide. She stated staff assignments and classroom sections were based on enrollment commitments received, with teachers being assigned accordingly. She added that preliminary staffing surveys indicated 5% may need accommodations or be limited in returning to work; however, significantly more certificated staff (teachers) indicated a need for medical accommodation or leave, including 46 teachers or certificated faculty members (14%). Leaves include a significant increase in both medical accommodation and childcare (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) FFCRA leave requests than anticipated (some due to surrounding districts where faculty reside that are not fully remote). The District is working to honor all leave requests and medical accommodation needs, though this has become exceptionally complicated in staffing the schools.

Dr. Cremascoli discussed updated guidance and health/safety improvements, noting the definition for ‘close contact’ remains as described on August 13th, however, the guidance for quarantine requirements were updated with significant implications. The update, released on August 20th, provided clarification to quarantine requirements for those having had close contact with someone exhibiting potential symptoms associated with COVID-19. Persons exposed must immediately quarantine for 14 days or until an alternate diagnosis is reached. The new guidance clarifies that members of the household must quarantine during the symptom evaluation; however, close contacts do not need to.

Dr. Cremascoli reiterated that each case will be carefully reviewed and handled individually based on the specifics of that case and consultation with the IDPH will guide responses to each suspected case. The District relies upon and closely follows the guidance of the IDPH and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) who have jurisdiction over District response. She stated it cannot be emphasized enough how important it is for all staff and students to regularly monitor symptoms, to stay home when feeling ill, and to engage openly and honestly with all contact tracing efforts in order to minimize risks of transmission and future school closures.

Dr. Cremascoli highlighted some health and safety updates that were conducted, which include daily, nightly and specialized cleaning protocols; ventilation (35-40% air exchange rate) and upgraded filters; heat advisory protocols have been established; COVID Response Plan continues to be updated and revised in accordance with changing guidance; work to identify ways staff can be provided with access to rapid testing; school operations protocol to support safe distancing, hand sanitation, and other healthy habits; and ongoing updates to FAQs.

Dr. Cremascoli noted calendar changes were made to support faculty and staff with additional professional development for new classroom approaches and remote instruction; for training on protocol, guidelines and plan; and an opportunity to practice. The adjusted calendar also provides additional support for students through direct training and opportunity to practice with support. She noted with all of the changes, the District has to be prepared to pivot and the Wilmette Welcome Weeks allow the District to do so.

Dr. Cremascoli stated in eagerness for full implementation of the reopening plan, the District would continue to review metrics and guidance. A team will be formed to specifically monitor transmission data as well as health and safety protocol to advise adjustments to the reopening plan and schedule. Along with the COVID-19 surveillance data being monitored both regionally and locally, other metrics will be identified to guide adjustments and evaluate implementation of the health and safety guidelines.

Dr. Cremascoli stated a resolution approving the COVID-19 Re-Opening and Remote Learning Plan is presented on the agenda and recommended for adoption by the Board. This action affirms the reopening plan as well as ongoing needs to review and adjust. It also addresses the policy adjustments that were afforded by the Board of Education last school year through the end of August.

Enrollment, Class Lists and Staff Assignment

Dr. Cremascoli stated staffing for this school year has been complex. Planning for in-person instruction with smaller than typical class sizes to accommodate social distancing and other health guidelines, and planning for fully remote instructional teams, and accommodating all of the medical accommodations and necessary leave requests of staff has been challenging. Thus, the process of staffing, hiring, and assignments has been complicated and ongoing. She reported administration has made good progress in each of these regards, and acknowledged and thanked the administrative team for their heroic efforts in interviewing and training staff.

The staffing for this school year was designed to support targeted instruction for all learners and to support the ability to shift between learning models as needed with as little disruption to student/teacher assignments as possible. As such, administration is working to finalize assignments and to complete the hiring process for this year. As mentioned, requested accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) have required thoughtful consideration. Additionally, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, (FFCRA), provides extended Family Medical Leave for employees who do not have childcare for their dependent children. These factors have added additional complexities to the staffing process. Staffing assignments are nearly finalized and the District has hired some exceptional additional teachers and substitutes to support efforts this year. The District is finalizing class lists and assignments for students.

iPad Distribution and School Supplies

Dr. Cremascoli stated iPad pick-up days were hosted last week at the elementary schools. Fifth graders are anxiously awaiting the distribution day for their iPads on August 28th. A schedule will be sent from the technology department to all fifth-grade families so they are prepared for the first day. iPads will be updated for use on the first day of school.

