

**MARCH 16, 2020**  
**WILMETTE, IL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held 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 7:11 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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Principal Aaron Dubnow produced a video of Harper third grade students and their siblings who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The third graders spoke about Ability Awareness Week which focused on providing insights of disabilities to increase acceptance and understanding and turn the focus to each student's abilities.

**ARTWORK**

President Schneider-Fabes noted the artwork on display this month in the Board room was a wonderful sampling of 1st-8th grade student work. Every March the District observes "Youth Art Month" by showcasing the talented student artwork created across the District. "Youth Art Month" emphasizes the value of art education for all children and encourages quality school programs.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

President Schneider-Fabes stated this was an unprecedented time experiencing a global public health crisis. She stated guidance received from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and governmental officials led the Board to make decisions about the Open Meetings Act. The CDC recommended gatherings be 10 people or less and that people maintain six feet of distance from each other. She recommended that non-essential business reports be posted online and to expedite the Board Agenda and any needed discussion take place with the goal of completing the Consent Agenda. Board members agreed to expedite the meeting process.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to accept the February 24, 2020 Board of Education and Executive Session minutes and the minutes from the March 9, 2020 Special Meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Facility Development Committee (FDC), School Finance Committee (SFC), and Strategy Committee reports would be posted online.

### **Liaison Reports**

Community Review Committee, Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) and Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) reports would be posted online.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Stone stated the Legislative Update would be posted online.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Written Communication**

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board had not received any written communication.

### **B. Administrative Announcements**

#### *Administrative Hiring*

Dr. Cremascoli announced Kathryn (Kate) Dominique was recommended for the position of Wilmette Junior High School Principal. Ms. Dominique is currently a San Diego middle school principal and joined the meeting via virtual technology. She expressed her excitement in joining District 39 and noted the community was very intertwined and forward thinking about student centered success not just in middle school and junior high school but through high school and beyond.

Dr. Cremascoli noted the two open assistant principal positions are temporarily on hold due to the global health crisis.

#### *Healthy Schools Preparedness*

Dr. Cremascoli stated the administration continuously monitors guidance from health experts, the CDC, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and Governor Pritzker. On Thursday afternoon, the administration made the preemptive decision to cancel school on Friday and begin to transition to e-Learning days as a proactive measure to support students, staff, and community-wide health. Teachers worked diligently on Friday to prepare the launch of e-Learning in meaningful and relevant ways and celebrated their first successful day today.

Dr. Cremascoli was proud of leadership by entire New Trier team who remain committed to support students and teachers. Together they participated in conference calls to gather information and guidance from the ISBE, the Regional Superintendent, New Trier Township partner districts, District 39 administrators, and Wilmette Education Association leaders to ensure the best direction for District 39 students and community. As of 4 p.m. on Friday, March 13, the ISBE dramatically revised these requirements. In response to Governor Pritzker's executive order to close all Illinois public schools from March 17-March 30, ISBE designated these lost school days as "Act of God" days, a designation reserved only for the most extreme, unforeseen circumstances and conditions. The school days lost as a result of the governor's order will not count as student attendance days and therefore will not be made up by extending the school calendar into the summer.

President Schneider-Fabes recognized that as ISBE rolls out regulations and guidance fast and furious she noted not all of their guidance may be helpful. She stated on behalf of the District 39 Board of Education, the would support and advocate on the District's behalf to obtain additional flexibility that the District might require as changes occur.

Mr. Panzica inquired whether voting would continue to take place in the District tomorrow. Dr. Cremascoli stated the Mikailian Education Center (MEC), the District office, is a polling site and voting would take place as scheduled. She noted all of the district offices would be closed and none of the District 39 schools are polling places. She also stated one administrator would be at the MEC but otherwise closed except to election staff. She also stated a thorough deep cleaning would be conducted after elections were closed.

*Go Green Wilmette, Romona International Day and McKenzie Variety Show*

Dr. Cremascoli stated all of these community events were outstanding but were limited in time. She also noted her appreciation for the understanding of student activities being cancelled or postponed. She noted the disappointment for many well-prepared students who planned to perform and compete in various plays, concerts, sports that had been cancelled in the best interest of community health at large.

