

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the small gymnasium at Northbrook Junior High School and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel for said district on Tuesday evening, February 22, 2022.

President Katz Muhl called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

DeShawn Arms
Beth Bazer
Matt Cassidy
Michelle Kohler
Mara Silver-Schack
Tracy Katz Muhl

Absent: Jennifer Gallinson.

Also present were Dr. Larry Hewitt, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official; Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Terry Ryan, Communications Director; Ramsin Israel, District Technology; Dimitri Vassilopoulos, District Technology; Ericka Garza, Meadowbrook Principal appointee; Ginny Hiltz, Greenbriar Principal; Christine Lake, NBJH Assistant-Principal; Heather Schultz, Assistant Director Student Services; Betsy Decker, Katy Wetter, Karl Smolov, Marina Smolov, Claire Jeppsen, Carolyn Caruso, Carrie Hakel, Corey Shapiro, Allen Barbier, Leslie Herbst, Agaia Mitonfu, Jeff Kaminsky, Emily Hoegler, Keri Halperin, Lisa Raju, Amber Miller, Emily Horvath, Sam Shapiro, Jennifer Roth, Betsy Barbier, Erica Marks, Paul Mayhew, Elissa Ship, Catherine Dallia, Abe and Kate Katz, Lauren Schuster, Stephanie Dougherty, Kelly Parikh, Amy Melnick, Alex Marks, Jonathan Maer, Michelle Maer, Jenny Stash, Peter Herr, Henry Herr, Jenna Ottenheimer, Jennifer Saperstein, Alice Seay, Sarah Tarabori, Kate Dillon, Julie Hochschild, Brad Hughes, Carrie Hughes, Julia Pantchev, Dohn Arms, Matt Love, Megan Esterling, Carter Esterling, Dawn Dillon, Claire Dillon, Colette O'Regan, Chanin Cutter, Beth Statkus, Clara Herr, Kathy Pleud, Pam Soper, Tracy Sarbaugh, Julia Mateja, and Melanie Pillar.

APPOINTMENT to FILL BOARD VACANCY – Action Item

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Cassidy that the Board appoint Beth Bazer to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Silver-Schack, Cassidy, Arms, Kohler, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gallinson. Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE

President Katz Muhl presided as Member Bazer recited the oath of office.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(Ratification of New Staff – Action Item)

Dr. Hewitt reviewed the hiring process for the Meadowbrook Principal. From a pool of 40 applicants, nine candidates were interviewed by Dr. Jason Pearson and Dr. Kris Raitzer, and from there, two finalists were interviewed by the staff interview team and the parent interview team. Dr. Pearson, Dr. Raitzer and Dr. Hewitt then discussed the finalists, reviewed stakeholder feedback, and determined that Ericka Garza was the right person to serve as Meadowbrook's next principal, effective July 1.

It was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Arms that the Board approve the employment agreement with Erika Garza.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Kohler, Arms, Silver-Schack, Bazer, Cassidy, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gallinson. Motion carried.

(Review of Pandemic Mitigation Strategies- Action Item)

A representative from the district's legal counsel outlined the developments that occurred in Springfield and in the Appellate Court relating to IDPH & ISBE regulations and the Governor's Executive Order requiring universal face masks in schools. He advised that the district, since it is not named in either lawsuit challenging COVID-19 mitigation measures, is legally required to follow the governor's executive order requiring masking in school until it expires on March 5. Dr. Hewitt provided an overview of the district's handling of the pandemic and guidelines that have been followed. He recommended that the board adopt March 7 for the date when the district would transition to a mask-recommended environment. The district will develop plans and work with families and staff to prepare for the transition. Dr. Hewitt noted that future masking requirements may be impacted by new legislation, court rulings etc.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

The board listened to over 60 minutes of public comment from 25 citizens on the timing of the removal of the universal masking requirement. Board members commented on the plan and the district's efforts.

It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Kohler that the Board approve the transition to a mask-recommended environment on March 7.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Cassidy, Kohler, Silver-Schack, Bazer, Arms, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gallinson. Motion carried.

(Recess 9:11 p.m. – 9:21 p.m.)

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (CONT’D)

Dr. Hewitt shared the board calendar, enrollment report, as well as the latest township and district health data.

(State of 28 Annual Report)

Dr. Hewitt presented the annual “State of 28” report that provides key information about the district using longitudinal data in several areas, including demographics, enrollment, student characteristics and finances.

