

MARCH 16, 2020
WILMETTE, IL
PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing on the Resolution to Adopt e-Learning in Lieu of Scheduled Emergency Days was held by the Board of Education on Monday, March 16, 2020, at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Lisa Schneider-Fabes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: None

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

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT e-LEARNING PROGRAM IN LIEU OF THE DISTRICT'S
 SCHEDULED EMERGENCY DAYS**

Dr. Cremascoli stated according to Section 10-20.56 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.56], school districts may, by adopted resolution, utilize “e-learning days” in lieu of emergency days. The District developed and implemented e-Learning days last school year for weather-related school closures. The District is now planning to implement e-Learning during potential extended school closures. As of today, the number of e-Learning days may not exceed the number of emergency days in the approved school calendar. The e-Learning Plan was submitted to the regional office of education for verification, however the District must comply by holding this special public hearing so the Board can approve the proposed e-Learning Plan. If approved, this plan will permit students’ instruction to be received electronically while students are not physically present in lieu of the district’s scheduled emergency days. Dr. Cremascoli noted that the Illinois State Board of Education is constantly modifying and extending the e-Learning Plan guidelines and changes would be made as the health crisis continues. The e-Learning Plan is valid for a three-year term. Administration, respectfully, recommended the resolution for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kimberly Newman, Romona PTA President, thanked the Board for allocating funds to replace aging playground equipment. She noted the Romona community was very grateful. She stated Romona has a great need as the Early Childhood program is housed at Romona, Summer Enrichment takes place at Romona and Romona has the highest number of special needs students. Ms. Newman reported the playground committee was careful to review playground options that were monetarily feasible and set internal standards that each piece of playground equipment have multiple uses. She stated the Romona Benefit held in February raised \$24K and with their aggressive fundraising plan are on track to exceed their goal of \$30K this year. In total, the PTA plans to contribute \$90K to the project and appreciate the Board’s support of their work.

BOARD DISCUSSION

President Schneider-Fabes thanked the staff for their incredible effort to put the e-learning program into operation in record time. She spoke on behalf of the entire Board to thank the administration and staff.

Mr. Cesaretti was also very impressed at how hard his children worked throughout the day. He noted friends in other districts were not as privileged to have such an impressive program.

Mrs. Poehling expressed her gratitude and noted her children worked hard and were engaged with work that pertained to their current studies and was appropriate for their level of education. As a former teacher, she appreciated how hard staff worked to put this plan together.

Mr. Steen gave special thanks to the technology department for their ability to issue first through fourth graders with technology devices in record time.

Mrs. Sternweiler noted Learning Behavior Specialists and Speech Therapists worked diligently to support special education students and thanked them for their work.

Dr. Cremascoli echoed the Boards' sentiments and noted how impressed she was with staff and the administration for the care, commitment, and dedication to provide student instruction in these unprecedented times.

ADJOURN TO REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adjourn to the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The budget hearing adjourned at 7:11 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary