

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on  
December 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in Board Rooms 215, 216, & 217  
at 126 S. York Street, Elmhurst, IL, DuPage County**

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**Call to Order:** President Caforio called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

<b>Board of Education</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mrs. Kara Caforio - President	x	
Mr. Chris Kocinski - Vice- President		x (arrived at 5:40p.m.)
Mrs. Courtenae Trautmann - Secretary	x	
Mrs. Athena Arvanitis	x	
Mr. James Collins	x	
Mrs. Elizabeth Hosler	x	
Mrs. Karen Stuefen	x	

President Caforio stated there are 6 board members present and 1 absent, we have a quorum present.

<b>Administration</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Dr. Keisha Campbell - Superintendent	x	
Mr. Rudy Gomez	x	
Mr. Scott Grens	x	
Mr. Luke Pavone	x	
Mr. Kevin Rubenstein	x	
Mr. Chris Whelton	x	

**Closed Session**

President Caforio asked for a motion to adjourn to closed session at 5:32 p.m to discuss matters relating to The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; AND The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; AND The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; AND The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; AND 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; AND Discussion of 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.

Mrs. Trautmann moved and Mrs. Arvanitis seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Arvanitis, Mrs. Stuefen, Mrs. Hosler, Mr. Collins, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carried. Mr. Kocinski was absent.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

President Caforio asked for a motion to reconvene to Open Session at 6:37 p.m. Mrs. Trautmann moved and Mrs. Stuefen seconded the motion session. Voice Vote - the motion was declared and carried.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Board members led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Spotlight/Recognition**

Student "Yes I Can Awards" - Paul Rosland & Franco Bibbiano

Dr. Rubenstein stated that we are pleased to honor two students, Franco Bibbiano, a freshman at York High School, and Paul Rosland, a student at our newly renovated and renamed Bridges Transition Center who were recognized by the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children with the "Yes I Can Award". The award is designed

to recognize students with disabilities who demonstrate determination and achievement in multiple ways. There are six categories of recognition: academics, arts, school and community activities, technology, and transition. This year, Franco and Paul took home awards in the categories of School Achievement and Transition, respectively. Franco is honored under the School Achievement category and recognized for his industrial technology and woodworking skills. Franco was scheduled to take these courses at Bryan last year but was not able to due to students learning remotely. Once in-person instruction resumed, Franco and his school team worked together to schedule technology and woodworking classes. Dr. Rubenstein acknowledged Franco's support team of teachers, assistant principal, and his parents.

Dr. Kumm continued with acknowledging student, Paul Rosland, for his hard work at the Bridges Transition Center. Paul has made remarkable strides in the core areas of the transition to independent living, work and vocational training. During Paul's two years with the D205 Transition Services Program, Paul has completed vocational training opportunities through local Elmhurst businesses, which included Ruff Life and McMaster Carr. Since September 2019, he continues to maintain his employment at Jewel Osco. Dr. Kumm acknowledged Paul's support system of teachers and parents.

The Board and administration congratulated the students, their families and the supportive staff, followed by pictures.

#### Council for Exceptional Children Staff Recognition - Danielle Mitchell

Dr. Rubenstein recognized Mrs. Danielle Mitchell, special education teacher at Hawthorne, for being recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) as part of their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. CEC is sharing 100 stories from teachers around the world who have shown a passion, dedication and commitment to making a difference in the lives of students. These stories serve to elevate the profession of special education and support CEC's efforts to attract, prepare, and retain new educators into the field. Mrs. Mitchell works with kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students where she supports each student with their individual needs by differentiating both academically and environmentally. She collaborates consistently with all staff working with the student to go above and beyond to ensure a successful learning experience. She also worked with students outside of the classroom with the Nora Project within our school to support students with special education needs to interact with other general education students. The Board and administration congratulated Mrs. Mitchell, followed by pictures.

#### Spotlight on Edison

Principal Pluskota was joined by instructional coaches, Kate Cortez and Heather Noncek for the presentation. Principal Pluskota first wanted to thank and recognize the students, parents, and staff for the positive impact during the Edi/Linc transition this year. He continued the presentation to appreciate the opportunity to celebrate the engagement of the Edi/Linc staff, along with how they have shown the positive and extreme strength in instructional coaching. Teachers are learners and often they are the first ones that tell students they must become lifelong learners themselves. The focus for teaching and the focus for coaching is to motivate teachers to improve and strengthen their instructional practice. Kate Cortez and Heather Noncek continued the presentation. They stated that in the first three months of the school year, more than half of the teachers engaged in an individual coaching cycle. The positive and effective feedback from instructional coaches, along with reflection has been impactful to the teaching practices of staff. The result is that teachers are beginning to see a demonstrated growth in their students.

