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Regular Board Meeting Minutes
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 98
February 24, 2022 - 6:30 PM.
Berwyn North District Office
6633 West 16th Street; Berwyn, IL 60402
Phone: (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 980 3257 4394
Passcode: 958614

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 6:16 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Member Present: Mounce, Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, and Kulis-Kearns Valeriano

Member Late: Bruno, arrived at 6:19 p.m.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Michelle Smith, Superintendent, Regina Johnson, CSBO

III. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Mounce.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. None presented for this board meeting.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Application for Waiver or Modification of State Board Rules and/or School Code Mandates.

Superintendent, Dr. Michelle Smith explained that the Waiver or Modification of State Board Rules and/or School Code Mandates will allow district staff to enroll their children in the Berwyn North School District for no tuition. Member Swade mentioned the need for a rigid and robust policy and the need to check with other school districts who have already allowed staff to enroll their children in order to address issues that may arise in the future. Member Cuevas asked for structure when it comes to teacher conferences or student disciplinary issues. Dr. Smith addressed the fact that there will be many factors to take into consideration. Also, when it comes to overcrowding and structuring programs like the dual language program where space is limited the tax payers would be given first choice. Dr. Smith opened up the forum to the community, for comments, feedback, or suggestions, none were provided by the community.

B. E-Learning Program Verification:

Superintendent Smith provided the Board and community with a breakdown of the differences between E-Learning vs. Remote Learning. Remote Learning can only be implemented in an emergency situation by order of the governor were as E-Learning can only be used to replace five emergency days. Dr. Smith again opened the forum for community comments or feedback, none were provided.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Loriann Volin, 6th grade Math Teacher addressed the Board and community in regards the teacher shortages at Lincoln Middle School. Ms. Volin expressed her concern over the loss of eight teachers from the 6th grade teams who have resigned or have been reassigned this year. Ms. Volin explained that short term substitutes do not plan lessons, attend meetings, develop curriculum or grade papers. This work has falling on the teachers that are still teaching. She is concerned that due to the lack of consistency student behavior is deteriorating. To this she expressed that the district has a surplus of specialists, she asks that the Board consider placing them back into the classrooms. Loriann expressed her worry that the district has not been able to retain or recruit teachers this year.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

A. None stated.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes - 1/27/2022
2. Executive Meeting Minutes - 1/27/2022
3. Special Meeting Minutes 2/10/2022
4. Executive Meeting Minutes 2/10/2022

B. Approval of Personnel

1. New Hires:

- a. Artura Gierald, Special Education Teacher at Havlicek Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- b. Loretta Cooper, Special Education Teacher at Lincoln Middle School for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- c. Destiny Medina, Paraprofessional at Havlicek Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- d. Robyn Palermo, Paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year.

2. Leaves: (*item 2a – denied*)

- a. Veronica Ramirez, 7th Grade Teacher at Lincoln Middle School has requested a Second Year Leave for the 2022-2023 School Year. (*denied*)
- b. Hermlinda Alvarez, Paraprofessional at Havlicek Elementary School has requested an FMLA Leave to start on February 10, 2022, and end on March 25, 2022.
- c. Kristen Harvey, Library Media Specialist at Prairie Oak Elementary School has requested an FMLA Leave to start on February 28, 2022, and end on May 27, 2022.
- d. Noreen Lally, Nurse at Prairie Oak Elementary School has requested an FMLA Leave to start on March 9, 2022, and end on April 21, 2022.

3. Resignations:

- a. Nicole Jedlowski, 6th Grade Teacher at Lincoln Middle School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective June 6, 2022.
- b. Sandro Murillo, 6th Grade ELA Teacher at Lincoln Middle School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective February 11, 2022.
- c. Jessica Lopez, Assistant Principal at Lincoln Middle School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective June 30, 2022.
- d. Annette Fuller, Nurse at Prairie Oak Elementary School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective February 7, 2022.
- e. Andrea Schuster, Science Teacher at Lincoln Middle School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective February 11, 2022.
- f. Christine Wear, Special Education Teacher has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective June 6, 2022.
- g. Robert Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent at District Office has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective June 30, 2022.

4. Retirements:

- a. Barbara Hammerand, 7th Grade Mathematics Teacher at Lincoln Middle School has submitted a letter of intent to retire effective June 6, 2022.

5. Reassignments:

- a. Angelica Moreno from a Substitute Teacher for District to a Paraprofessional at Prairie Oak Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year.

C. Approval of Building Use Applications

1. Building Use – Jefferson Elementary School – St. Leonard's, Basketball Practice – 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 3/4/2022 to 4/29/2022.