Dr. Cremascoli noted everyone's excitement for the first day of school on Monday, August 31. All students will attend the first day remotely. Parents and students are reminded to make sure students are prepared with technology, a good place to study, and have reviewed the information and Zoom links sent by homeroom teachers to get started.

Opening Days and Staff Welcoming

Dr. Cremascoli stated support staff were welcomed back to work on Friday with a full day of professional training. Teachers and certificated staff returned today for a full week of professional development. Staff spent time in schools on Monday and will gather virtually for the annual District-wide kick-off on Tuesday. The rest of the week will focus on important training for new instructional approaches to support both remote and in-person instruction, review of new health and safety protocol and practices, and ongoing curriculum training and review.

Summer Construction Update

Dr. Cremascoli stated the District received final occupancy notice for each summer construction project on Friday. While final preparations for furniture and proper distancing protocols are being made, the buildings are looking great.

Village Construction Update

The stormwater project activity around Highcrest Middle School has been minimal. The Highcrest parking has been re-done with a "binder level" plus striping. The top layer of the parking lot will be added on a non-school day in mid to late September.

The Central Avenue water main project has started and will impact travel near Central school. Traffic is currently one-way westbound on Central Avenue from Sheridan to 11th Street. Construction will extend to Green Bay Road. The project team believes construction in front of or very close to Central School will be done by the time students return to in-person instruction. The project team and MEC/Central administrators communicate weekly.

Property Tax Appeals

The Board of Education approved a resolution authorizing intervention in property tax assessment appeals filed with the PTAB and with the Circuit Court of Cook County in accordance with policies and limitations established by the Board of Education. The District has received notice of property tax appeals on five parcels in the District 39 boundary. The Property Index Number and the estimated refunds are listed for new property tax interventions at the PTAB and Circuit Court of Cook County this month.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Dr. Cremascoli reported the District received two FOIA requests from Connor Henry of the Wilmette Watch requesting all logs and details from August 1, 2017 to the present regarding student isolated time out and physical restraint. The District received a FOIA request from Sabrina Martin of the Wilmette Watch regarding all documents of incidents involving Wilmette crossing guards and vehicles between July 10, 2018 - July 10, 2020. The District received a commercial FOIA from Ken Deloian of SmartProcure requesting all purchasing records from January 6, 2020 to the present.

C. Annual Business

1. Annual Tax Compliance Notification

Mr. Bultemeier stated annually the Compliance Officer, who is the Chief School Business Official (CSBO) reviews the District's contracts and records to determine that the Tax Advantaged Obligations comply with the applicable federal tax requirements.

D. Board Policy Review

1. First Reading of Board of Education Policies 2:220, 4:180 and 7:190

Dr. Cremascoli stated related to response and preparedness during the pandemic, there are two policies recommended for revision (2:220 and 7:190) and a new policy to be considered for adoption (4:180). The revisions/adoption will go through the typical first and second reading process for policy approval. These policies are presented for first reading.

Ms. Stone suggested corrections regarding gender pronouns/subject verb alignment and language edits regarding prohibited substances for policy 7:190

2. First and Final Reading of Board of Education Policies 2:260, 2:265, 5:20 and 7:20

Dr. Cremascoli stated the Secretary of Education has amended the regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requiring schools to respond to allegations of sexual harassment consistent with Title IX's prohibition against sex discrimination. These went into effect on August 14th. A new proposed policy (2:265) explicitly addresses sexual harassment. As a result, policies 2:260, 5:20 and 7:20 have been amended to reflect the existence of new policy 2:265. Board attorneys suggested adopting the PRESS version of policy 2:265, which is presented on the agenda. These policies are recommended for first and final reading to expedite approvals in accordance with these new legislative amendments.

Ms. Stone had edits to policies 2:260 and 2:265.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Johnson, Wilmette, asked Board members to amend the calendar tonight to expedite in-person education.

Victoria Shoemaker, Wilmette, stated the original reopening plan was clearly designed with children in mind, while the revised reopening plan was skewed toward teacher demands. She said it is important teachers' concerns be considered, however, families and parents are their constituents and the majority chose in person education. She asked the Board to consider the needs of children and allow children to attend school in-person.

