

**WILMETTE, IL**  
**JUNE 14, 2021**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, June 14, 2021 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Amy Poehling called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Amy Poehling Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim (remotely),  
 Frank Panzica, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Erin Stone

Members Absent: None

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

President Poehling started the meeting by expressing the Board’s immense appreciation to everyone within the District for all of their efforts during this difficult school year. She said the challenges faced over the past 15 months were insurmountable. Just as solutions were worked out, the landscape or guidance changed. Intensely competing opinions were faced at every angle. She stated, “You listened openly, you researched, you determined priorities and made the best decisions possible at each juncture, always keeping health, safety, and the best interest of children at the forefront. We are overwhelmed with gratitude and in awe at the leadership, perseverance, and teamwork we witnessed.” She thanked the administration for their dedication and determination and wished them a long summer to rest and recover.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Principal Dana Nasiakos introduced the administrative team who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 Board of Education and Executive Session meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

Dr. Cremascoli introduced a video that was shared featuring writing contest finalists from Harper Elementary School who participated in the *End-of Year Optional Writing Contest*. Students were asked to describe a highlight from their school year in either a paragraph or poem. The students featured were second grader Audrey Korynski; third grader Victoria Egorova; and fourth graders, Will McDermott, Grace McLaughlin and Charlie Cutler. The last student, Jackson Ruth put his own twist on the assignment by talking about "kindness and no room for hate."

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vanessa Foley, Wilmette, spoke about being a remote special education family. She was grateful for their special education teachers but as a remote family she felt their child was left out in obtaining materials and experienced difficult social situations.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Facility Development – Mr. Panzica stated at the June 7<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting, the committee discussed the following topics:

### **Summer Construction Update**

Mr. Papanicholas of Nicholas and Associates updated members on McKenzie and Romona KEEP39 construction additions and renovations. Great progress has been made at both schools due to good weather conditions. Brick work at both schools would be completed next week with window installation to follow the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>. Interior renovations will begin next week after staff leaves for the summer.

### **Summer 2022 Construction Projects Review**

Mr. Bultemeier presented the five-year spreadsheet of construction projects for consideration. He stated Health Life Safety projects are immediate needs and are priority items. District operational considerations are kept in mind when choosing construction projects. Ideally, having at least three buildings available for summer programs allows for upgrades and renovations at the other schools. Larger planned projects are mapped out over multiple summers.

Mr. Bultemeier met with Nicholas and Associates and STR Architects to provide budgetary assessments for each of the planned projects using current market conditions. He reviewed cost estimates for each project and provided recommendations. He asked the Board for their collective approval to proceed with items including Harper partial roof replacement, Harper boiler replacement including replacing pipes from boilers to unit vents, and renovating four bathrooms.

Mr. Bultemeier noted as the District continues to renovate buildings, the life expectancy of buildings should be considered. Future projects being explored include window replacement at Romona, McKenzie air conditioning either to the gym, or for an additional 10% cost, providing air conditioning to all the classrooms. All projects are under review.

School Finance – Mr. Cesaretti stated at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting, the committee discussed the following topics:

#### **FY2022 District 39 Tentative Budget**

Mr. Bultemeier reviewed the D39 FY22 draft tentative budget at the last committee meeting. The numbers have not changed since the last review. The Board is required to approve a tentative budget at its June meeting and the final budget in August. The account summary estimates revenues at \$67.4M and expenditures \$65.9M. The tentative budget includes COVID-19 placeholders.

#### **FY2022 Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) Tentative Budget**

District 39 serves as the fiscal agent on behalf of the special education cooperative that includes District 39 and Avoca School District 37. The Illinois State Board of Education requires WCSEA to keep separate accounting records and to follow the same Illinois State budget guidelines required of all Illinois school districts. The WCSEA budget is a flow through entity with revenues and expenditures being the same. The public hearing will be held in August for final approval of the budget.

#### **Special Education Transportation Contract Extension**

The District is in the final year of their 3-year contract with North Shore Transit (NST). Illinois State Code allows a two-year contract extension. The extension contract allows a proposed 3.3% increase for FY22 and FY23. The contract includes the key clause of school closures due to pandemic or natural disasters, with some flexibility provided to District 39.

