

**MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD MINUTES  
MARCH 15, 2023**

**Kind of Meeting:** Budget Workshop / Executive Session  
**Place of Meeting:** Miller Place High School  
**Time of Meeting:** 7:00 P.M.

**Those Present:**

Board President:	Ms. Lisa Reitan
Board Vice President:	Mr. Bryan Makarius
Board Trustee:	Ms. Andrea Spaniolas
Board Trustee:	Ms. Johanna Testa
Superintendent of Schools:	Mr. Seth Lipshie
Assistant Superintendent:	Ms. Susan Craddock
School Business Official:	Ms. Colleen Card
Executive Director for Educational Services:	Ms. Sandra Wojnowski
Director of Human Resources	Mr. Christopher J. Herrschaft
District Clerk	Ms. Patricia Morbillo

**Those Absent:**

Board Trustee: Mr. Keith Frank

**PLEASE NOTE: THE MINUTES, AS WRITTEN, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL RECORD UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT THE MARCH 29, 2023, BUSINESS MEETING.**

**A. PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Ms. Reitan called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. She announced that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be posted to the District website in a few days.
2. Ms. Reitan reviewed the Emergency Procedures.

**B. RECOGNITION**

**1. Recognition of Veterans**

Ms. Reitan acknowledged the veterans and their families present at the meeting.

**2. Recognition of Media**

There was no media present at the meeting.

**C. BUDGET WORKSHOP PRESENTATION**

Ms. Card gave her second presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the 2023-24 school year. She reviewed budget schedules, enrollment history, updated class size information, UPK, occupational education, state aid ratios, tax levy cap history and cap calculation, summary revenue and expenditure information. She also provided detailed categorical expense analysis by general support services, instructional program services,

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transportation services, and undistributed. She elaborated that this is a budget that takes into account the overall enrollment while still being cognizant of the special populations (e.g., students with disabilities, 504 students, plans, free and reduced students, English language learners) within the overall enrollment. She noted that the projected elementary class size slide had been updated with 2 additional elementary sections for next year based on projected savings from additional projected retirement savings. She noted that the proposed budget is within the state prescribed tax levy limit formula. Ms. Card reviewed upcoming budget dates and stated that the next Budget Workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, during the regular Business Meeting. She reminded everyone that all of the budget information is posted on the District website under the Business Office department section for easy access and review including the line-by-line budget document.

Ms. Card asked the board if they had questions about the presentation. Several questions were about class sizes pre-covid (which were higher class sizes) to post covid (lower class sizes) which will still be lower to pre-covid. Another question focused on the decision not to add a gifted and talented (differentiated instruction) and related estimated costs to institute a new program which is the reason the Superintendent is not recommending moving forward with a new program. Mr. Lipshie stated he is trying to have a fiscally responsible budget and not add new programs that the District might not be able to sustain in future years. Several questions focused on specific budget line and detailed information was provided.

Ms. Card reminded everyone that the special federal funded programs were never included in the general fund budget and are accounted for / audited separately. Mr. Lipshie also reminded everyone that the District/Community has benefitted from the \$3 million of COVID funding over the past two years. The District cannot take on these additional COVID caused expenses permanently. Specifically, a question was asked about, guidance counselors and psychologists and whether these were included in COVID hires (federal funds) which they were not. The SCOPE behavior counselors are the only impact, and each building next year will have two behavior counselors per building.

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card answered questions and listened to community member statements about the proposed budget. The questions included the following topics: academic outcomes, professional development, the higher rigor/issue with the new reading program, number of teacher retirements to date (ten), debt service, COVID hires contracts ending and potential rehiring of COVID hires for teachers retiring, testing scores due to pandemic impact, budget passing and budget passing rates, cost of budget revote (estimated at \$15-20 thousand), transportation budget, routing and the transportation request for proposal, contingency budget and impact on the school, piercing the tax levy cap, cause and effect of class sizes not necessarily correlated with expectations, and that during COVID online teaching cannot replace teachers in person.

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**D. MOVEMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting to move into Executive Session for matters concerning specific personnel and specific legal.

Mr. Makarius moved, seconded by Ms. Spaniolas to adjourn the meeting to move into Executive Session for matters concerning specific personnel and specific legal at 8:13 P.M.

**Yes 4; No 0; Motion Carried**

The board immediately took a break and then resumed the executive session at 8:55 P.M. at the District Office.

**E. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

The board moved back to public session at 11:09 P.M. and Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to immediately adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Spaniolas moved, seconded by Mr. Makarius to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 P.M.

**Yes 4; No 0; Motion Carried**

Respectively Submitted by: Ms. Patricia Morbillo, District Clerk