Mr. DeMonte read a public comment via email from Dan Johnson who reposted the petition of signatures and requested the District vote to return to the original calendar.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to approve the personnel report dated August 24, 2020 which included licensed full-time reemployment of **Sarah Lancaster**, effective August 24, 2020; licensed full-time employment of **Kelly Bachman**, effective August 24, 2020; **Kailee Breslin**, effective August 24, 2020; **Alicia Cohen**, effective August 24, 2020; **Sheila Gorney**, effective August 24, 2020; **Thomas Hunter**, effective August 10, 2020; **Candice Grudowski**, effective August 31, 2020; **Alison Martin**, effective August 24, 2020; **Erin Pilotte**, effective August 24, 2020; **Emma Russell**, effective August 24, 2020; **Taylor Sale**, effective August 24, 2020; **Danielle Sonshine**, effective August 24, 2020; **Janet Vitale**, effective August 24, 2020; **Kathryn Wilutis**, effective August 24, 2020; **Abigail Winter**, effective August 24, 2020; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Sotirios Floros**, effective August 17, 2020; **Thomas Szczepanik**, effective July 6, 2020; temporary employment of **Alicia Cohen**, effective July 7, 2020; **Elizabeth Magana**, effective August 24, 2020; **Brian Maisel**, effective July 7, 2020; **Judy Rose-Epstein**, effective July 7, 2020; **Jeannine Salm**, effective July 7, 2020; **Dawn Zigmund**, effective July 7, 2020; licensed resignation of **Elisabeth Collins**, effective August 15, 2020; **Amy Frederick**, effective August 20, 2020; **Hilary Harvey**, effective July 2, 2020; **Chelsea Kruszewski**, effective June 22, 2020; **Kelly Mack**, effective August 11, 2020; **Valentina Moroz**, effective August 3, 2020; **Sarah Seiler**, effective June 29, 2020; **Maia Snyder**, effective August 13, 2020; **Shannon Zock**, effective June 25, 2020; educational support personnel resignation of **Jorge Abarca**, effective August 13, 2020; **Roy Bradley**, effective August 14, 2020; **Alicia Denton**, effective August 10, 2020; **Sotirios Floros**, effective August 20, 2020; **Elizabeth Gonzalez**, effective August 17, 2020; **Kathleen Kalble**, effective August 20, 2020; **Kara Lownsberry**, effective July 10, 2020; **Emily Monto**, effective August 14, 2020; **Julie Patton**, effective July 22, 2020; **Maureen Quinn**, effective August 20, 2020; **Lydia Ridgeway**, effective August 20, 2020; **Andrea Roberts**, effective August 20, 2020; **Irma Ann Terry**, effective June 11, 2020; **Sharon Wheeler**, effective August 20, 2020; **Stephanie White**, effective August 17, 2020; **Lisa Zagorin**, effective August 5, 2020; **Anthony Zamora**, effective August 28, 2020; tenured leave of absence for **Elyse Adamo**, for the 2020-21 school year; **Jennifer Archer**, for the 2020-21 school year; **Sue Flachsbart**, for the 2020-21 school year; **Katherine Porter**, for the 2020-21 school year; approve as first reading of Board of Education Policies 2:220 *Board of Education Meeting Procedures*; 4:180 *Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery*; and 7:190 *Student Behavior*: approve as first and final reading of Board of Education Policies 2:260 *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 2:265 *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures*; 5:20 *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; and 7:20 *Harassment of Students Prohibited*: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between June 16, 2020 – July 27, 2020 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$1,045,352.37; O&M Fund \$224,397.18; Capital Projects \$1,119,796.00; total all funds: \$2,389,545.55: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between July 28, 2020 – August 24, 2020 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$629,867.50; O&M Fund \$299,112.63; Transportation Fund \$666.00; Capital Projects \$59,290.00; Tort Fund \$78,455.00; total all funds: \$1,067,391.13: approve the manual checks issued

between June 16, 2020 – July 27, 2020 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$609,044.30; O&M Fund \$16,915.06; Debt Service \$475.00; Transportation Fund \$86,632.31 ; Tort Fund \$725.53; total all funds: \$713,792.20: approve the manual checks issued between July 28, 2020 and August 24, 2020 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$599,525.56; O&M Fund \$21,135.01; Transportation Fund \$9681.78; total all funds; \$630,342.35.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Erin Stone, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; voting “nay” – none; absent – Ellen Sternweiler:

Motions Carried.

B. Adopt the 2020-2021 Budget for Wilmette Public Schools District 39

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adopt the 2020-2021 Budget for Wilmette Public Schools District 39.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Erin Stone, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; voting “nay” – none; absent – Ellen Sternweiler:

Motion Carried.

C. Adopt the 2020-2021 Budget for Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA)

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adopt the 2020-2021 Budget for Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA).

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Erin Stone, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; voting “nay” – none; absent – Ellen Sternweiler:

Motion Carried.