## **Annual Resolutions and Renewals**

Mr. Bultemeier reviewed the annual budget resolutions which included inter-fund transfers from the O&M Fund to the Capital Projects Fund and from the Educational Fund to the O&M Fund. These transfers permit timely payments of construction related expenses. The District receives tax levy receipts twice a year, in July/August and February/March. Due to the timing of cash flow, short-term loans may be necessary to maintain adequate fund balances in the O&M Fund. A public hearing will be held in August to consider the interfund transfer from the Educational Fund to O&M Fund.

The Board is obligated to pay various recurring bills and previously approved construction-related services and materials during the month of July. As there is no board meeting scheduled for July, this payment resolution enables the treasurer to fulfill necessary financial obligations between the June and August Board meetings.

Strategy – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes provided an update on the Strategic Planning Core Team efforts. The planning team is currently in the process of setting direction and future focus priorities. Once drafting work is completed in late June, the team will seek community review and feedback to assist in refining their plans before presenting a final Strategic Plan to the Board of Education in September. The team needs sufficient community review and engagement opportunities before bringing it to the Board for final review and approval.

## **Liaison Reports**

Community Review Committee (CRC) – Mrs. Hart stated the CRC reviewed participation results from the online survey and focus groups. The team discussed ways to further engage stakeholders. Executive Officer elections were held for 2021-2022 school year and this new team will research a topic for the next school year.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – Mrs. Kim stated registration for 2021 Joint Annual Conference in November is now open.

Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) – Mrs. Hart stated the WCSEA Advisory Board met earlier today to approve the tentative budget, the fiscal year to date activity, and establish the meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year.

Legislative Update – Mrs. Kim stated over 100 bills related to schools passed through legislature on topics such as Evidence Based Funding, Refund Recapture Levy for property tax refunds, Ethnic and Religious modifications, Juneteenth Holiday, time-out and restraints, behavioral interventions, mental health education, victims of violence and sexual education.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Written Communication**

The Board received two communications from Kristin Neuckranz Alcala regarding the recent updated outdoor mask mandate. Mary Rita Kropp, resident and D39 employee, regarding air conditioning considerations for Romona second floor classrooms.

### **B. Administrative Announcements from Superintendent and Staff**

#### **1. Graduation and End-of-Year Celebrations**

Students were celebrated for the completion of the school year with two very special outdoor graduations for eighth graders, a special transition day for sixth graders, and promotion celebrations for fourth graders. Each of the schools hosted several end-of-year celebrations for students and staff.

2. Summer School  
Over 450 students have enrolled for summer school across the three different programs: Academic Camp, Review and Reinforcement, and Extended School Year. Staff hiring has been a bit challenging as many teachers are looking forward to the summer to recharge after this difficult school year.
3. Planning for 2021-2022 School Year  
District 39 plans for a return to full in-person instruction in the fall, with mitigation measures in place as directed by the local health department. Updates are expected from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) throughout the summer. Staff and families will be apprised as information becomes available. District email updates will be sent on the 14th and 28th of each month.

The District 39 2021-2022 school year calendar is available online. Typical pre-pandemic school hours will return for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Cremascoli announced the appointment of Taylor Harvey as the new Assistant Director of Student Services. Mrs. Harvey currently served as Assistant Principal at Central Elementary School. She will replace Angela DeMay who has accepted an administrator position at another school district.

#### Property Tax Appeals

District 39 has received notice of one PTAB appeal for the 2020 tax year. Information regarding this appeal and the potential financial impact are posted within the board packet.

5. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)  
Dr. Cremascoli reported there were no Freedom of Information Act requests this month.

### **C. Strategic Plan Update**

1. 2021 Spring Assessment Report  
Administrator for Curriculum & Instruction, Katie Lee, and Principal Kelly Jackson represented the administration and presented the 2021 Spring Assessment Report.

NWEA MAP — The 2019-2020 school year ended with teaching and learning occurring remotely as the community needed to abide by the governor’s “Stay at Home” order. Under the unique circumstances, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) suspended all state assessments and District 39 followed its lead to cancel all district level assessments. Therefore, there are no 2020 Spring MAP Growth results. During the unique 2020-2021 school year, District 39 returned to the pre-pandemic district assessment calendar and implemented district level assessments. NWEA MAP Growth assessments in reading and mathematics were administered fall, winter, spring for students in grades 2-8. In addition, D39 families received results for their child(ren) after each administration which was different from past years. Results of these assessments were reviewed.

