

JUNE 15, 2020
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

REMOTE VIRTUAL MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, June 15, 2020. President Lisa Schneider-Fabes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Jon Cesaretti, Frank Panzica, Amy Poehling, Mark Steen, Ellen Sternweiler, Erin Stone

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Kari Cremascoli, Ellen Crispino, Tony DeMonte, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson

President Lisa Schneider Fabes opened the meeting with an announcement to the community and specially to District 39 African-American students, parents, faculty, support staff, and administrators. She stated on behalf of the District 39 Board of Education, professing their profound outrage and sadness of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. “Mr. Floyd died because of the color of his skin; because he was black. Our country’s systemic racism led to his death, and that of too many others. It is heartbreaking, inexcusable, and all too real. We mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd’s life and so many others. Your lives matter and have always mattered to us. We stand with you. Racism is wrong and unacceptable. District 39 Board of Education is committed to ensuring that District 39 supports and welcomes students of all races. Within the past three years we have made our intent clear by establishing a Statement of Diversity and Inclusion last fall, and a Resolution Condemning Hate and Deepening the District’s Commitment to a Positive School Environment. We know that statements are not enough. You have our promise that we as a Board will continue to work together with our administration to try harder, to do better, to make a more inclusive community. We as a Board are committed to educating ourselves and our community about racism and how to make sure you are safe and secure in our school community. We as a Board will work with and support the administration’s efforts to take additional ongoing steps to ensure our community is welcoming, accepting, and safe for all. This includes making sure our curriculum reflects the diverse experiences our students are growing up in. We will discuss the Board’s initial actions toward this commitment later during Old Business.” President Fabes requested a minute of silence for Mr. Floyd.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Becky Littmann and Assistant Principal Anthony Haduch along with Physical Education Teacher Kathleen Peth introduced students who participated the “Moving through e-Learning Club”. The club was developed by students who wanted to track their outside physical activity. 107 students participated and collectively logged 6,841 miles in 7 weeks. Five student participants spoke about their activities and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Schneider-Fabes read an announcement requesting everyone be respectful of each other, only speak when called upon, and refrain from distracting behaviors such as such as loud conversations, cheering, clapping, or booing.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to accept the May 18, 2020 Board of Education and Executive Session minutes.

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

Motion Carried.

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

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Development Committee (FDC) – Mrs. Sternweiler reported at the June 8th Committee of the Whole Meeting, the Facility Development Committee was updated and reviewed and discussed the District’s summer construction projects. These projects include construction at Harper, Central and Highcrest. In addition, the Board received an update regarding future construction projects being planned for McKenzie and Romona Schools to accommodate Kindergarten Enrichment tentatively planned for the summer of 2021. The administration has initiated work with STR and Nicholas and Associates to review the original high-level McKenzie and Romona construction plans that were developed as part of the phased in Kindergarten Enrichment construction a couple of years ago. Administration is exploring several options and examining space needs. The team plans to bring back preliminary schematic designs at the August COW meeting. The FDC also discussed the Highcrest Outdoor Classroom and Garden bids, which came in higher than expected. This, coupled with the significant challenges of access and maintenance this summer due to the pandemic and construction, adjustments in timing are recommended.

School Finance Committee (SFC) – Mr. Cesaretti reported the Finance Committee met as part of the Committee of the Whole. The SFC reviewed a number of transition plans related to the hiring of a new Chief School Business Official to assume Ellen Crispino’s position when she relocates later this summer. In addition, the SFC review the working cash fund abatement, the resolution adopting disclosure compliance policy and the July payment resolution, as is typical for this time of year. Finally, the SFC reviewed and discussed summer programming fees. Due to COVID-19, the summer programming options were altered. All enrichment classes have been cancelled, and academic classes will be delivered remotely. In order to provide a variety of options, a new program was added, *Jump Start to Fall*, that will provide a short, two-week review and preparation for the new school year. Due to the short timeframe, the fees for this class are different than fees previously approved. The Board expressed support for the recommended fees, which will be approved on the Consent Agenda.

Strategy – Mr. Steen reported the District prepared its final report to the Board regarding the D39 Strategic Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. Administration is proud of the Strategic Plan Goal accomplishments, and this work will be highlighted in Katie Lee’s report to the Board.

New Strategic Plans for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year were put on hold while grappling with and adjusting to the coronavirus pandemic. The District will develop a Strategic Plan for the upcoming school year that will be presented in the fall on the similar schedule for D39’s traditional Strategic Planning efforts. The majority of work will focus on how to provide excellent and safe education in a pandemic environment. There are some 2019-2020 goals to be finished along with addressing a few new initiatives. In addition, the CRC is providing its report to the Board of Education and their recommendations will be included in the 2020-2021 plan.

Parent Teacher Advisory Committee – Ms. Stone reported the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee met last week to review Board policies related to discipline and student behavior, the discipline section of the parent handbook, and bus procedures. Based on a review of Policy 7:190, Student Behavior, the committee made some recommendations that will be presented to the Board at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Other recommendations addressed changes to the discipline section of the parent handbook, updates to the transportation handbook, and the need to eliminate pronouns in policies when they are next updated.

Liaison Reports

Illinois Association of School Boards – Mrs. Sternweiler stated IASB continues to plan for the November 2 Joint Annual Conference held in Chicago. IASB has delayed conference registration until July due to the pandemic and changing regulations. She noted the IASB resolutions deadline is June 24th so if anyone has resolutions to write or amend may submit resolutions for consideration by June 24 for the 2020-2021 Assembly.

President Fabes noted as a point of process, ideas for resolutions would have to be voted on by the Board before submitting to IASB. She stated members could discuss further during new business.

Legislative Update

Ms. Stone stated Senate Bills passed were SB2135 is now Public Act 101-0640 allowing school boards to conduct meetings without members being physically present during times of emergency. SB264 Public Act 101-0637 contains FY21 state budget that adds no new tier money, budget line items held flat for grants for early childhood, career, and technology education as well as mandated categoricals. New funding will be distributed in a manner that prioritizes low wealth districts.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board received several written communications from parents expressing appreciation for the District's planning for re-opening schools and for the efforts of teachers, staff, and administrators throughout remote learning.

B. Administrative Announcements

Graduation and End-of Year Celebrations with Students

Dr. Cremascoli noted while end of year celebrations were challenging due to social distancing, the graduation ceremonies during the tropical storm was a huge success.

President Fabes noted on behalf of the Board members, how surprised and amazed they were of the creativity, effort, and care of the staff having the best drive-in graduation ceremony for eighth graders.

Summer School Update

Dr. Cremascoli stated summer school registration closed with the exception of Jump Start which continues through June 19th. She noted registration numbers are slightly down due to enrichment classes not being offered and the potential need of a break from remote learning for summer classes. She stated the state just came out with guidelines for summer programs. This guidance came out exceptionally late, as the District usually plans summer programs six months in advance to get staff, curriculum, and classrooms set up. She stated the guideline information could allow for some in person instruction. The District is exploring a hybrid model for Extended School Year (ESY), having in person instruction on a limited basis paired with remote learning.

Village Stormwater Project – Phase 1 Update

Dr. Cremascoli stated the Village provided a stormwater project update noting construction is ahead of schedule having had started earlier due to school closings. Parking lot restoration is scheduled to begin in late July and ready by August 15th. Details were shared about progress made. Permanent easement is scheduled to begin on June 15th. Work at the intersection of Hunter and Illinois roads will commence near end of June. Next formal communication will be submitted on July 15th.

Remote Learning Reflections

Dr. Cremascoli stated teacher collaborations were held on June 10th and 11th regarding progress on learning standards along with student successes and challenges. Survey feedback from parents, teachers, and students were reviewed along with student progress and performance. At the elementary level most students engaged successfully throughout remote learning. Small student percentages had concerns regarding academic performance, low engagement, and social emotional areas. Students who displayed all three areas of concern (24 students) are a high priority for next year. Students who displayed any combination of two areas (42 students) were identified to engage and support for student success.

During collaboration the elementary teachers looked at what worked well and sought solutions for any challenges noted. Teachers held articulation meetings to share content/skills and identified essential standards/learning targets at each grade level to be used as starting points for the coming school year – keeping in mind the possibility of returning to remote learning.