President Caforio stated that on behalf of the Board they thank Principal Pluskota and all the staff for the amazing Edi/Linc transition.

#### **Public Hearing - Adoption of 2021 Levy Certificate**

Public Levy Hearing Declared Open: President Caforio declared the public levy hearing open at 7:25 p.m.

#### Overview of 2021 Levy

Mr. Whelton reviewed the levy timeline: January 2021 – CPI is 1.4%; October 26, 2021 – Estimated levy approval; December 3, 2021 – Notice in the newspaper for public hearing; December 14, 2021 – Public hearing and approval. He explained the components in determining the 2021 tax levy uses the 2021 levy CPI of 1.4%, along with two unknown factors at the time of the levy, which are: 1) Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) and 2) New Construction. He noted that the EAV impacts the estimated tax rates but is not a factor in determining the Levy. The estimated tax rate used a 4.21% increase in overall EAV. Mr. Whelton reminded the Board the levy is a request, so no matter what amount the District levies, the counties will only extend the increase allowable under the tax cap. The last slide of the presentation shows the district's operating levy totals \$20,985,000, a 3.26% increase over last year's actual extension.

The non-operating or debt service portion of the levy totals, \$15,730,788. The total levy is \$136,715,788, which includes the approved referendum funding.

Levy Hearing Public Comments: There were no public comments for the public levy hearing.

Public Levy Hearing Declared Closed: President Caforio declared the public levy hearing closed at 7:34 pm.

### **Public Comments**

Public comments included closing academic gap by expanding the summer school opportunities, robust program, additional counselors, critical thinking important; happy with teachers, amazed with the rigor, thank board for tough decisions to keep students safe and have extracurricular, especially thank the teachers for the last 2-years; private school parent asking board to consider safe storage for firearms; appreciate the changes to the public comment process; important for our students to learn the right and wrong ways of our past history, have board consider support and apologize to the York teacher; curriculum; there are people in the community that are looking to disrupt school board; time for neighborhood to come together; consider mask optional; statements about CRT being taught at D205; voices of student: and educate and promote the safe storage of weapons & urge to pass a safe storage resolution; Due to a disruption during the public comment portion of the meeting, the Board recessed for five minutes. The Board returned to complete public comments.

### **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Approval of Regular Board Minutes: November 16, 2021

Approval of Closed Session Minutes: November 16, 2021

President Caforio asked if there were any changes to minutes and hearing no changes, the minutes were declared to stand as presented.

### **Reports and Presentations**

#### Facilities Update Referendum Projects

Mr. Schmidt introduced the presentation stating three parts will be reviewed, the financials year-to-date as of December 1st, review of four bids and future projects. Mr. Schmidt reviewed the referendum budget for completed projects, completed projects pending final invoicing, projects in process, projects in design and remaining projects. He covered the budget for the specific completed projects. Mr. Schmidt reviewed the 2022 bid updates for the following schools: Field, Fischer, Jackson, and Jefferson.

The Board asked some clarifying questions that revolved around the cost with regard to scope, remaining projects, and the current inflationary environment. The representative from ICI stated that the original referendum budget included a 3.5% cost escalation but the current environment is higher. Other board questions included clarification of budget, timeframe for additional information and whether cost contingencies were included in the cost for the remaining projects.

#### Strategic Plan Proposal and Presentation

Dr. Campbell presented to the Board a potential professional service provider to further develop a plan to focus on key priorities that best align with the needs of the district. She introduced HYA's representative, Ms. Kimbrel, to assist with the presentation. The presentation began highlighting HYA's experience and understanding why strategic planning is an effective tool to improve student outcomes, by uniting stakeholders with a shared focus on students and excitement about the future, by creating collective movement in the same direction with focus, determination, and persistence, by providing an opportunity to further align the work at the schools to achieve ambitious goals for our future and lastly by providing a basis to measure and communicate key indicators of success. Dr. Campbell reiterated that we can build on our rich history and successes to create a culture of continuous improvement. Ms. Kimbrel reviewed the process that includes three phases, which will result in positive change: Phase 1 - Inclusive Community Engagement which answers, where are we now and where are we headed; Phase 2 - Focus on Strategy which answers what is our roadmap to get to our desired future; and Phase 3 - Implement and Evaluate, which answers how do we align our actions to ensure positive change and how do we measure our impact. The full presentation is in BoardDocs ([Click Here](#)) for additional detail. Dr. Campbell underscored that alignment is the key to success, which will need to reach the school level in order to impact students. She indicated the next step is to recommend HYA as the strategic provider, along with providing a strategic plan timeline, for the Board to approve at the next board meeting, January 11th.

The Board commented on the importance of having a robust community engagement process from the beginning; the significance of phase 3, implementation, with relentless focus on students; creating staff buy-in; highlighting the many things we are doing well; the need for cultural change to assist with continuous

improvement; wondered what and how many areas to measure; as a priority to have a clear, connected, and aligned plan; and believes this is a good time for our community to be engaged in this process due to the many things that changed over the past 18 months.

President Caforio stated that since there are many policies for first read, she asked Mrs. Trautmann, the policy chair, to provide an overview of the policy review process.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Personnel Report;
- B. Financial Reports;
- C. BriteLift Transportation Contract;
- D. ASICS Athletic Donation to Girls Cross Country Team;
- E. NIKE Athletic Donation to Girls Cross Country Team;
- F. Foundation205 Donation;
- G. Universal Laser Engraver/Cutter Systems;
- H. Update Agreement of Interim Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations;
- I. Agreement - Residency Matter;
- J. First Read Section 1: School District Organization - Policies 1:10, 1:20, 1:30;
- K. First Read Section 2: Board of Education - Policies 2:10, 2:20, 2:130, 2:240, 2:260;
- L. First Read Section 3: General School Administration - Policy 3:30;
- M. First Read Section 4: Operational Services - Policy 4:180;
- N. First Read Section 5: Personnel - Policies 5:10, 5:30, 5:180;
- O. First Read Section 6: Instruction - Policies 6:20, 6:30, 6:40, 6:65, 6:80, 6:100, 6:145, 6:160, 6:170, 6:190, 6:230, 6:235, 6:255, 6:290, 6:315, 6:330;
- P. First Read Section 7: Students - Policies 7:220, 7:280;
- Q. First Read Section 8: Community Relations - Policy 8:90;
- R. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes;
- S. Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes.

President Caforio asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda items: A. Personnel Report; B. Financial Reports; C. BriteLift Transportation Contract; D. ASICS Athletic Donation to Girls Cross Country Team; E. NIKE Athletic Donation to Girls Cross Country Team; F. Foundation205 Donation; G. Universal Laser Engraver/Cutter Systems; H. Update Agreement of Interim Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations; I. Agreement - Residency Matter; J. First Read Section 1: School District Organization - Policies 1:10, 1:20, 1:30; K. First Read Section 2: Board of Education - Policies 2:10, 2:20, 2:130, 2:240, 2:260; L. First Read Section 3: General School Administration - Policy 3:30; M. First Read Section 4: Operational Services - Policy 4:180; N. First Read Section 5: Personnel - Policies 5:10, 5:30, 5:180; O. First Read Section 6: Instruction - Policies 6:20, 6:30, 6:40, 6:65, 6:80, 6:100, 6:145, 6:160, 6:170, 6:190, 6:230, 6:235, 6:255, 6:290, 6:315, 6:330; P. First Read Section 7: Students - Policies 7:220, 7:280; Q. First Read Section 8: Community Relations - Policy 8:90.

The Board pulled the following consent agenda items for a future Board meeting: R. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes; S. Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes.

Mrs. Trautmann moved and Mrs. Hosler seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Hosler, Mrs. Stuefen, Mr. Kocinski, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Arvanitis, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carries.

### **Action Item**

#### Approval of Resolution for 2021 Certificate of Levy

Mrs. Stuefen asked if the levy recommendation is the same as the last meeting. Mr. Whelton confirmed it is the same recommendation.

President Caforio asked for a motion to approve the Resolution for the 2021 Certificate of Levy. Mrs. Hosler moved and Mrs. Arvanitis seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Hosler, Mrs. Arvanitis, Mrs. Trautmann, Mr. Kocinski, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carries. Mrs. Stuefen and Mr. Collins voted nay.

#### Administrator Contract Approval - Exec. Director of Communications and Community Relations

Dr. Campbell reviewed that in early September the former Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations transitioned from our district. Since that time, the district worked with an Interim Executive

Director of Communication and Public Relations, which allowed time for a thorough and robust hiring process. Dr. Campbell presented to the board Mrs. Tonya Daniels for recommendation, who went through an extensive interview process.