DESSA/MESH — Social emotional screeners were given in fall and spring. The Devereux Students Strengths Assessment (DESSA) is utilized in grades K-2 and Mindsets, Essential Skills, and Habits (MESH) surveys in grades 3-8. Results of these screeners were reviewed.

Members discussed the pandemic's impact on scores, having longitudinal data to identify trends, data comparisons to other school districts, percentages of high and low achievers, providing more parent education on student growth, and the importance of including social emotional learning and school climate.

2. Review of the 2020-2021 District 39 Strategic Plan

On September 21, 2020, the Board of Education approved the implementation of the 2020-2021 District 39 Strategic Plan. The District initiatives were divided into three sections: New Strategic Initiatives, Continuing Strategic Initiatives, and Annual Business. This executive summary report noted the status of each goal, provided updates, and reviewed any applicable next steps.

Members discussed the high enrollments for KEEP39 program, curriculum reviews, and fall school planning pending updated state and health guidelines.

3. Strategic Planning Liaison Report and Upcoming Feedback Forums

Dr. Cremascoli stated the Strategic Planning Core team is scheduled to hold its final meeting of the year on Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to review the draft goals of the Strategic Plan. Feedback sessions will then be scheduled in August.

#### **D. Annual Business**

1. Bullying Report

Dr. Swanson stated principals create an annual report that shares information related to bullying in the schools. The definition of bullying is defined by statute, and this report is based on that specific definition of bullying. There were nine instances of behavior that were fully investigated as potential bullying situations. Of these, three were founded and all involved online behavior. In all situations, support is provided for the victim as well as services and consequences for the aggressor. These involved in school suspension, detention, oral and written apologies, restorative conversations, work with the social worker, and conferences with parents, teachers, and the student. Two questions were added to the MESH survey that serve as an additional way to track students' feelings related to bullying and provides an additional way to track needs and intervene.

2. Resolution Authorizing July Bill Payments

Mr. Bultemeier reported this resolution allows the District to continue to pay for goods and services in a timely manner without having a July Board Meeting. All accounts payable invoices paid from June to August will be presented for approval at the August board meeting.

3. Illinois School Treasurer Bond Renewal

Mr. Bultemeier reported state code requires the Board to approve annually an Illinois school District appointed bond treasurer.

4. Fiscal Year 2022 District 39 Tentative Budget

Mr. Bultemeier stated each year the Board is required to approve the D39 tentative budget for the next fiscal year as well as a public budget hearing to be held prior to the August 23rd Board meeting. A brief review of the D39 FY 2022 tentative budget was shared.

5. Fiscal Year 2022 WCSEA Tentative Budget

Mr. Bultemeier stated each year the Board is required to approve the WCSEA tentative budget for the next fiscal year as well as a public budget hearing that will be held at the August 23rd Board meeting. A brief review of the WCSEA FY22 tentative budget was shared.

6. Special Education Transportation Contract Extension  
Mr. Bultemeier noted District 39 is in third year of the original 3-year contract with North Shore Transit for special education transportation services. A two-year contract extension has been being proposed as allowed by state code. Key terms of the contract extension were noted.
7. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Resolutions  
Mr. Bultemeier stated there are three budget related resolutions presented for approval. One resolution is for the transfer of funds from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund, another resolution allowing the ability to loan money from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund as needed. The third resolution requires a public hearing to be held and notice of the hearing published to allow a permanent transfer of funds from the Educational Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund.

### **E. Board Policy Review**

1. First Reading of Board of Education Policy 7:270  
Dr. Cremascoli noted this policy has been updated to reflect current laws and align with best practices. The proposed revisions are a result of a legal review as well as suggested revisions by PRESS, IASB policy review service. The main revision is the addition of a section regarding administering medical cannabis.