Dr. Cremascoli stated across the grade 5-8 campus most students engaged successfully throughout remote learning. She stated of the 1,699 students, students were identified within four categories: no engagement, low engagement, low to no engagement, and ‘fell off’ meaning the student started engaging consistently and then the student declined having low or no engagement. She reported across the 5-8 campus, 394 (23%) students were reported as having concerns with engagement in one or more classes during remote learning. She also noted 157 students (9%) were reported as having not engaged in one or more classes during remote learning including physical education (79 students), Creative Arts (55 students), Health/FTB (18 students) and grades 7/8 writing (16 students). Ten or fewer students were identified as having not engaged in reading, ELA, math, social studies, science or world language. Dr. Cremascoli noted non-engagement was more prevalent in higher grades. She stated younger students were very engaged, had more parental involvement and required far less sustained attention. Higher grade levels required more independent, sustained attention to accomplish the rigorous work. Staff reviewed learning targets. Students averaged 75-95% meeting different standards across content areas and grade levels. Teachers discussed adjustments to learning standards to meet targets.

Fall Planning Update and Survey Reviews

Dr. Cremascoli stated administration is waiting for guidance from ISBE and hoped that guidance would be clear and maintained to know how to plan for education in the fall. Until guidance is received, most factors are unknown at this time. She stated the four planning areas of commitment must relate to health and safety, the plan be flexible and adaptable, be manageable, meaningful and sustainable, and be targeted and connected for students and staff. Guidance will be adhered to from state and local authorities including the Governor, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The District also works in collaboration with local governments such as the Villages of Wilmette and Glenview, Police, Fire, Park, and Library districts, New Trier Township and the Regional Office of Education (ROE).

The administration is developing three instructional models, which are remote learning, in-person instruction, and a hybrid model of both. Several hybrid scenarios were considered; the alternating days approach received the most amount of positive feedback from surveys received. Dr. Cremascoli stated not only will the District be proactive in sanitizing the environment and include personal protection equipment such as masks for all staff and students, face shields, sneeze guards for student desks and thermal cameras to scan for temperatures as people enter buildings. Physical restrictions for social distancing will also be adhered to including the number of students per class and building and space limitations to accommodate 6' of distance. The most defining restrictions are 6' of distance across common areas such as bathrooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums, playgrounds, and buses. Guidance includes limiting the mixing of groups. Once a group of students has been formed they must be maintained throughout the day. Kindergarten -4th grade isn't affected as much as they do not change classes throughout the day, however the 5-8 campus will be more challenging in this regard. Frequent cleaning and sanitation of common areas, technology areas, and any shared spaces will be done.

Dr. Cremascoli stated the instructional learning model will address general education needs as well as special education needs across all grade levels. The Planning Committee just began their work and will continue to be developed based on guidance received. Administration hopes to have structural decisions developed by July 31st depending on when guidance is received.

Board discussion included if the school year calendar will begin on schedule, if the hybrid model is implemented would the other group be at home or at another location, how to accommodate parents who may not have adequate supervision at home, if a parent can choose to not send their child to school, and how state guidelines for the hybrid model would accommodate educational minutes for high risk students, and how the Board can help the District regarding budget restraints and needing additional staff. Dr. Cremascoli noted possibly needing additional staff at each elementary school as well as at the 5-8 grade level.

Dr. Cremascoli provided highlights of survey results that will be used to guide and inform the planning committee work. She stated responses were received from 1,000 parents (representing over 1697 students), 262 teachers and staff (75%), 78 support staff (36%) and 791 students entering 4-9th grades (32%). Regarding the hybrid schedule manageability, the stakeholder groups felt alternating days was most manageable and would best accommodate student learning opportunities. She reported that while no hybrid schedule preference was supported overwhelmingly, both parents and students identified alternating days as the greater preference. She noted 10% of parents and 20% of students stated a hybrid schedule model would not work for themselves or their family. In light of PPE, social distancing requirements, and other significant adjustments, 88%-91% of families said even in extreme circumstances, while not ideal, they would make in-person instruction work. Dr. Cremascoli stated if offered the option to continue to remote learning, 21% of families stated they would consider remote learning rather than returning to in-person instruction. Another survey question proposed that until in-person instruction for all students is possible, realistically the only solution is to continue remote learning for the short-term; 60.9%-74% of parents strongly disagreed and 12.9% disagreed with this statement. Teachers and student responses were split noting benefits of remote learning. 7.5% of parents reported students having a medical condition might limit in-person attendance while 34%-35% of staff noted having medical concerns/risks. Parents were asked if transportation services were limited due to social distancing restrictions and sanitation requirements would this impact their children's attendance for the fall. She noted that buses would not be able to accommodate the number of students per bus and efficiency of routes would be dramatically affected. 86.5% of parents stated transportation would not be impactful if services were limited. About 14% of families rely heavily on busing for their children.