President Caforio asked for a motion to approve the administrator agreement for the Executive Director of Communication and Community relations, as presented. Mrs. Hosler moved and Mrs. Trautmann seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Hosler, Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Arvanitis, Mr. Collins, Mr. Kocinski, Mrs. Stuefen, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carries.

#### Jackson Bid 22-05

Mrs. Stuefen wanted to clarify that the Jackson renovation bid includes the addition of the media center and classrooms. Mr. Schmidt confirmed that the bid includes the base with the addition of the media center and the two additional classrooms.

President Caforio asked for a motion to award this Invitation for Bid 22-05 to the identified firms for each trade package which represents each firms bid. Mrs. Trautmann moved and Mrs. Arvanitis seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Arvanitis, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Stuefen, Mr. Kocinski, Mrs. Hosler, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carries.

#### Field School Bid 22-07

President Caforio asked for a motion to award this Invitation for Bid 22-07 to the identified firms for each trade package which represents each firms bid. Mr. Kocinski moved and Mrs. Hosler seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Kocinski, Mrs. Hosler, Mrs. Stuefen, Mrs. Trautmann, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Arvanitis, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carries.

#### Jefferson Equipment Bid 22-04

President Caforio asked for a motion to award award this Invitation for Bid 22-04 to the identified firms for each trade package which represents each firms bid. Mrs. Hosler moved and Mr. Kocinski seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Hosler, Mr. Kocinski, Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Stuefen, Mrs. Arvanitis, Mr. Collins, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carries.

#### Fischer Equipment Bid 22-06

President Caforio asked for a motion to award award this Invitation for Bid 22-06 to the identified firms for each trade package which represents each firms bid. Mrs. Arvanitis moved and Mrs. Trautmann seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Arvanitis, Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Hosler, Mr. Collins, Mr. Kocinski, Mrs. Stuefen, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carries.

### **Superintendent's Communication**

#### SY 21-22 Moving Forward Together Update and COVID Metrics

Dr. Campbell began by stating that we provide the highest and best education as possible and this will always be the top priority for all students, staff, board of education, and administration. She continued stating being grateful to have very passionate and engaged parents throughout the district. She asked the community to respect each other, even though there are various perspectives and opinions. Our job is to ensure students receive the best possible education with the least disruption in a healthy and safe environment. Dr. Campbell continued with the COVID update, which includes a weekly update to the COVID dashboard, vaccine and onsite testing update, along with continued layered mitigations. The Board wondered some of the following: potential change to sports or extracurricular activities; encourage pushing agencies for criteria for an end timeframe; mental health concern; and what are consequences to go counter to mask mandate.

FOIA - Freedom of Information Act Requests: Dr. Campbell reported the following FOIA requests, 2 FOIA requests for minutes, granted; 1 Student information FOIA request, granted; 1 Minutes transcript FOIA request, not in possession.

Social Media Highlights: Mr. Gomez presents the following social media highlights: Patrick Baker Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts - Congratulations to our Visual and Performing Arts students of the month; Churchville Middle School - We are thankful and grateful today and every day for our students, staff, and families past and present. Once a Charger, always a Charger. Happy Thanksgiving; Congratulations to Courtney Bison, Girls' Tennis Coach at York, on being named the Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association 2A Girls' Coach of the Year; and Valerie Baxter 4th Grade Teacher - We did an escape classroom in math. Math is always better in a fort, right?

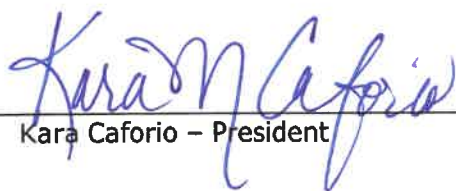
**Board Communications:** President Caforio recognized Mrs. Hosler, Mrs. Stuefen, and Mrs. Trautmann for completing additional IASB work, which recognizes them as master board members.

**Upcoming Meetings (anticipating special BOE meeting in a few weeks)**

January 11, 2022 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m. - District 205 Center, Rooms 215, 216, and 217  
January 25, 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 p.m. District 205 Center, Rooms 215, 216, & 217

**Adjournment - End of Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

We certify this document as the correct minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Elmhurst CUSD 205 Board of Education held on December 14, 2021.



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Kara Caforio - President



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Courtenae Trautmann - Secretary