

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 27
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Special Meeting of 04/12/21 The special meeting of April 12, 2021 of the Board of Education, School District 27 was called to order at 5:00 p.m. virtually.

Roll Call On call of the roll, the following members were present:

Present: Mrs. Helen Melnick, president
 Mr. Alex Frum, vice president
 Mrs. Laurie Garber-Amram
 Mrs. Martha Carlos
 Mrs. Melissa Copeland
 Mr. Ed Feld
 Mr. Brian Paich

Staff: Dr. David Kroeze, superintendent
 Dr. Kimberly Rio, assistant superintendent

Absent: None

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Melnick called the Special Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Communications

Community

None

New Business

Dr. Kroeze advised the Board that the NSSSED Leadership Council will be meeting on Wednesday, April 14th. At this meeting the Leadership Council will take action and recommendation to assess a surcharge to each member district to help cover the COVID-19 expenses this year. The Board needs to discuss its position on the recommendations that Mr. Feld knows how to vote. The Board was in favor of supporting this recommendation. However, the Board's concerns over NSSSED's management of finances remains a deep concern.

The Board expressed a desire to send NSSSED a letter delineating District 27's two main concerns with the operation and financial condition of NSSSED. The first concern is the NSSSED must determine how it will provide cost-effective programs and services while at the same time functioning as a sustainable organization. NSSSED should have discussions with the 18 member school districts in order to map out its future. The key questions are "What will programs and services look like in the future, and how will NSSSED sustain itself financially without placing an increasing financial burden on the Cooperative districts". Dr. Kroeze added that our Board is

concerned that NSSED is not currently structured in such a way as to sustain itself long-term. We ask that this issue be a priority as the Cooperative moves into next year.

Dr. Kroeze stated the second concern is NSSED's fiscal responsibility. The operating costs for NSSED have, for many years, been increasing with no systemic strategy to address the adverse impact to the member school districts. This year there is a significant shortfall of revenue due to lower student enrollment and expenditures for COVID-19 costs. The District 27 Board believes that generating a sustainable, affordable cooperative requires cost containment as well as personnel survey to ensure NSSED is appropriately staffed to meet its needs.

At present, we do not know what the proposed budget for the FY22 school year looks like, but we encourage NSSED to take steps to maintain our programs and services while finding a way to lower the costs.

It has also been indicated that Dr. Schneider, Superintendent of NSSED, has indicated that he plans to have the NSSED Policy Committee review portions of the Articles of Agreement. The District 27 Board is looking for assurance from NSSED in writing that no changes to the Articles of Agreement will adversely affect any member district's work to serve their students. We are asking that any areas discussed for change be conveyed to the 18 individual Boards of Education and respective superintendents in writing as part of the process the Policy Committee uses to review the Articles. We also ask that no changes be voted on by the Leadership Council until the proposed language has been reviewed and ratified by each respective Board of Education and their ratification or suggested changes be conveyed to the Leadership Council.

Dr. Kroeze and the Board will prepare a letter to Ms. Suzanne Sands, President of the NSSED Leadership Council, signed by Board President, Mrs. Helen Melnick. The letter will be delivered to Ms. Sands prior to the Leadership Council meeting on Wednesday, April 14th.

Closed Session
None

Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board at this time Mrs. Garber-Amram moved and Mrs. Carlos seconded the motion that the meeting is adjourned.

The motion was unanimously approved, and President Melnick called the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:


PRESIDENT


SECRETARY