Parents were also asked how likely would their student participate in the lunch program due to the current health pandemic. Equal amounts stated it would/would not impact participation in the food service program.

Board discussion included charging more for transportation if the District has to double the amount of buses and routes, the possibility of staggering start times and how changing start times might affect families and busing.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Dr. Cremascoli reported the District received a FOIA request from Jonathan Fagg of ABC7 requesting information related to student attendance during the period of remote learning as well as how attendance was tracked.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. CRC Report: Strengthening Parent Partnerships

Dr. Cremascoli introduced CRC President Maggie O'Brien and Vice President Sarah Lahey. Mrs. O'Brien began the CRC report on Strengthening Parent Partnerships. She stated the focus was to ensure D39 parents and teachers engage productively and build partnerships that foster academic success. The group broke into two groups; one group researched how schools can cultivate parent engagement and the other focused on improving partnerships on important educational topics. Research was collected from surveys, site visits and reputable scholarly sources.

Mrs. Lahey stated research from scholarly sources supports strong school-parent partnerships being essential for successful schools. Two-way communication was identified as a critical tool to strengthen partnerships. The majority of parents surveyed preferred detailed emails about important topics and for in-person engagements to be held in evenings. The CRC recommended District 39 review/formalize the process used to determine community engagement event topics for the year and the topics be flexible, relevant, and timely. The research showed parents and teachers often differ in vision of strong communication. They both value parent involvement but divide in terms of what that encompasses. Parents wanted teachers communicating very frequently about student progress, while teachers were looking for parents to reach out and communicate. Surveys revealed a difference in the perceived effectiveness of communication tools. Research showed communication can improve by having school-wide communication policies and providing teachers with 'non-instructional' time to communicate with parents. The CRC recommended the District conduct a review of district-wide communications practices and methods. The final recommendation from the CRC was that the District evaluate current parent-teacher meeting opportunities to explore ways to improve two-directional dialogue. Mrs. Lahey noted the surveys and scholarly research indicated two-directional dialogue was the key to success. Parent surveys suggested increasing duration and frequency of parent-teacher conferences. Parents also reported frustration with Schoology, the online learning management system.

Mrs. O'Brien stated the research found there is opportunity for a more strategic and systematic approach to parent partnerships in District 39. Therefore, District 39 should take the three CRC recommendations cited into consideration.

Board members thanked the CRC for their engagement and hard work especially during the pandemic. Mr. Panzica asked about parent and teacher communication and how to encourage increasing communications on both sides. Mrs. O'Brien stated parents felt parent-teacher conferences were the major event to communicate with their students' teachers and were hesitant to interrupt or bother teachers. The results of this report indicate there are more systematic ways for parents and staff to communicate on a regular basis. Mrs. Lahey stated teachers need routines and guidance to regularly communicate with parents to promote student academic success. Ms. Stone asked if the increase in parent-teacher conferences was by specific grade levels or across all grade levels. Mrs. O'Brien said the grade level information was not captured however parents felt the structure of parent-teacher conferences were conducted too quickly, similar to 'speed dating'. Mrs. Poehling noted the distinction between parent involvement and engagement and taking advantage of evening events such as curriculum nights. She requested any insights about report cards. Mrs. O'Brien noted a disconnect on how parents and teachers view report cards. Teachers don't view report cards as a single distinction on a students' progress and parents actually do rely on report cards as the single indicator of academic progress. Mrs. Lahey noted surveys reported parents wanting more than just a grade and getting more detailed feedback such as notes in the comment section.

2. Review of the 2019-2020 Strategic Plan

Ms. Lee and the entire administrative team prepared this report. Ms. Lee present the new strategic initiatives which included Effective Integration of Technology; Year 1 Developing. This goal was met by providing every 1-4th grade student a technology device for remote learning along with several software platforms. Next steps include continued balance using technology tools to enhance teaching and learning and continued staff professional development along with hosting community engagement events on digital citizenship, health and wellness.