(Director of Human Resources)

Dr. Hewitt presented a job description developed by administrators that will be used to seek applicants for the position of Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting minutes of January 25, 2022, and the Closed Session minutes of January 25, 2022, since members had each previously been sent copies.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Silver-Schack, Cassidy, Kohler, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: Member Bazer. Absent: Member Gallinson. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

(Payroll – last half January 2022 and first half of February 2022)

the payment of employee salaries for the last half of January 2022, in the amount of \$ 1,170,434.92 and covered by check numbers 65991 through 66010, and deduction

check numbers 66011 through 66028, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated February 22, 2022;

the payment of employee salaries for the first half of February 2022, in the amount of \$ 1,225,689.74 and covered by check numbers 66029 through 66049, and deduction check numbers 66050 through 66058, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated February 22, 2022;

(Bills)

vendor invoices totaling \$669,171.69 and Warrants listed as Numbers 58068 through 58254, and with the following voids: 57752, 57913, 57995 and 58003, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated February 22, 2022.

(Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Resignations, Job Shares)

New Hires

Anjelica Ortiz	WM	Kidcare	\$14/hr.
----------------	----	---------	----------

Leaves

Katie Schmitt	MB	2nd Grade Teacher
---------------	----	-------------------

Resignations

Jennifer Clark	NBJH	8 th Grade Language Arts
Jodi Lopata	NBJH	Aide (eff. 6/1/22)
Betsy Decker	GB	Kindergarten
Cari Shamberg	GB	Kindergarten
Christine Sobczak	GB	1 st Grade

Part-time Job Shares

Brittany Farris	MB	1 st gr. Teacher
Terese Rick	MB	1 st gr. Teacher
Jodi Siglin	GB	1st gr. Teacher
Christine Sobczak	GB	1st gr. Teacher
Betsy Decker	GB	Kindergarten
Cari Shamberg	GB	Kindergarten

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Cassidy, Silver-Schack, Bazer, Arms, Kohler, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gallinson.

Motion carried.

FINANCE
(Financial Report)

Chief School Business Official Jessica Donato provided the monthly financial report, including updates on food service sales, preliminary insurance premium rates for health, dental and vision, and local, state and federal requirements.

It was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Silver-Schack to approve the financial report as presented.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Kohler, Silver-Schack, Bazer, Cassidy, Arms, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gallinson. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS and GROUNDS
(Meadowbrook/Greenbriar HVAC Project Bid – Action Item)

A bid opening was held on January 27, 2022 for the installation portion of the HVAC project. The district's architect Wight and Company is recommending Helm Mechanical as the lowest responsible bidder.

It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Arms that the Board approve the Meadowbrook/Greenbriar HVAC Project Bid from Helm Mechanical in the amount of \$301,800 and authorize the superintendent and/or his designee to execute a contract on behalf of the district.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Cassidy, Arms, Kohler, Silver-Schack, Bazer, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gallinson. Motion carried.

TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804

Member Silver-Schack reported that a District 28 student was featured in the cooperative's newsletter and was also present at the recent board meeting. The co-op is working through the law changes related to COVID mitigation and are continuing to work on filling vacant teacher aide positions.

Legislation

Member Cassidy reported there is a lot going on at the committee level for the state. There is no official update on when districts can expect fall property tax receipts. There is a bill in the Illinois House focusing on mental health leave for teachers who are vaccinated.

Communication

Communications Director Terry Ryan reported a new parent program will be offered on April 20 via Zoom with a nationally recognized author Michelle Icard presenting “14 Talks before Age 14.”

Mrs. Ryan also reported on the response rates of Illinois 5Essentials survey, which closes March 11 and shared analytics for the district communications channels and engagement on the mobile app, which was launched one year ago.

(FOIA)

There were three FOIA requests filed and responded to last month.

STANDING COMMITTEES

(SAF)

The SAF minutes from the January 26, 2022 meeting were provided as information.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

(In)

At 9:56 p.m., it was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Arms that the Board of Education go into Closed Session to discuss the following:

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in an educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), and
2. Student disciplinary cases as authorized by 5 ILCS 120/29(c)(9), and
3. 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. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

On a roll call vote, the following members voted Aye: Members Kohler, Arms, Silver-Schack, Bazer, Cassidy and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gallinson. Motion carried.

(Out)

At 10:31 p.m., it was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Kohler that the Board return to open session.

On a roll call vote, the following members voted Aye: Members Cassidy, Kohler, Arms, Silver-Schack, Bazer, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Member Gallinson. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:32 p.m., it was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the meeting adjourn.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Gallinson, Secretary

Tracy Katz Muhl, President