

NOVEMBER 12, 2018
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, November 12, 2018 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Mark Steen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Steen, Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica,
 Alice Schaff (6:50 p.m.), Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Ellen Sternweiler

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Ray Lechner, Ellen Crispino, Romy DeCristofaro, Heather Glowacki,
 Katie Lee

CALL TO ORDER

President Mark Steen called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Sternweiler to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining and specific personnel. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 6:03 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President Mark Steen reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Sue Kick shared ways Harper students honored veterans for Veterans Day. She introduced Harper Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Eagle Scouts. The Eagle Scouts shared their individual projects that earned their Eagle Scout Badge. The younger scouts introduced themselves and addressed Veterans Day in their own unique way and thanked veterans for their service. The group then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

McKenzie Principal Rachel Filippi and several McKenzie students shared their school's efforts in "Operation Gratitude" honoring veterans and soldiers. Students collected 317 lbs. of Halloween candy and wrote 121 letters to send to military heroes.

ARTWORK

President Steen stated photographs displayed in the Boardroom were taken by students and digitally edited in class using professional software. Each image communicated to the viewer about the life and adventures of District 39 students. Also, on display in the foyer were handmade vases and carved dishes created by eighth graders. Students studied ancient Greek vases and developed templates using those examples. Students layered coils to create a functional structure then learned to mix and apply glazes to convey their own "life story."

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to accept the minutes of the October 22, 2018 Board of Education Meeting and Executive Session meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kate Gjaja, Wilmette, co-president of Wilmette League of Women Voters spoke on behalf of the League. The League opposed the IASB resolution allowing school districts to arm staff and requested the District send a representative to the Triple I conference to state opposition.

Rhona DiCamillo, Wilmette, also requested D39 send a representative to the IASB Resolution Committee to argue against the student safety protection resolution. She noted Illinois law would need to be changed to enforce this resolution as weapons are not allowed on or near school property.

Lali Watt, Wilmette, reflected on the Columbine, Colorado incident. She shared how she addressed the incident with her child and how it affected her family thereafter. She said parents shouldn't have to decide whether it is safe to send their children to school where legal firearms are allowed.

Allison Gasser, Wilmette, felt the proposal of arming teachers was frightening. She said even well-trained military experts make mistakes during an active shooter incident and teachers are not well-trained military experts. She said armed civilians put law enforcement in danger, delay response time, pose risk to innocent bystanders, and slow the process of identifying a suspect. She stated placing the burden of public safety on teachers is unfair, unwise, and unsafe.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

School Finance – Mr. Panzica reported the committee met on November 5th as part of Committee of the Whole. The committee discussed draft student fees and pushing the audit update from November to December due to changes in regulations. The committee had a presentation from Attorney Scott Ginsburg on Property Tax Appeals Board (PTAB) shifting some large tax appeals to the Cook County Circuit Court. A PTAB resolution would be presented and voted on later in the meeting. Mr. Panzica stated the committee discussed a specific proposal to raise the minimum reserve guideline to 40% and to have a maximum reserve guideline of 65%. A reserve guideline resolution would be presented and voted on later in the meeting.

Facility Development – Mrs. Schaff reported the committee met on November 5th. They discussed briefly the Highcrest Learning Commons and Kindergarten Enrichment construction projects. She noted design and cost refinements are ongoing and more information would be presented at the December 10th meeting.

Community Review Committee – Mr. Cesaretti stated the committee met November 5th. He stated the CRC is reviewing current and best practices for personalized learning. A guest from Leap Innovations gave a great presentation to the committee.

Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) – Mrs. Sternweiler stated the committee met today at 4:00 p.m. She stated the committee began planning for Summer Enrichment and Extended School Year programs. The committee approved the 2018 Fiscal Year Financial Report and Activity through October 2018. The next meeting is March 18, 2019.