D. Adopt the Resolution Approving the District 39 COVID-19 Re-Opening and Remote Learning Plan

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adopt the Resolution approving the District 39 COVID-19 Re-Opening and Remote Learning Plan.

Mrs. Poehling commented on how the whole country is dealing with COVID-19 and the year ahead would not be an easy one. She served on the task force committee and noted how hard they had work and that all comments were heard and valued. She supported the opening plan with transitions in order to open schools safely and stay open. The weekly metric review meetings she hoped would bring special needs students in school sooner and expedite the K-4 calendar. She believed the transition allows teachers learn the routines, allows students in small groups to practice protocols, and make any necessary changes. She felt remote instruction the first week, half-day instruction the second week and full day the third week would allow students to be back in school for part of September. She understood the perspective of those that disagreed with the reopening plan. She asked that teachers not be blamed and felt teachers’ perspectives should be heard and respected. She stated in a time of fear it is important to be kind, respectful, and generous and keep an open mind. She said this is a time to come together, work together, and assume good will. Make room for possibility and potential and maximize collective energy to make this a better school year.

Ms. Stone echoed Mrs. Poehling’s comments on the herculean efforts of the task force. She supported bringing special needs students back to school sooner and expediting the K-4 calendar. She also agreed with listening to each other’s perspectives. She noted the 5-8 block schedule for remote learners was brilliant and was proud that District 39 was providing in person K-4 art and music instruction as the District prides itself on educating the whole child.

Mr. Steen thanked Mrs. Poehling for her beautiful words and comments. He was glad the plan allowed for flexibility if conditions and metrics permit the calendar to be moved up. He noted it had been suggested to vote on amending the calendar tonight but the plan allows for an amended calendar so a vote would not be necessary. He had recommended adding language to Item #4 on page 3 of the Resolution to extend the sentence with ‘but do not provide authority or suspension of policy for any actions that are unlawful or inconsistent with any applicable regulations.’

Mr. Cesaretti noted last semester discussions were always focused on reopening. He felt the reopening plan is a fantastic, highly ambitious plan and he was impressed and proud of it. He wished everyone was happy about the plan. He thanked administration, teachers, staff, support staff and the Board members for their hard work.

President Fabes spoke on behalf of Mrs. Sternweiler who agreed with Mr. Steen’s comments. Mrs. Sternweiler hoped the Metrics Advisory Committee would be able to move the calendar forward.

President Fabes supported moving the calendar forward as well.

Mr. Panzica thanked the administration for their exceptional and tireless work developing the reopening plan in addition to accomplishing their regular duties. He asked that the students be kept in mind as the plan is for the benefit of the students.

Dr. Cremascoli noted as a point of order, the motion on the table would need to be voted down and then vote on the amended resolution.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – none; voting “nay” – Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Erin Stone, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; absent – Ellen Sternweiler:

Motion Failed.

E. Adopt the Amended Resolution Approving the District 39 COVID-19 Re-Opening and Remote Learning Plan

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adopt the Amended Resolution approving the District 39 COVID-19 Re-Opening and Remote Learning Plan.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Erin Stone, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; voting “nay” – none; absent – Ellen Sternweiler:

Motion Carried.

Dr. Cremascoli stated she would pass the resolution on to the metrics review board and request the timeline for the K-4 calendar be expedited.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

1. Ongoing Equity Work of the Board

President Fabes asked the Board for updates regarding the ongoing equity work. No updates were reported.

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Mr. Steen stated the District was poised to actually start school before next meeting. He said it has never been a more challenging year for any member of our community, be they parents, committee members, administrators, or the superintendent. He was very happy to start school and noted they were able to preserve some semblance of community cohesiveness although there have been tensions at times. He looked forward to getting students back into classrooms and felt it should be celebrated.

President Fabes stated she was grateful to the administration for their unbelievable dedication and hard work.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adjourn to executive session to discuss:

- A. Collective Negotiating Matters Between the Public Body and Its Employees or Their Representatives, or Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- B. The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- C. Litigation When an Action Against, Affecting or on Behalf of the Particular Public Body Has Been Filed and is Pending Before a Court or Administrative Tribunal, or When the Public Body Finds that an Action is Probable or Imminent in Which Case the Basis for the Finding Shall be Recorded and Entered into the Minutes of the Closed Meeting 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Erin Stone, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; voting “nay” – none; absent – Ellen Sternweiler: **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:26 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 10:40 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 10:40 p.m. by **Unanimous Roll Call**.

President

Secretary