*Spring Academic Assessments*

Dr. Cremascoli stated spring academic assessments are on hold at this point pending direction from ISBE.

## **B. Strategic Plan Updates**

### **1. 2019-2020 Strategic Plan Updates: New Initiatives**

Dr. Cremascoli stated report has been submitted in narrative and if the Board had discussion they would continue. Board members agreed further discussion was not needed and accepted the written report.

### **2. Strategic Planning Team and Spring Events**

No additional conversation ensued.

## **C. Annual Business**

### **1. Resolution Providing for the Issue of Not to Exceed \$11,600,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2020, of the District for the Purposes of Increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and Refunding Outstanding Bonds of the District, Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax to Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds, and Authorizing the Proposed Sale of Said Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof**

Dr. Cremascoli stated the parameters of the bond resolution authorizes the District to issue an amount not to exceed \$11.6M General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2020 which includes \$5,000,000 of proceeds for working cash to fund capital projects and up to \$6,600,000 for the purpose of refunding the outstanding Series 2010 bonds (present value savings currently estimated to be \$477,210). Members discussed this resolution in detail at the Committee of the Whole meeting last week.

Mrs. Crispino spoke with Elizabeth Hennessy of Raymond James earlier today to get an update regarding the fluctuating interest rates. She noted the municipal bond interest rates were actually increasing. She noted the resolution to be approved by the Board allows the authority for competitive bids to be obtained within a six-month window. The hope is to delay and watch the market to correct itself.

Mr. Steen and Mr. Cesaretti felt this was a good decision and thanked Mrs. Crispino for keeping track of the market.

2. Student Transportation Contract Extension  
Dr. Cremascoli stated at the end of this school year, the District will have completed a three-year contract with North Shore Transit for regular transportation services. Administration recommended extending the contract through Fiscal Year 2022.
3. Authorized Depositories, Investment Managers, Dealers and Brokers  
Dr. Cremascoli noted Board Policy 4:30 requires the Board annually review the District's investment objectives as well as annually approve a list of authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers and brokers.
4. Summer 2020 Highcrest and Health/Life Safety Construction Project Bids  
Dr. Cremascoli stated the District held the bid opening for the Summer 2020 Highcrest and Health/Life Safety Construction Project Bids on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Plenty of qualified bidders attended, and the bids came in less than estimated.

Mrs. Crispino noted construction costs came in at \$2.1M and with construction management and architect fees the total amount is \$2.6M. The total project cost comes in at \$354K under the previous budget estimate, which was \$300K over projections. She stated the net effect is the bid came in \$45K under the amount in the five projections so the cost of the project is on track with the projections.

#### **D. Board Policy Review**

1. First Reading of Board of Education Policies 8:10, 8:20, 8:25, 8:30, 8:70, 8:80, 8:90, 8:95 and 8:100  
Dr. Cremascoli stated there are nine new policies for first read. Feedback regarding these policies would be appreciated by Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to allow time for revisions and edits for the April Board meeting.

Ms. Stone had suggested language changes to Policy 8:30.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to approve the personnel report dated March 16, 2020, which included administrative full-time employment of **Kathryn Dominique**, effective July 1, 2020; educational support personnel full-time employment **Jorge Abarca**, effective March 2, 2020; **Marisa Bingham**, effective February 25, 2020; **Andrew McCarthy**, effective February 26, 2020; **Sydney Shamley**, March 6, 2020; temporary employment of **Senita Salkic**, effective February 26, 2020; licensed resignation of **Kristie Biederwolf**, (Leave of Absence), effective February 28, 2020; **Ilene Harris**, effective June 11, 2020; **Zachary Hayes**, effective June 11, 2020; **Deborah Malarski**, effective June 11, 2020; educational support personnel resignation of **Robert Witt**, effective March 13, 2020; release for job abandonment **Aneta Kiryakoz**, effective January 27, 2020; tenured leave of absence of **Carrie Stefano**, for the 2020-2021 school year; licensed request from sick leave bank; **Employee 17535**, grant 30 days from WEA sick leave bank; **Employee 15529**, grant 12 days from WEA sick leave bank; approve the resolution dated March 16, 2020, authorizing the honorable dismissal/non-renewal of teachers: approve the two-year extension of the regular student transportation

