



PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND BOARD BUSINESS RECAP

May 17, 2022

School Board President's Report to the Board

Board President Nadine Scodro welcomed everyone in attendance and asked board member Dr. Tim Baker to recite one of the sections of the Oath of Office to affirm the board's commitment to faithfully discharge their duties.

Update on Recent and Upcoming Events

- May 20 Honors Assembly at Palos South at 9 a.m.
- June 2 Palos South Graduation 6 p.m. at Stagg High School at 6 p.m.
- June 6 Last day of kindergarten

Student & Building Awards

Palos West Principal Jennifer Peloquin and Assistant Principal Rich Kurek along with members of the Board presented President's Education Awards for Academic Excellence to West Elementary students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

In the absence of Dr. Scarsella, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ron Cozza, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, delivered an update to the board which included recognition of May 11, National School Nurses Day. He commended the Palos 118 school nurses-- Darlene Sierzega, Terri Segredo, Jane Scott, and Brenda Hook—for their vital work over the past two years in keeping our students and staff healthy.

He congratulated the students who competed in the 2022 South Cook Math Bowl at Prairie State College on April 28 and 29. Ten students from Palos 118 had top 6 finishes with one team taking first place in Division A.

He also congratulated the students from Palos East, West, and South who performed at the start of the May 1st White Sox game to sing the national anthem for Palos 118 Day and thanked the PFA volunteers for organizing the event, and the Palos 118 choir directors Amanda Schuller and Danielle Wetle for leading the student performance.

Dr. Cozza recognized Palos 118's principals and teachers for Principal Appreciation Day and Teacher Appreciation Week, which was at the start of May.

He thanked the choir and band students who held their final performances in May, and all of the students and families who came out to support our performing arts programs this year.

Dr. Cozza recognized the students in the Palos South Middle School Save Promise

Club who have been recognized by the Sandy Hook Promise organization for their efforts to create a more inclusive school environment. They were one of the winners of the 2022 *Say Something Week* Awards for their week-long campaign in March which included a different theme each day of the week to foster a culture to prevent school violence.

Dr. Cozza congratulated Palos South Assistant Principal Meagan Doornbos who was recognized at an awards luncheon on May 13 for her work promoting the efforts of the Save Promise Club by the Illinois School Public Relations Association. Ms. Doornbos received the Award of Excellence in the Administrator category as part of INSPRA's 2022 Distinguished Service Awards Program.

He reminded families that they can save \$25 off per child when they complete their 2022-23 school year registration by June 8. Families can visit palos118.org to get started.

Dr. Cozza closed by wishing everyone a restful summer break filled with warm weather, fun with family and friends, and also lots of reading.

NEW BUSINESS

The board voted to table the presentation of the final Portrait of a Graduate graphic to until the June meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STUDENT OUTCOMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Director of Student Services Erin Deval provided a brief overview of the school district's Consolidated District Plan that outlines how the school district intends to use federal funding during the upcoming school year.

Elementary Principals Rob Szklanecki and Jen Peloquin updated the committee on the progress our PLC (Professional Learning Community) Math Coaches have made during the 2021-2022 school year. The principals highlighted how the coaches are building the capacity of each of our PLC teams by supporting them as they work through answering the four questions that drive the work of professional learning communities.

Assistant Elementary Principals Dodds and Kurek updated the committee on proposed changes to the elementary school schedule. They shared that the changes would address concerns teachers have shared with the administration, including choppy schedules with small blocks of instructional time. Ms. Dodds and Mr. Kurek also reviewed the proposed transition to trimesters from quarters and the benefits associated with this change.

Dr. Scarsella reviewed proposed changes to curriculum policies due to recent legislation passed by the General Assembly that resulted in additional mandates being placed on local school districts.

Dr. Scarsella reviewed next year's proposed meeting schedule for the Board of Education.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Veihman presented the administration's recommendation for adjusting the classified compensation structure beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. Existing employees will have the opportunity to elect between the old and new compensation structures. Mr. Veihman informed the committee that the purpose of the change is to boost starting salaries for classified positions to ensure the school district remains competitive in the job market. Mr. Veihman stated the change will also provide long-term savings in benefits costs.

