

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 27  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Meeting of 11/16/23	The Regular Meeting of November 16, 2023 of the Board of Education, School District 27 was called to order at 6:30 p.m., in the Wood Oaks Commons, 1250 Sanders Road, in said district.
-----------------------------	---

**Regular Meeting at 6:30 pm**  
**Wood Oaks Commons**

Board President Melissa Copeland called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Roll Call      On call of the roll, the following members were present:

Present:        Mrs. Melissa Copeland, President  
                    Mr. Matthew Basinger, Vice President  
                    Mr. Opi Akuffo  
                    Mrs. Martha Carlos  
                    Dr. Gali Oren-Amit (arrived at 6:33pm)  
                    Mr. Daniel Terrien (arrived at 6:30pm)  
                    Mr. Jack Waddle

Staff:            Dr. John Deiter, Superintendent  
                    Dr. Kimberly Rio, Assistant Superintendent  
                    Dr. Katharine Olson, Assistant Superintendent  
                    Dr. Rob McElligott, Director of Human Resources

Absent:         None

Student Presentation - Shabonee STEM Club

Dr. John Panozzo introduced the five members of the STEM Club, the students explained and presented their robots. The club meets for five weeks per session before school; sessions are offered all year long.

Community Comments for Items on the Agenda - No Public Comment.

1. Board Reports

- Report on True North Leadership Council held on November 15, 2023

Mr. Basinger reported that a lot of information was covered during the last meeting, including an auditing report and TrueNorth's safety plan. He provided Professional Learning Course catalogs from #804 for the Board members. Discussion continued regarding the TrueNorth collective bargaining process that is underway.

2. Staff Reports

- Report on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report 2022-23

Ms. Susan Jones from Miller Cooper discussed the report for the Board of Education, it includes the narrative, financial information and 10 years of history. Once it has been approved, it will be posted on the district website. Each district is required by code to have an independent audit by June 30th. The Northbrook 27 rating for their AFR is Recognition, this is the highest of the four rating categories. Having a good rating is the best way to obtain an optimal interest rating for any bond financing that may be needed in the future.

- Presentation of the Tentative Tax Levy 2023

Dr. Kimberly Rio, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations reviewed the process and timeline for the tax levy. The District's financial position, current economic indicators, property tax extension laws (PTELL) and potential residential and commercial developments were all explained and how these factors in tandem with the rate of inflation, consumer price index, and the local and state revenue sources received affects and relates to the planned District annual budget and the tax levy. The tentative tax levy is scheduled for a public hearing on December 7 and will then be listed on the December 21 agenda requesting Board Member approval.

Upon returning from Winter Break, work will continue on repair items listed on the Ten-year Health Life Safety report as well as planned improvements for the Wood Oaks and Hickory Point parking lots. Options for additional space at all three schools will be revisited as well.

- Report on the November 10 PD Day

Dr. Katharine Olson, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction reviewed the staff professional development conducted on November 10th. The first PD had 45 unique sessions. All staff members started the day in a DEI session organized by building. The first set of social justice standards were rolled out to staff, there are four domains. Identity, Diversity, Justice, Action.

Many staff members attended a student engagement session led by Lauren Porosoff the author of Authentic Engagement; Ms. Porosoff will return for the January PD session.. In addition, department, grade level and technology sessions were also attended. The DEI staff committee also met on November 16 to debrief on the DEI professional development and planned the upcoming work in January.

- Update on DEI Initiatives

Dr. Deiter informed the Board about some of the DEI work that is being done as part of the effort to promote cultural proficiency, as well as creating and sustaining a welcoming and inclusive school community. Shabonee school has created a website where students are invited to participate in extracurricular activities. On November 1, Native American Heritage Month began following Hispanic Heritage month. Several posters have been displayed throughout the schools and activities are underway in each building.

The parent DEI committee met for the first time this year on November 14 and administrators were able to share the updated social justice standards with that group. There is also ongoing work during the teacher institute days and the staff DEI group continues to meet. A student committee will soon be reassembled at Wood Oaks.

- Announce the Wood Oaks Graduation on May 30, 2024, 5:00 PM at Glenbrook North

Dr. Deiter confirmed that in order to hold the ceremony at the North campus the earlier time was selected for this year, the following year it will be back to the later time. The earlier time slot will be shared multiple times from now until graduation.

### Consent Agenda

Board President Mrs. Copeland called for Review of the Consent Agenda items.

### OCTOBER 2023 MONTH END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Akuffo read the financial report.

The District remains in a stable financial position. However, we must be reminded that the 2022 second installment tax collections have yet to be received. Tax bills are due December 1, so we anticipate tax collections to be accounted for during the month of November.