- D. Approval of Authorization of next month's payroll
 - 1. Approval of Invoices
 - 2. Approval of Monthly Payroll
 - 3. Approval of Authorization of next month's payroll

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Board approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Item A 1-4, Personnel, Items B 1-5 (Tabled - 2a), Building Use Application, Item C 1, and Finance Item D 1-3 as submitted.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval for the Application for Waiver or Modification of State Board Rules and/or School Code Mandates

APPROVAL FOR THE APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OR MODIFICATION OF STATE BOARD RULES AND/OR SCHOOL CODE

Member Kulis-Kearns Valeriano moved and was seconded by Member Paul-Emile that the Board approve the Application for Waiver or Modification of State Board Rules and/or School Code in order to allow district staff to enroll their children in the Berwyn North School District.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

- B. Approval for e-Learning Program Verification

APPROVAL FOR E-LEARNING PROGRAM VERIFICATION

Member Cuevas moved and was seconded by Member Bruno that the Board approve the E-Learning Program Verification.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

- C. Approval for Droplet Solutions for electronic documents

APPROVAL OF DROPLET SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

Member Cuevas moved and was seconded by Member Brown that the Board approve Droplet Solutions for district electronic documents.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

D. Approval for SHI VR Headset Equipment

APPROVAL FOR SHI VR HEADSET EQUIPMENT

Member Brown moved and was seconded by Member Bruno that the Board approve SHI VR Headset Equipment.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

E. Approval to the awarded contractor for Bleacher Replacement for Prairie Oak and Lincoln Middle School

APPROVAL TO THE AWARDED CONTRACTOR FOR BLEACHER REPLACEMENT FOR PRAIRIE OAK ELEMENTARY AND LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

This item has been Tabled for further discussion at the March Board Meeting.

F. Approval of the Paraeducator - 4 Year Contract for School Years 2023-2026.

APPROVAL OF THE PARAEDUCATOR – 4 YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2026.

Member Brown moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Board approve the Paraeducator – 4 Year Contract for the School Years of 2023-2026.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

G. Approval of the 2022-2023 School Calendar

APPROVAL OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Member Cuevas moved and was seconded by Member Paul-Emile that the Board approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

H. Approval of the 2022-2023 Schedule of Regular Board Meeting Dates

APPROVAL OF THE 2022-2023 SCHEDULE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES

This item has been Tabled to the March Board Meeting.

I. Board Policies - Second Read

1. 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
2. 5:220 Substitute Teachers
3. 5:250 Leaves of Absence
4. 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
5. 6:120 Education of Children with Disabilities
6. 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program
7. 6:15 School Accountability
8. 6:220 Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Program; Responsible Use and Conduct
9. 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program
10. 6:50 School Wellness

11. 6:60 Curriculum Content
12. 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
13. 7:150 Agency and Police Interviews
14. 7:160 Student Appearance
15. 7:190 Student Behavior
16. 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
17. 7:200 Suspension Procedures
18. 7:210 Expulsion Procedures
19. 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities
20. 7:250 Student Support Services
21. 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education
22. 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
23. 7:30 Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
24. 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools
25. 7:340 Student Records
26. 7:345 Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security
27. 7:60 Residence
28. 7:70 Attendance and Truancy
29. 7:80 Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance
30. 8:100 Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD POLICIES – SECOND READ

Member Brown moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Board approve the Board Policies Second Read.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

X. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Monthly Fund Report

Regina Johnson, Business Manager will present to the Board and Community the Monthly Fund Report.

B. FOIA Request

A FOIA request was received on February 7, 2022, from Mr. Espi of Local Labs with a question: "Will your school district be continuing to follow the mask mandate or allow masks to become optional?" This FOIA was completed on February 8, 2022. All staff and students will continue to wear masks.

C. Upcoming Events

March 2

School Improvement Day - Students dismiss at 11:20 a.m.

March 24

BOE Meeting - District Office - Virtual - 6:30 p.m.

March 28-April 1

Spring Break

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None stated.

XII. BOARD COMMENT

A. None stated.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Brown that the Regular Meeting of the District 98 Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session at 7:49 p.m., Thursday, February 24, 2022 for the purpose of discussing the following items:

1. 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. 5ILCS 120/2(c) (1).
2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
3. 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. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
4. 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, in which case the basis for the finding must be recorded and entered into the minutes of The closed meeting; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

MOTION TO RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Regular Meeting of the District 98 Board of Education reconvenes from Executive Session at 9:32 p.m., on Thursday, February 24, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: PERSONNEL ITEM B - 2A

Member Mounce moved and was seconded by Member Brown that that Board approve the Consent Agenda Personnel Item B – 2a for a second year leave.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: 0

Nays: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Employee discipline with possible action to follow.

EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE WITH POSSIBLE ACTION TO FOLLOW

This item was tabled for further discussion.

XV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None stated.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Member Brown moved and was seconded by Member Paul-Emile that the Regular Meeting of the District 98 Board of Education adjourn at 9:35 p.m., Thursday, February 24, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Brown, Bruno, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

Dr. Michelle Smith, Secretary

Adam R. Mounce, President

Jessica Ibarra

Visitors:

Anne Vaccaro, Dina Trekas, Janet Lee, Kristen Harvey, Linda Vander Naald, Sandra Greicius, Pam Podolner, K. Bauer, Elizabeth Moore, Taylor Ruske, Mark, Francela Lopez, Loriann Volin, Jessica Hartless, Cynthia Zuniga, Elizabeth Racanelli, Stacy Goldman, Celia Castillo, Mike Murguia, Donna Miller, Deen, Ami Balha, Barbara Hammerand, Dena Thill, Vince Cefali, Angelica, Rodriguez, Carla Anfuso, Sonia Ruiz, Margaret Turner, 5 phone unidentified attendees.