Board of Education
School District No. 155
Calumet City, Illinois
Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Calumet City School District No. 155 was called to order by Vice President Stern at 6:30 pm. On the Roll, the following members were physically present and answered present; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, and Miller.

Also present were: Dr. Joseph Zotto, Tara Lawrence, Charlie Russ, Julie Stephan, Valerie Wilhoite, Shannon Brown, and Charles Russ.

Public Comment

Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Franklin, a motion to open the floor to the public for comment. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

There was no public comment.

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Miller, a motion to close the floor to the public for comment. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Communications

Member Oberman read the communications below:

a. A donation from the Vacala family in the amount of $500.00 for the Wilson Activity Fund
b. Resignation letter from Michelle Hessler, effective June 30th, 2021.
c. Retirement letter from Deborah Smith, effective June 20th, 2021.
d. Request for unpaid leave through the remainder of the FY21 school year with a return date at the beginning of the FY22 school year from Raquel Salazar.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Member Stern, seconded by Member Oberman , a motion to approve the consent agenda items A, C, D, E, F, and G as listed in the Meeting Agenda (and below). Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Long , a motion to approve the consent agenda item B as listed in the Meeting Agenda (and below). Ayes, Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Rising, Franklin. Nays; Miller. Motion carried, 6-1.

a. Board Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on October 8, 2020
b. Resignation letter from Michelle Hessler, effective 06/30/2021
c. Retirement letter from Deborah Smith, effective 06/30/2021

d. FMLA Leave for:
    i. Ronald Kooima
    ii. Danielle Doll
    iii. Lucinda Carruthers
e. Military Leave for:
    i. Daniel Perso
f. Unpaid Leave For:
    i. Raquel Salazar, effective 11/23/2020
g. Establish Tax Levy Public Hearing date of 12/10/2020 at 6:30 pm, prior to the Regular Board meeting

Finance

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to approve the gross payroll figure for the month of October, 2020 in the amount of $929,079.16. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to approve the following pre-list of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents:

1. Pre-list dated 10/09/2020 (Voucher #1074) in the amount of $22,847.87.

Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to approve the following pre-list of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents:

1. Pre-list dated 10/20/2020 (Voucher #1083) in the amount of $299,733.17.

Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Rising, a motion to approve the following pre-list of invoices and authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the appropriate documents:

1. Pre-list dated 11/12/2020 (Voucher #1092) in the amount of $267,043.74.

Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Dr. Zotto presented an overview of the preliminary tax levy to the Board. He discussed last year's levy requested and extended amounts. He also advised that this year's total amount levied, including bond and interest is $8,133,745 with a tax rate of $8.2940 per $100, which is a 6.58% increase from the previous total tax levy extended. As this is over the 5% threshold, a public hearing is required which will be held immediately before the next regular board meeting.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Davis, a motion that the Board approve the Resolution Regarding Estimated Amounts Necessary to be Levied for the Year 2020. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Member Franklin, seconded by Member Oberman, a motion to approve the Amendment to the Agreement with Kickert School Bus Line, Inc. Ayes; Davis, Oberman, Long, Rising. Nays; Stern, Franklin, Miller. Motion carried, 4-3.

Buildings and Grounds

There was a discussion around a storage container in the back of the Intermediate building.

Teachers and Education

The enrollment Total or 1,019 students was read.

Report Card and Testing Update from Tara Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent. Ms. Lawrence informed the Board of the following:

The district has 3 commendable schools
Student mobility went from 11% to 10%
Chronic absenteeism from 27% to 14%
Student attendance from 93% to 95%
The above metrics are noted on our report card as being impacted by COVID-19
Our subgroup data stayed the same: IEP's 14%, homeless 1.3%, ELL 20%

The district did not take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) or Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) because of COVID. The district's teachers have been working hard to test their students in Math/Reading using the Renaissance STAR assessment as a benchmark to see where students are and to provide multiple tiers of support for areas of need.
The district is currently testing. A snapshot from that day's raw data was discussed: STAR Reading student growth percentile is up 2.7% from Fall 19-20 and STAR Math student growth percentile is down 0.9%. Students are continuing to test through November 20th.

A committee has been formed to adopt a new math curriculum series for the FY21 school year.

Policy

There was no report.

SCOPE

Potential budget cuts from state funding were discussed.

FOIA Report

There were not any FOIA requests since the last meeting.

Teachers and Paraprofessional Unions

Ms. Blewitt was announced as the teacher of the month.

The Teacher's Union thanked the board for keeping staff and student safety in mind when making decisions.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business - none

Discussion for the good of the School District

A discussion regarding extending remote learning through January 19, 2020 took place and it was by the Board expected that communication go out to parents/guardians and staff the following day advising of the extension of remote learning.

Dr. Zotto presented the Board members with plaques, the Board took a picture with a banner made for them, and they were thanked for their commitment and service to the students of the district.

Executive Session

Moved by Member Stern, seconded by Member Miller, a motion that the Board enter Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1), Section 2(c)(2), and Section 2(c)(9) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, and collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)(2)(9). Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.
TIME: 7:15 pm.

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Miller, a motion that the Board return to regular order of business.Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.
TIME: 7:44 pm.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Long, seconded by Member Stern, a motion that the Board adjourn. Ayes; Davis, Stern, Oberman, Long, Franklin, Rising, Miller. Nays; none. Motion carried, 7-0.
TIME: 7:48

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Board President **Board Secretary**