Ms. Lee reported on Continuing Initiatives, which included Delivering a Nutritious School Lunch Program; Year 2 Developing. Ms. Lee reported the Nutrition Committee researched four topics; nutritional quality, nutritional education, lunch times, and vegetables, fruits and proteins. The District goal was to try 10 new menu items. Prior to school closures the District was able to try 14 new items. The District will continue to focus on offering healthy and enjoyable school lunch options and safely serve nutritious lunches daily. An increase in lunch fees was approved in May to offset costs and help support the self-sustaining lunch program. Lunch fees have not increased since FY2017-2018 while food costs have risen.

Ms. Lee reported on Student Growth Through Differentiation and Personalization; Year 2 Developing. She noted this initiative is ongoing and always in progress. Although challenging, efforts were implemented to support students during remote learning. Teachers offered differentiated activities and assignment options, enrichment and support. Small group lessons or 1:1 live video conferencing sessions were provided when needed for specific, targeted interventions or extensions. Social workers provided social emotional check-in opportunities for students and specialists co-taught lessons in content areas and lessons to address emotional needs of students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the executive stay-at-home order, all mandated state assessments were cancelled, therefore outcomes will be added to the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan as a continuing initiative.

Ms. Lee reported on Designing a Kindergarten Enrichment Program; Year 2 Developing. Administration has completed Phase 2 construction timeline plan. The kindergarten enrichment committee work was postponed and is scheduled to resume over the summer to meet the intended outcome for this initiative. Members will plan and develop lessons under the hopeful assumption that schools will reopen without restrictions in fall of 2020.

Ms. Lee reported on Building School Culture and Community; Year 4 Developing. D39 continues to improve school culture by directly engaging in conversations about diversity/inclusion and fostering a sense of connectedness among all students and staff. Administrators, staff, and students have embraced this initiative and accomplished a lot but the work will never end. This goal is not finite and the District community is devoted to its continuous growth. During remote learning staff continued to value and prioritize positive relationships and staying connected to students through video class meetings, lunch group meeting, video messages, daily video announcements and schoolwide challenges and special mystery readers. Parent support included Mr. DeMonte and Renee Z. Dominguez Ph.D. partnering to sponsor two very timely parent webinars on *Stress Management During the COVID-19 Crisis* and *Connecting Kids How to Virtually Connect Kids When They Can't Be Physically Connected*.

Ms. Lee reported on Learning Commons Year 2 Developing. Learning Commons construction has been completed at Highcrest Middle School. The focus has been on Phase II, the outdoor classroom/garden project. The Lakota Group worked with staff and students to gather information about the insights of the project. Phase III will address the redevelopment of the lost outdoor learning space which will continue in the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Lee reported on Annual Business: School Safety. District 39's primary ongoing goal is to ensure the safety and security of all staff and students. This goal includes the health safety of the entire Wilmette District 39 community. Focused attention to this initiative has been and will always be a priority.

Ms. Lee reported on Standards-based Learning and Reporting. All committee work was paused and will resume in part over the summer and in the fall.

Ms. Lee reported on Curriculum Reviews. She stated the second year of science review has been completed and implementation will begin in the 2020-2021 school year. Ongoing feedback will guide any updates to curriculum maps. All 2nd-4th grade classrooms will implement "Elevate Science" and all 5th-8th grades science classes will implement "Amplify Science".

Ms. Lee reported on Sustainability Planning and Practices. Focus to this initiative has been and always will be a priority. The Board of Education has worked closely with the administration to continually seek energy cost reductions and ensure practices are aligned. D39 was able to lock in electrical rates through Future Green/Engie for two years starting at the end of June 2020. District 39 continues to investigate options to replace the lighting at the Mikaelian Education Center (MEC), but the cost of conducting this installation all at once has a payback period much longer than five years. As budget and time allow, the District electrician will continue to phase in LED lights over time. Ms. Lee stated the District continues to partner with PTO Environmental Awareness group to communicate and educate students, families and staff about sustainability/green practices such as recycling, composting and reusable products. This initiative is ongoing to achieve energy cost reductions and promote environmental literacy among students.

Ms. Lee reported on the Strategic Planning Update. The Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) was selected to facilitate a D39 multi-year Strategic Planning Process. The CEC was to work with a team of stakeholders throughout the District to facilitate strategic planning work to identify improvement opportunities within a five-year plan. This work has been paused and will resume as soon as possible during the next school year. In the interim the administration, with Board support, will follow the current process in developing the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan.