Dr. Scarsella led the committee in a discussion regarding long-term planning for capital improvements. He informed the committee that the district's architects estimate approximately \$9.5 million in life safety repairs, and recommended maintenance and building improvements over the next two to three years. Dr. Scarsella also discussed current space constraints at both Palos East and Palos West and needed classroom renovations at all three buildings. Lastly, Dr. Scarsella provided an overview of how the school district has historically financed capital projects.

Dr. Scarsella provided the committee with information regarding the 2022 Joint Annual Conference jointly hosted by the Illinois Association of School Boards, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials.

MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Paris reported on the upcoming events planned by the MPA (Music Parents Association).

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. Paris delivered the Educational Foundation report:

Good evening Palos District 118,

As the school year ends, we would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2022.

As you begin your high school years, we know that you are well prepared.

We have been by your side since your first day of kindergarten and share your accomplishments

with you in Palos School District 118.

Best of luck and happiness as you begin your high school career!

A well-deserved thank-you to our educators and administrators for a job well done as another school year comes to a close. We look forward to our continued partnership as we plan during the summer for the start of school in the Fall.

Stay safe and healthy,

The Palos 118 Educational Foundation

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Paris gave the report for the PFA:

As we wrap up this year and move to the next the PFA is excited to get back to normal with the end of the year class parties! Parents are invited to sign up to plan some activities for their child's year end parties! We opened some more spots so if it was full when you attempted to sign up - please try again!

A huge thank you to Katie Mendoza and Geri Cechowski for their coordination of the White Sox Family Day out where our choirs were able to sing the National Anthem! There was a HUGE turnout of over 1000 students and family members who attended the game! Also, a thank you to Geri Cechowski for her efforts in arranging lunches for the staff for teacher appreciation week.

I want to acknowledge the ladies who served on the PFA board this year too! Stacy Schuble, Geri Cechowski, Kate Galbincea, and Esther Grosse you are all amazing women who not only stepped up but did it through a pandemic. Thank you for all of your time and energy you offered this organization! We had a few chair people who worked behind the scenes throughout the year that I want to thank. Joann Vaisman - for Fri-yay staff emails, Lauren Kirkner - Spirit Wear, Kelly Fino Staff appreciation and Karen Johanson - Eat & Earns. There were so many other people who supported this organization that we are so grateful for! From chairing fundraisers to the Read-A-Thon to the graduation team to other special events. This organization is able to accomplish what it does because of volunteers like you! We can never name all the names, but no support was too small and makes a huge difference for this organization to continue and make a difference for our children. So, thank you for volunteering, sharing our pages and fundraisers, supporting our teachers. We have a truly amazing community.

Staff - you have a couple of weeks left to submit your \$100 classroom/supply reimbursement from the PFA! Also - we have a lot of families looking at staff favorites on the website for end of year gifts so you can still fill it out and we will put it up on the PFA website for you!

Coming up we have graduation and year end parties!! Signups for each are on the PFA website.

The next PFA meeting is on Zoom, Wednesday, June 1st at 7pm to vote in the new PFA board! We have already started the transition process and are excited for the new energy and ideas the incoming board will bring to this amazing organization!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Mike Pizur reported that the District received a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request that has been completed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Under the consent agenda, the Board voted:

- Approval of Student Behavior Plan
- Approval of Consolidated District Plan
- Approval of Institute and Inservice Calendar for SY22-23
- Approval of Board of Education Meeting Schedule SY22-23
- Approval of Personnel Report A - Certified Staff - Employment: Emily Blanchard, Bilingual Spanish/ESL, East; Riley McKinney, 6th Grade Special Education, South; Rosalie White, PT Media Center Specialist, South; Michael Witkowski, Physical Education, East; Kelsey Hess, Primary Sped. Instructor, West; FMLA: Molly Bullington, Kinder Teacher, West; Ashley Neven, Aide, West
- Approval of Personnel Report B - Classified Staff - Resignation: Darin Waller, Custodian, South; Alice Stevenson, Payroll/Benefit Coordinator, Central
- Approval of Minutes of previous meetings- Regular and Special Meetings of April 19, 2022, April 26, 2022, May 3, 2022
- Authorization for Payrolls and Payment of Bills Payable and Payrolls-Aggregate Total: \$2,257,169.69