contract with North Shore Transit (NST). The pricing for FY21 includes a 4% increase and the pricing for FY22 includes a 4.25% increase as indicated on the schedule dated March 16, 2020: approve the following authorized depositories, investment managers, dealers and brokers: North Shore Community Bank & Trust Company, PMA Financial Network LLC and the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus: award base bid package in the amount of \$2,142,500 per bid specifications for the Summer 2020 Highcrest and Health/Life Safety Construction Project Bids: RB Construction for an amount not to exceed \$650,000; Elens & Maichin Roofing for an amount not to exceed \$44,800; Monarch Construction for an amount not to exceed \$410,000; Hartwig Plumbing/Heating for an amount not to exceed \$652,700; Shoreline Electric Company for an amount not to exceed \$385,000; total project cost: \$2,142,500: approve as first reading of Board of Education Policies 8:10 *Communications With The Public*; 8:20 *Community Use of School Facilities*; 8:25 *Advertising and Distribution of Literature and Other Materials by Non-School Entities*; 8:30 *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property and Community Use of Buildings*; 8:70 *Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities*; 8:80 *Gifts to the District*; 8:90 *Parent Organizations*; 8:95 *Community Review Committee*; and 8:100 *Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies*: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between February 25, 2020 – March 16, 2020 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$523,173.77; O&M Fund \$163,293.28; Transportation Fund \$180,484.70; Capital Projects \$488,760.00; total all funds: \$955,711.75: approve the manual checks issued between February 25, 2020 – March 16, 2020 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$554,750.18; O&M Fund \$3,396.27; Transportation Fund \$17.73; Tort Fund \$1,251.00; total all funds: \$559,415.18.

Dr. Cremascoli noted the resolution for honorable dismissal/non-renewal of teachers states personal delivery of Exhibits A and B letters which would not possible due to the pandemic health crisis. She stated all letters would be sent via certified and first-class mail.

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 the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$11,600,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2020, of the District for the purposes of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and refunding outstanding bonds of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$11,600,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2020, of the District for the purposes of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and refunding outstanding bonds of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

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 the e-Learning Plan**

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to approve the Resolution to adopt e-Learning Program in lieu of the District’s scheduled Emergency Days.

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**

Dr. Cremascoli noted regarding the Strategic Plan Readiness Activities, the first meeting was held and the second is scheduled to occur remotely. She noted they are recruiting team members and propose to launch efforts in early April which may be subject to change. She stated the Consortium for Educational Change had much flexibility and planning might need to be postponed.

### **New Business**

None

### **Good and Welfare**

Ms. Stone thanked the junior high school for sharing a live stream video of students line dancing to a Spice Girls song. She said it was absolutely brilliant and loved seeing a side of her student he would not normally have shared with her. Ms. Stone also attended Romona’s International Festival and enjoyed watching children represent their cultures and support each other’s differences. She also commended staff and the e-Learning Program for being, fun, positive and upbeat.

President Schneider-Fabes added the community shares the sadness of having many student activities cancelled and stated this does not take away from students’ many accomplishments.

Mr. Panzica noted the District’s e-learning initiative has paid off and is significantly more successful than other school districts. He felt the District should share their knowledge and experiences.

Mr. Cesaretti wanted to ensure the Board and administration were agreed about staff salary expectations during this emergency health crisis. Dr. Cremascoli noted the Board had discussed at its recent Committee of the Whole meeting, ensuring staff be paid and maintain health benefits. She noted the state agreed all employees would maintain salary and health benefits.

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Steen, to adjourn to executive session to discuss Student Disciplinary Cases, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), and Minutes of Meetings Lawfully Closed Under the Open Meetings Act, Whether for Purposes of Approval by the Body of the Minutes or Semi-Annual Review of the Minutes as Mandated by Section 2.06, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).

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 7:49 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:00 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by, Mr. Steen, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:01 p.m. by **General Consent.**

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President

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Secretary