Ms. Lee shared a video of remote learning clips that exemplified each of the strategic plan initiatives.

Mr. Panzica reflected on the Learning Commons project concluding and being so successful. He felt it would be useful as a learning standpoint to review where the District was five years ago and detail the results and technology improvements school by school. He felt the Board and future Boards could learn about the estimated and actual costs and timelines. Mr. Panzica noted due to the current environment, the more disruption that occurs the more education varies among students. Differentiation is even more important now due to adapting or struggling to adapt to remote learning. He suggested a having a baseline for the fall utilizing standardized tests.

Mrs. Poehling was inspired and commended the administration on all of the accomplishments achieved during a truncated school year. She was eager to see how the KEEP39 program unfolds during this health crisis and as the District enters into the fall school year. President Fabes agreed and asked how the new programs would be initiated amongst COVID-19.

Mr. Cesaretti concurred and was amazed at the accomplishments.

President Fabes was grateful that the District moved to 1:1 technology early on. Ms. Lee agreed and noted the 1:1 technology was in collaboration with the CRC recommendations and thanked Mr. DeMonte and the technology team for implementing technology so expediently at the elementary level.

D. Annual Business

1. Bullying Report

Dr. Swanson stated the State of Illinois enacted several public acts designed to address the prevalence of bullying in schools as well as the prevention and response to those reports. The District has adopted policies and takes all allegations seriously. The District has worked hard to prevent instances from occurring by teaching students how to engage in social interactions in positive and appropriate ways. She reviewed the process stating once an allegation is received, it is investigated, then teachers, students, witnesses and parents are interviewed. Allegations and investigations are reviewed annually. She noted a significant decrease in the instances of bullying this year perhaps due to the lengthy period of remote learning during the spring which is generally when instances of bullying occur. She stated a lot of the decrease can be attributed to the strong attention the District has paid to social emotional learning and developing better interpersonal skills and coping strategies. She reported in 2018-2019 there were 17 allegations of bullying reported with 5 instances being founded. This year there were 6 allegations of bullying with zero cases being founded and instead cases were deemed as “social conflict”. She noted there are consequences and proactive strategies to teach empathy skills toward peers having social conflict.

Mr. Panzica questioned the number of instances being so unusually low and suggested finding other measurables. Dr. Swanson explained that administrators are well trained in identifying instances of bullying. She also noted many instances of bullying go unreported. She stated there are many instances of inappropriate behavior among students. Administration is very accomplished in identifying instances of bullying, social conflict, and inappropriate behavior. She reported the definition for bullying is very explicit. Dr. Swanson agreed that this has been an unusual year as students have not been in school since March. She also noted other measures are used to evaluate student interactions with peers, which look at sense of belonging and peer relationships. She noted this is a state mandated report specifically related to bullying, however, it is not the sole measure for social emotional development and inter-personal relationships among students.

Mr. Steen suggested finding ways to expand this report to make it more relevant to the District's characteristics and goals toward continued learning and constant improvement. Mrs. Sternweiler felt the report fell short due to semantics and relevant language should be found to address students and family's experiences.

2. Resolution Authorizing July Bill Payments

Dr. Cremascoli stated the Board will be obligated to make bill payments during the month of July. Board approval will enable the treasurer to fulfill needed financial obligations between the June 16, 2020 and August 24, 2020 Board meetings.

3. Illinois School Treasurer Bond Renewal

Dr. Cremascoli stated this is an annual renewal. The bond requirement is 25% of our highest cash balance throughout the fiscal year, the bond amount is for \$16 million.

4. Highcrest Outdoor Classroom/Garden Bid

Dr. Cremascoli stated due to the construction of the new Learning Commons space at Highcrest Middle School, the former outdoor classroom space was reduced and plants were removed. As a result, plans were developed in coordination with The Lakota Group to redesign the Outdoor Classroom.

Mrs. Crispino stated the new design maintains some of the original themes of the former Outdoor Classroom space, while bringing in new elements to engage students in different ways and create opportunities for indoor to outdoor learning between the Learning Commons and Outdoor Classroom. The new space will include concrete seatwalls, spaces for game play, quiet reading and group work that will enrich learning at Highcrest. New trees and shrubs will be planted this summer. The renovations will start in June 2020 and be completed prior to the start of school in August 2020.