Superintendent Search Update - Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated 39 people applied for the superintendent position. She said the search firm would meet with the Board members on November 14th to review the candidates and recommend seven candidates for the first-round interviews. First round interviews would take place week of November 26th. Two or three of those candidates would be invited to second round interviews the week of December 10th. She stated stakeholder committee interviews would also be held that week. She announced the members chosen for the stakeholder committee.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Kearney stated the Illinois Senate and House began reviewing gubernatorial actions on bills for the veto session scheduled for November 13-15 and November 27-29. She reported the expectation was to override SB2892 providing a mandatory statewide minimum teacher salary of \$40K and to override SB2572 which mandates 150 minutes of physical education per week for all students Kindergarten through 12th grade.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board received written communications from Co-Presidents of the League of Women Voters, Kate Gjaja and Nancy Hoying, as well as Louellea Levey regarding the Illinois Association of School Boards Resolution regarding Student Safety and Protection.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner stated School Board Members' Day is Thursday, November 15th. He honored District 39 Board Members by thanking members for their commitment in providing a local governance voice for District 39. He noted the leadership for the community, schools, and the future begins with the tireless work of our locally-elected school board members.

Dr. Lechner reported District 39's Parent Teacher Conferences were held on November 7th, 8th, and 9th and were very well attended. He noted conferences provide an opportunity for families and teachers to discuss student progress and provide student guidance on how to reflect and set goals. Many parents who were unable to attend face-to-face conferences were updated by phone or email.

Dr. Lechner stated following the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requirements, the District's local achievement data was presented in detail during the October Board of Education meeting. On October 31st, ISBE released all Illinois School's Report Cards. He added this announcement met the annual statutory obligation for each school district to post the report card on the district website.

Dr. Lechner stated another annual requirement from ISBE is the 5Essentials Survey. In December, parents, teachers and fourth-eighth grade students participate in the surveys. The surveys gather data related to five indicators including: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environments, and Ambitious Instruction.

C. Annual Business

1. New Trier Township Eighth Grade Survey Results

Dr. Lechner stated the revised New Trier Township Eighth Grade Survey was administered last spring across the township to eighth grade students. 915 students in the township participated in a new version of the survey last April, which focused primarily on connections made in school and preparedness in the area of 21st century skills.

Mrs. Jackson reported historically New Trier freshman participated in a survey evaluating perceptions of preparedness for the challenges of high school. Last year township administrators revised the survey to administer to students in eighth grade.

Mrs. Jackson stated of the 915 eighth graders taking the survey 395 were Wilmette Junior High School students. The survey was comprised of questions, asking students to comment on the challenges they faced, their feeling of preparation in academic skills areas, and their feeling of preparation in social emotional areas. She reviewed trends across the township and WJHS responses in these areas.

Board discussion ensued regarding having reassuring results for eighth graders with a good foundation for high school; homework levels; writing skills; peer pressure on vaping and alcohol; having township data and junior high data together for comparison; having 60% of students who felt academically prepared when there are executive functioning structures in place for all students to feel prepared.

2. 2019-2020 Draft Student Fees

Mrs. Crispino stated the administration recommended three changes to student fees. A \$10 increase to the eighth grade Instructional Material Fee for iPad insurance, a 10% increase in athletic programs, and eliminating the \$4.95 transaction fee for Instructional Material fee payments made through RevTrak.

3. Long Term Enrollment Projections

Dr. Lechner stated the District overall, has stable enrolment. He noted a 10-year peak in enrollment in 2015 and since then slight declines in 2016, 2107, and 2018 occurred as very large classes moved through the District. The District projected slight declines through 2022.

4. Highcrest Construction Change Order

Dr. Lechner stated the administration recommended a change order which requires Board approval. Due to the new learning commons construction beginning in late spring, the District wished to delay the already scheduled parking lot repair work to ensure no damage occurred to a new surface.

E. Board Policy Review

5. Second and Final Reading of Board of Education Policies 2:240, 3:30, 3:100, 3:110, 3:120, 3:130, 4:05, 4:07, 4:10, 4:15 and 4:16

Dr. Lechner stated suggested Board edits had been made to policies for second reading.