As a reminder, property tax collections are the District's main source of revenue, as the District utilizes fund balance reserve for the months of September through January and April through June to cover regular operating expenses. We continue to monitor the cumulative fund balance reserve. As of the end of October, the closing fund balance reserve is at \$10.6M or 32%.

On the revenue side of the budget, the majority of the receipts recorded are school fee collections and state and federal grant program receipts. We will wait to update the property tax collection rate once we have a regular collection cycle.

On the expenditure side of the budget, there is no unfavorable budget to actual line items to report.

We report on property tax refunds once we have a regular property tax collection cycle.

On the Statement of Investments, the average rate of return for the month end September was 5.32%. This is good; however, we do not have a regular investment cycle as impacted by the delay in property tax collections. As investments mature, we are keeping dollars liquid to maintain cash flow and pay regular bills (payroll and payables). We will return to a normal investment cycle once property tax collections are stable.

Upon review Mr. Terrien moved and Mrs. Carlos seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the items on the consent agenda with a roll call vote as listed below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Martha Carlos, Melissa Copeland, Dr. Gali Oren-Amit, Daniel Terrien, Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, and Jack Waddle.

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

- No. 19947** Approval of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2023
- No. 19948** Approval of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2023
- No. 19949** Approval of the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2023
- No. 19950** Approval of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2023
- No. 19951** Approval of the Wood Oaks Musical and Budget

3. Personnel Transactions - Employment/Dismissal/Evaluation/Resignation/Leave of Absence/Compensation  
None Scheduled

4. Financial Reports

**No. 19952** Statement of Claims for November, 2023 in the amount of \$1,124,327.19 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

**No. 19953** Statement of BMO Claims for November, 2023 in the amount of \$16,511.56 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

**No. 19954** Statement of Position for October, 2023 in the amount of \$10,674,242.98 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

Copies of the Statement of Investments for the period ending October, 2023 were distributed to Board members for their review. This report shows that as of this date, the district has \$10,594,606.07 invested in funds that are earning interest at rates that range from 2.65 to 5.52 percent. This report was made part of the official minutes.

**No. 19955** Statement of Receipts for October, 2023 in the amount of \$375,661.13 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

**No. 19956** Status of Appropriations for October, 2023 in the amount of \$2,915,276.04 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

**No. 19957** Wood Oaks Activity Report, October, 2023 in the amount of \$22,654.59 was approved and the report was made part of the official minutes.

**No. 19958** Payroll Dated October 31, 2023, in the amount of \$959,901.22 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

**No. 19959** Payroll Dated November 15, 2023, in the amount of \$934,101.19 be ratified and that the report was made part of the official minutes.

5. **No. 19960** Acceptance of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for 2022-23

Unfinished Business - None Scheduled

New Business

**No. 19961** Approval of the Tentative Tax Levy 2023

Mr. Waddle moved and Mr. Terrien seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve Tentative Tax Levy 2023 as presented with a roll call vote as listed below.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Martha Carlos, Melissa Copeland, Dr. Gali Oren-Amit, Daniel Terrien, Opi Akuffo, Matthew Basinger, and Jack Waddle.

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Good and Welfare - Mr. Basinger stated that he was in Wood Oaks recently to attend a concert and all of the new posters are really nice to see.

Community Comments - No comment

Superintendent Comments / Update

Dr. Deiter wished the Board Members a Happy School Board Member day!

Two of our schools received external recognition, the Illinois state school report card listed Shabonee and Hickory Point as exemplary. Wood Oaks is listed as commendable, their benchmark is measured on growth. Based on achievement data Wood Oaks is listed in the top ten percent in the state. This week US News and World report released their ranking and it has Wood Oaks listed as the twelfth in the state and Shabonee

was listed as number 16 for elementary schools. Niche rated us as an A+ district and reported Wood Oaks as number five in the state and Shabonee was ranked number four. It is great to see the outside validation of our district's continued efforts and progress by both students and staff.

All of the ratings on our Annual Financial Report were top marks, which is a testament to the work of our staff members behind the scenes to make that happen. In addition, the 45 sessions provided during the recent professional development day were coordinated by Dr. Olson and her staff.

Dr. McElligott has launched a staff recognition effort called Thumbs up Thursday and it has been going well. Many staff members have been participating in recognizing their peers for going above and beyond every day. Kudos to our hardworking staff!

Closed Session - None scheduled

**No. 19962** Motion to Adjourn the Open Board Meeting.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Board at this time Mr. Basinger moved and Mr. Terrien seconded the motion that the Open meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken, all in favor.

The motion was unanimously approved, and Board President Melissa Copeland called the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY

**MINUTES APPROVED ON 12/21/2023**