Mrs. Crispino stated the bid opening was held at the end of May. Initial bids received were higher than budgeted, so discussion continued with the Lakota Group and the low-cost bidder, Landworks, to review costs. A recommendation to decrease quantities of many of the items, in order to achieve the same end result with a lower cost was agreed upon. Administration recommended approval of the site preparation, concrete seatwalls, as well as planting trees and shrubs this summer for a total cost of \$59,290.

Mrs. Crispino stated the redesign of the Outdoor Classroom has been planned in phases. Given the limited access at Highcrest this summer due to construction and COVID-19, the District plans to plant perennials, grasses, and groundcovers in the spring of 2021, when the District will have sufficient resources to care properly for the new plants. Plans for the next phases of garden improvements will be reviewed during FY20-21.

5. Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of the District
Dr. Cremascoli stated this resolution allows the District to transfer the \$5,000,000 of working cash fund bond proceeds received in May from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund (O&M Fund) to reimburse this fund for Harper and Highcrest construction project expenditures.
6. Resolution Adopting Disclosure Compliance Policy
Dr. Cremascoli stated this policy calls out policies and procedures for ensuring compliance with the District's responsibilities under federal securities laws, including its continuing disclosures.
7. Jump Start Summer Enrichment Fees
Dr. Cremascoli stated a fee of \$80 is recommended for the newly designed two-week "Jump Start to Fall" Summer Enrichment Program. This program will be teacher mediated and incorporates elements of online learning through a robust and dynamic academic online curriculum paired with teacher guidance and support.
8. Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Extension
Dr. Cremascoli stated the Board of Education completed the superintendent's performance evaluation for the 2019-2020 school year and wishes to extend her contract by one school year. President Fabes stated it was preferred to initiate a 3 year contract rather than extend the contract for one year.

E. Transition Items

1. Resolution Appointing a School Treasurer
Dr. Cremascoli stated this resolution appoints Corey Bultemeier succeeding Ellen Crispino as Treasurer effective July 1, 2020.
2. Authorized Agent for IMRF, SELF, and SSCIP and Adopt the Resolution Reauthorizing Participation in the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund (the Fund)
Dr. Cremascoli stated having a new Business Manager, the Board has to reauthorize the employees that are approved to make investment transactions at PMA. Approved employees include Superintendent, Business Manager/CSBO and Controller. The Board also has to appoint the new Business Manager as the authorized agent for the insurance cooperatives as well as the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.
3. New Signatory for District's Activity Fund, Payroll and General Bank Accounts and the Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement Checking Account
Dr. Cremascoli stated due to the change in Business Managers, the Board has to update the approved check signers on the District's bank accounts. Check signers are the Superintendent and the Business Manager/CSBO.
4. Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement Advisory Board Member
Dr. Cremascoli stated the Board has to approve the appointment of the new Business Manager, Corey Bultemeier, as the District 39 Advisory Board Member on WCSEA.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to approve the personnel report dated June 15, 2020 which included licensed full-time employment of **Lauren Amabile**, effective August 24, 2020; **Kyla Marshall**, effective August 24, 2020; **Elizabeth Oroni**, effective August 24, 2020; **Lisa Pride**, effective August 24, 2020; **Silvia Sukenic**, effective August 24, 2020; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Dan Lambert**, effective August 12, 2020; licensed resignation of **Jean Patrick**, effective June 11, 2020; educational support personnel resignation of **Chike Erokwu**, effective July 6, 2020; **Connor Godfrey**, effective June 11, 2020; licensed retirement of **Dinah Barthelmess**, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year; educational support personnel retirement of **Nancy Schlessinger**, effective June 30, 2024; approve the resolution dated June 15, 2020 authorizing payment for goods and services between now and the next board meeting scheduled for August 24, 2020; approve the renewal of the State of Illinois School Treasurer Bond in the amount of \$16,000,000 dated June 15, 2020; award bid to Landworks Limited in the amount of \$59,290 per bid specifications for the Highcrest Outdoor Classroom Renovation Project Bid; approve the fiscal year 2020 student fees for the new remote learning class, Jump Start, conducted as part of the Summer Enrichment Program; adopt the Resolution contained herein appointing Corey Bultemeier succeeding Ellen Crispino as Wilmette Public Schools, Cook County District 39 Treasurer; approve Corey Bultemeier as the authorized agent for Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, the School Employees Loss Fund and Suburban School Cooperative Insurance Pool effective July 1, 2020. In addition, adopt the Resolution Reauthorizing Participation in the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund by the Board of the school district on behalf of which the treasurer acts: approve Corey Bultemeier, succeeding Ellen Crispino, Treasurer, as new signatory for the District's Activity Fund, Payroll, and General bank accounts and the Wilmette Community Special Education checking account effective July 1, 2020; approve the appointment of Corey Bultemeier as the District 39 Advisory Board Member on WCSEA; approve the contract extension for Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli; approve the accounts payable for bills listed between May 19, 2020 – June 15, 2020 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$267,421.94; O&M Fund \$330,078.76; Debt Service \$75,971.25; Transportation Fund \$286,667.77; Capital Projects \$344,145.00; Tort Fund \$15,922.00; total all funds: \$1,320,206.72; approve the manual checks issued between May 19, 2020 – June 15, 2020 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$571,745.02; O&M Fund \$3,409.72; Transportation Fund \$17.73; total all funds: \$575,172.47.

