



PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND BOARD MEETING RECAP

September 20, 2022

School Board President's Report to the Board

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

Update on Upcoming Events

- October 2 PFA Cookbook recipe submission and cover art deadline
- October 8 PFA Fall Fest at Palos South from 12pm-4pm
- October 11 Finance and Facilities Meeting 6pm - Central
- October 18 Regular Board of Education Meeting 6:30pm – Central
- October 25 Student Outcomes and Accountability Meeting 6pm -Central
- October 28 PFA Trunk-or-Treat at Palos West from 6pm-8:30pm

RECOGNITION

The board and principals from each school building recognized the new teachers who have joined Palos 118 at the start of the 2022-23 school year. Dr. Ron Cozza, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, recognized those teachers who received tenure as well as those who earned advanced degrees. You can view the full presentation [here](#).

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Anthony Scarsella commended the school staff and administrators for their creative and fun approach to their PBIS kickoff assemblies in September. PBIS, which stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program which raises awareness of what it takes to be a positive, productive member of our Palos 118 school community. He encouraged everyone to see some of the creativity on display on the District's social media accounts.

Dr. Scarsella also noted that the Palos 118 Education Foundation held its Laps for Literature fundraiser on September 9. The event helps finance some of the unfunded needs for D118 students. He thanked Foundation President Sheila Pacholski and all of

the dedicated Foundation board members who organized this year's event and reminded everyone in attendance that they make a donation the 118 [webstore](#).

Dr. Scarsella thanked PFA President Monica Rettker and all of the PFA volunteers for organizing a welcome breakfast for teachers in August. He also recognized all of their efforts to organize fun family events for the fall including the Charlie Cardinal Stuff n' Fluff event, and the upcoming Fall Fest and the Trunk or Treat, and the District Cookbook fundraiser.

Dr. Scarsella congratulated the Palos 118 School Board members who have been awarded IASB's Board Governance Award. He noted that the board has worked to create an orientation process for newly elected board members, a new superintendent evaluation system, implementing board self-evaluation practices, creating governing commitments and engaging the community in our Portrait of a Graduate work. He said that their leadership models school board best practices.

Palos West was recognized for being named a 2022 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Scarsella said that this is a major achievement for Palos West and for the entire school District and represents the first time in over 160 years that a Palos 118 school has received national recognition. He thanked Palos West Principal Jennifer Pelouquin and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Dr. Ron Cozza for their work to complete the extensive application process and said that the award represents the District's legacy of maintaining high performing schools and providing the highest quality education for all students in all of District schools.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Education held a first reading of the following policy updates: Policies 2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board; 3:30 Chain of Command; 5:80 Court Duty; 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program; 4:70 Resource Conservation; 6:80 Teaching About Controversial Issues; 6:140 Education of Homeless Children; 6:290 Homework; 7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights; 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students.

The board held a budget hearing for the 2023 budget and voted to approve the budget following the close of the hearing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

Board Vice President Mrs. Pam Paris reported that the Policy Committee met on August 31 and reviewed PRESS Update 109 for Policies 2:230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board; 3:30 Line and Staff Relations; 5:80 Court Duty; 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program; 4:70 Resource Conservation; 6:80 Teaching About Controversial Issues; 6:140 Education of

Homeless Children; 6:290 Homework; 7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights; 7:270 Administering Medicine to Students. The Committee also reviewed Policy 2:105 Ethics and Gift Ban regarding campaigning or electioneering during public board meetings. The Committee reaffirmed the School Board Governing Commitments outlined in Exhibit E-2 to Policy 2:80. Continuing its commitment to implementing best practices in school board governance, the Committee recommended adding Exhibit E-1 to Policy 2:130 Board/Superintendent Relationship, which codifies board and superintendent expectations for communications.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Board Secretary Mr. Mike Pizur reported on the September 13 meeting of the Finance Committee where Mr. Justin Veihman, Chief School Business Official, presented the FY23 final budget. He informed the committee there were few changes since the tentative budget was presented to the committee in August. Mr. Veihman noted federal grants decreased by \$1.6 million due to the reduction in federal ESSER funding. He also indicated costs associated with mandated services like special education, English language learning, and special transportation continue to be significant cost drivers in the budget contributing to the budget's structural deficit. Mr. Pizur also noted that Mr. Veihman reported to the committee that the school district has complied with the following annual reporting of Post-Issuance Tax Compliance, Public Compensation Reports, and Shared Services Reports.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Mrs. Sheila Pacholski, Foundation president, reported that Laps for Literature was held on September 9. The event raised \$7600 with donations still being made. She congratulated Palos West on being named a 2022 Blue Ribbon School. She said that the Trivia Night fundraiser will be Feb. 4, 2023 with more details to come regarding location. She said that Board Member Dr. Tim Baker has offered to help organize the event

MUSIC PARENT ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Paris reported that the MPA met on Sep. 19 and discussed details regarding the Harvest Fest which will be held Oct. 21.

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Monica Rettker, PFA President, reported that the PFA sold 231 tickets for the Charlie Cardinal Stuff & Fluff event on Sep. 16 with 155 families in attendance. She thanked the volunteers including Palos West Teacher Marina Gallovitch, and the Jr. NHS members from Palos South. She encouraged families to submit recipes for the PFA cookbook fundraiser. She also reported that the Charleston Wrap Fundraiser will begin on Sep. 30. Fall Fest will be Oct. 8 at Palos South 12-4 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved a consent agenda which included:

- Approval Post Issuance Compliance Report
- Approval of Personnel Report A-Certified Staff-Employment of Nicole Acierno, Kindergarten, West; Brooke Heinkel, First Grade, West; FMLA of Suzanne MacLeod, Fifth Grade, West; Stephanie Molenstra, Pre-Kindergarten, West; Sarah Bahn, PLC Math Coach, East; Nicole Sokolov, First Grade, East; Resignation of Megan Djikas, Kindergarten, West.
- Approval of Personnel Report B- Classified Staff- Employment of Deanna Agnos, PT Playground, East; Eloise Wikberg, PT Playground, East; Luis Martinez, Tech Support, Central; David Charles, Bus Driver, Transportation; Resignation of Kayla Bulthuis, Paraprofessional, East; Jenna Bolz, Custodian, West; Christopher Bischof, Technology Support, South; Nina Talso Bus Driver, Transportation.
- Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 9, 2022 and Special Meeting Minutes dated August 31, 2022 and September 13, 2022.
- Authorize Payment of Payrolls, Bills Payable and Aggregate Total: \$4,035,309.48.