Ms. Stone suggested gender equity language edits to the policy.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diane Schanzenbach, Wilmette, stated the data presented in reading scores were of concern. She asked administration to compare the data to similar schools and address the decline in scores.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Stone moved seconded by Mr. Panzica to approve the personnel report dated June 14, 2021 which included administrative appointment of **Taylor Harvey**, effective July 1, 2021; licensed full-time employment of **Jessica Andricopulos**, effective August 23, 2021; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Lourdes Castillon**, effective June 21, 2021; temporary employment of **Deborah Blumenfeld**, effective July 6, 2021; **Madeline Diaz**, effective July 6, 2021; **Jay Heidekat**, effective July 6, 2021; **Janet Karr**, effective July 6, 2021; **Julie Ward**, effective July 6, 2021; administrative resignation of **Angela DeMay**, effective June 30, 2021; licensed resignation of **Elyse Adamo**, (leave of absence), effective June 3, 2021; **Nicole Flanagan**, effective June 10, 2021; **Michael Golabek**, effective June 10, 2021; educational support personnel resignation of **Nichola Davis**, effective June 4, 2021; **Dawn Gram**, effective June 10, 2021; **Janet Sullivan**, effective June 10, 2021; licensed retirement of **Betty Dietrich**, effective the end of 2025-26 school year; **Paige Lunde**, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year; **Chris Rusnak**, effective the end of the 2025-26 school year; educational support personnel retirement of **Harold Symanietz**, effective January 31, 2023; tenured leave of absence of **Carrie Rizman**, for the 2021-22 school year; educational support personnel request from sick leave bank for **Employee 6179**, grant 1 day from SSU sick leave bank: approve the resolution dated June 14, 2021 authorizing payment for goods and services between June 14, 2021 and the next board meeting scheduled for August 23, 2021: approve the renewal of the State of Illinois School Treasurer Bond in the amount of \$16,000,000: approve the Fiscal Year 2022 District 39 Tentative Budget for immediate public display; and further, approve the publication of notice of a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget to be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to commencing the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, August 23, 2021: approve the Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement FY22 Tentative Budget for immediate public

display; and further, approve the announcement of a public hearing on the tentative budget to be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to commencing the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday August 23, 2021: approve the resolutions authorizing accounting transfers from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund; and, approve the resolution authorizing an interfund loan from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund; and, approve the hearing to discuss a permanent interfund transfer from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund; and further, approve the publication of notice of a Public Hearing on the permanent interfund transfer to be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to commencing the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, August 23, 2021: approve the resolution dated June 14, 2021 authorizing accounting transfers from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund: approve the resolution dated June 14, 2021 authorizing an interfund loan from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund: approve a hearing to discuss a permanent interfund transfer from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund, and further approve the publication of notice of a public hearing on the permanent interfund transfer to be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to commencing the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, August 23, 2021: approve the Special Education Transportation Contract Extension with North Shore Transit (NST) for year two years with fee increases of 3.3% for the 2021-2022 school year and 3.3% for the 2022-2023 school year: approve as first reading of Board of Education Policy 7:270 *Administering Medicines to Students*: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between May 25, 2021 – June 14, 2021 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$622,260.33; O&M Fund \$183,977.60; Debt Service Fund \$62,771.25; Transportation Fund \$161,569.72; Capital Projects \$738,276.00; Tort Fund \$12,800.00; total all funds: \$1,781,654.90: to approve the manual checks issued between May 25, 2021 – June 14, 2021 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$332,981.04; O&M Fund \$40,120.20; Debt Service Fund \$84,938.75; Transportation Fund \$31.48; total all funds: \$458,071.47.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Erin Stone, and Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent –none: **Motions Carried.**

## **CONFERENCE ITEMS**

### **Old Business**

Dr. Cremascoli noted the August Committee of the Whole Meeting has officially been moved from Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, August 18 at 8:00 a.m.

Dr. Cremascoli noted Metrics Reopening Advisory Team has stopped working but she shared a final report that reflected all data showing minimal community risk, although the virus is still present.

### **New Business**

None

### **Good and Welfare**

Mrs. Schneider-Fabes commended the Educational Foundation for *The Silver Lining Project*. She said the video was amazing and presented a nice, positive reflection on a very difficult school year.

President Poehling noted she and Mrs. Stone attended the staff picnic and outdoor movie event where families enjoyed popcorn, candy, and ice cream and celebrated the end of the year together. She thanked Mr. DeMonte for arranging this lovely event.

Mrs. Stone expressed her joy upon seeing the picture in Express publication of two Romona boys dressed as construction workers with neon safety vests, tool belts, and plastic helmets at the Romona construction site.

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn to executive session to discuss special education students, specific personnel and negotiations.

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:21 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:34 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Stone moved, seconded by, Mr. Panzica, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m. by **General Consent.**

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President

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Secretary