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

Motions Carried.

B. Approve Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of the District

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adopt the resolution dated June 15, 2020, abating the working cash fund of the District.

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

Motion Carried.

C. Approve Resolution Adopting Disclosure Compliance Policy

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adopt the Disclosure Compliance Policy Resolution of the District dated June 15, 2020.

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

Motion Carried.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

1. Condemnation of Hate and Racism: Ongoing Equity Work of the Board

President Fabes had engaged the Board to a list of five commitments to educate themselves on racism. Ms. Stone is in the process of selecting a book for the Board to read and discuss. Mr. Steen and Mrs. Poehling are seeking a group to facilitate a discussion with the Board. Mr. Steen met with local group, *Heroes*, who is meeting with the administration to hold a staff and possibly student discussion. He identified two individuals who might be candidates to facilitate a board level discussion. President Fabes noted she requested Dr. Cremascoli to incorporate race into the strategic plan. Mr. Cesaretti volunteered to identify any legislative changes. He stated there would not be any IASB resolution amendments due to the lack of time and seriousness of the topic. Mrs. Sternweiler and Mr. Panzica are working to find an outside organization that specializes in creating sister school partnerships. She noted it is difficult to organize a sister school during the pandemic not knowing what school will be in the fall.

President Fabes noted this is the first board meeting addressing their new initiatives. Each month going forward she will just call for updates as they occur.

New Business

Mr. Panzica proposed the Board choose a date in July to hold a committee of the Whole meeting. Dr. Cremascoli suggested July 20th as a tentative date.

Mrs. Sternweiler reiterated that the IASB deadline is June 24th for any proposed resolutions or amendments to be presented. President Fabes suggested requesting an extension to the deadline if Board members had any items to present for consideration. Mr. Cesaretti agreed that the deadline should be extended.

Good and Welfare

President Fabes wished Mrs. Sternweiler “Happy Birthday!”

President Fabes noted this was Ellen Crispino’s final District 39 Board meeting. She thanked Mrs. Crispino for her service stating she has done an amazing job as CSBO especially during the global health crisis. The Board is excited for her next adventure but stated she will be missed.

Mrs. Crispino thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the District for the last two years. She stated she had grown and learned so much. She appreciated working with the Board and the administrative team, and was proud to give back to the district where her children attended. She thanked everyone for the kind words and the crystal ball.

President Fabes took a moment to wish Chike Erokwu, Communications Director, well as he is relocating to Ohio. She thanked Mr. Erokwu for his hard work during this unusual year.

Mrs. Poehling was very grateful and very moved by the approach her daughter’s teachers at Central took in leading an optional Zoom meeting to discuss events taking place in the world. The conversation teachers led on racial equity were very powerful and the children were eager to engage in conversation. The book they read about racism was appropriate for elementary students. She was profoundly grateful for discussion on this topic and for the Board’s commitment to work on racism and racial equity.

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

- A. 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 ILCS120/2(c)(11)
- 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. 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)

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:59 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 11:03 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Sternweiler moved, seconded by, Mr. Cesaretti, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 11:03 p.m. by **Unanimous Roll Call**.

President

Secretary