Board members made additional changes to Policies 2:240, 4:10, 4:15 and 4:16.

President Steen suggested these policies be pulled from the Consent Agenda and the motion to approve Policies 2:240 and 4:16 would be approved as amended. Policies 4:10 and 4:15 would be presented next month as third read.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Board Resolutions

1. Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Representation

President Steen requested a motion to send an appointed Board member to the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago to represent District 39. Mr. Cesaretti moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes to have a District Board member attend the Joint Annual Conference. Mrs. Kearney said she was in favor of this motion and added that a Board member should represent the District and attend the conference annually. Fellow members agreed. Motion Carried by **General Consent**.

President Steen called for a motion on each of the eight resolutions proposed by IASB.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to direct the District representative to vote to not adopt Resolution #1 on Student Safety and Protection. Motion Carried by **General Consent**.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to direct the District representative to vote to not adopt Resolution #2 on Student Safety and Protection.

Mr. Cesaretti stated he was troubled by the vague language of this resolution and felt there were other safety protocols available such as funding more school safety officers. He felt this resolution was highly political and divisive and did not belong in schools. Mrs. Kearney respected local control and diversity of needs throughout the state. She did not feel comfortable making decisions for other school districts. She noted the resolution offers the option of arming staff as part of the safety plan so she said she would vote to have the representative support Resolution #2. Mrs. Schaff stated she would hesitate to direct other districts but felt guns do not belong in schools. She felt the District should write a proposal to request IASB to find more positive solutions. Mrs. Sternweiler studied law enforcement training and stated these officials are qualified to deal with active shooter situations. She said putting guns into the hands of people without that type of training and with children nearby is unacceptable. Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated she opposed the resolution because arming school staff ignores the research that shows the presence of guns increases the risk to children. She addressed the Home Rule issue noting Board members legislate for many things for schools such as physical education, civics, and minutes of student attendance, items that are not a matter of life and death. She said arming civilians in schools is a matter of life and death. Mrs. Kearney said three surrounding states have laws that allow arming staff. She added after the shooting in Parkland, Florida the state passed gun legislation to arm school personnel. Mr. Panzica stated as the District becomes involved in this issue it is incumbent that the District find other solutions. President Steen stated if you put a gun in a school, an adult must be responsible for that gun that has no job function other than safety. He added that he looked forward to voting in favor of Resolution #6 that allows school districts direction over their own security.

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

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to direct the District representative to vote to not adopt Resolution #3 on Student Safety and Protection. Motion Carried by **General Consent**.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to direct the District representative to vote to adopt Resolution #4 on Energy Savings, Funding, and Borrowing.

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

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to direct the District representative to vote to adopt Resolution #5 on Financing Public Education.

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

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to direct the District representative to vote to adopt Resolution #6 on Local Authority and Safety Practices. Motion Carried by **General Consent.**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to direct the District representative to vote to adopt Resolution #7 on Mental Health Services. Motion Carried by **General Consent.**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to direct the District representative to vote to adopt Resolution #8 on Student Voter Registration.

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

2. Wilmette School District #39 Board of Education Resolution Authorizing Intervention in Property Tax Appeals

Dr. Lechner noted the Board recommended approval of an updated resolution authorizing intervention in property tax assessment appeals in both the Property Tax Appeal Board and the Circuit Court of Cook County. This resolution would establish standard District 39 practices.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the resolution authorizing intervention in property tax appeals for District 39.

Mrs. Kearney requested clarification on whether the vote was on a monetary level change of intervention from \$100,000 to \$50,000 change in Equalized Assessed Value (EAV). Mr. Panzica clarified the resolution addressed adding the Cook County Circuit Court, not a change in monetary levels. Mrs. Schaff noted each PTAB report would have specifics pertaining to each property tax appeal and the resolution addresses appeals at the circuit court level. Mrs. Kearney noted the resolution would allow for intervention in more property tax appeals at a lower intervention rate.

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

3. Resolution Establishing Fund Balance Goals

Dr. Lechner stated the Board agreed to a new approach to fund balances. In January 2011 the Board adopted its first fund balance resolution establishing a 30% minimum. Since that time a review of cash flow needs indicated a 35% minimum was necessary to avoid borrowing. A new 40% minimum would provide a safety net for State of Illinois unknown fiscal concerns, like the pension cost shift. Next the Board discussed the idea of an upper limit. This limit would require Board of Education review whenever 65% fund balances were reached.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to approve a resolution for establishing fund balance goals with a minimum of 40% and a maximum of 65% as guidelines.

Mr. Cesaretti was in favor of the resolution as it would relieve pressure off the levy system, guard the system for funding schools, and follow PTAB restrictions. Mrs. Kearney noted the vote did not include any action to refund excess funds to the community. Mrs. Schaff stated the Board does not intend to carry high fund balances and has always been very considerate about using taxpayer's money. Mrs. Kearney supported the lower limit but was not in favor of the higher limit.

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

At 8:40 p.m. President Steen had to leave the meeting and relinquished the gavel to Vice President Frank Panzica.

B. Consent Agenda

Board members pulled Board of Education Policies 4:10 and 4:15 for third reading and Policies 2:240 and 4:16 to be approved as amended.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the personnel report dated November 12, 2018, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Jeffrey Alters**, effective November 1, 2018; **Anoush Bargamian**, effective October 26, 2018; **Sarah Espinosa**, effective November 2, 2018; **Jennifer Gourley**, effective November 12, 2018; **Beth Grossman**, effective November 1, 2018; **Yudit Lang**, effective October 29, 2018; educational support personnel part-time employment of **Richard Peterson**, effective November 12, 2018; licensed resignation of **Danielle Kalb**, effective November 11, 2018; educational support personnel resignation of **Beth Grossman**, effective November 7, 2018; release of a probationary employee **Frantz Pierre**, effective October 22, 2018; **Cecilia Tate**, effective November 9, 2018; licensed request from sick leave bank for **Employee 16727**, grant 6 days from WEA sick leave bank; educational support personnel request from sick leave bank for **Employee 16443**, grant 10 days from SSU sick leave bank: approve an extension of Highcrest Phase 1 asphalt resurfacing associated with the parking lot and adjacent landscaping work until November, 2019: approve as second and final reading of revised Board of Education 3:30 *Organizational Chart*; 3:100 *Councils, Cabinets and Committees*; 3:110 *Policy and Regulations Systems*; 3:120 *Research, Evaluation, Planning*; 3:130 *Consultants*; 4:05 *System of Accounts*; 4:07 renumbered 4:20 and renamed *Budgetary Funds*: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between October 23, 2018 and November 12, 2018 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$294,582.51; O&M Fund \$317,571.37; Debt Service \$1,183,104.50; Transportation Fund \$197,022.88; Capital Projects \$185,954.00; total all funds: \$2,178,235.26: approve the manual checks issued between October 23, 2018 and November 12, 2018 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$7,866.79; O&M Fund \$2,717.35; Transportation Fund \$17.10; total all funds: \$10,601.24.

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

Motions Carried.

Mrs. Schaff moved, seconded by Mrs. Kearney to approve Policies 2:240 *Board of Education Policy Development* and 4:16 *Identity Protection* as amended.

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

Motion Carried.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Mr. Panzica, as a member of Wilmette Scout Troop 3, commended Eagle Scout Connor Pochetti on his accomplishment. Mrs. Kearney was moved and grateful for the Scout presentation.

Mr. Schaff moved, seconded by Mrs. Schneider-Fabes to adjourn to executive session to discuss student discipline.

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:46 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:56 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Schneider-Fabes moved, seconded by Mr. Cesaretti, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:57 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary