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The following items are contained in the February 21, 2024 Work Session Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
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6. Adjournment

The Work Session Meeting of the Margate City Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 P.M. on February 21, 2024 by President, Mr. Joseph Pepe, at the William H. Ross III School third floor board conference room.

Certification of Notice:

Melina Skwarek, Board Secretary, announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and read the following Certification Notice:

On May 20, 2023, a notice of this meeting was posted on the district's website, the bulletin board in the Margate Board of Education Administration Office, the William H. Ross III School, the Eugene A. Tighe School, and emailed to the City Clerk and "The Press."

Roll Call - Members Present: Mr. Joseph Pepe, President; Mr. Jack Sorensen, Vice President; Mr. James Swift (Arrived at 6:05 p.m.); Mrs. Shannon Wray-Norris (Arrived at 6:05 p.m); Mr. Nicholas Palmisano  
Members Absent: Mrs. Amy Brog; Mrs. Gomes-Chapman; Mr. Clete Schwegman  
Others Present: Mrs. Audrey Becker, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Melina Skwarek, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; Mrs. Bonnie Marino, Principal; Mr. Ryan Gaskill, Principal

Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

New Business:

A) School Calendar for 2024-2025.

Mrs. Becker shared that a preliminary has been prepared and may be ready for approval at the March 2024 meeting. There was discussion of adjusting the calendar to include a break in the month of February. The idea will be put before staff to create discussion regarding the suggestion.

B) Update on the status of the 2024-2025 proposed budget.

Mrs. Becker began the conversation regarding the upcoming budget stating that there had been much time and dedication supporting the upcoming budget. The District goal is to continue to maintain a fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers and other stakeholders, while maintaining all staff and programs. Mrs. Becker also commented that we were coming close to the final liquidation period for the ESSER funding and the impact this will have on the upcoming fiscal year.

Mrs. Skwarek provided additional details of the revenue sources and how they may be impacted for the 2024-2025 FY. She also reviewed anticipated enrollment projections, including anticipated Longport students and parent-paid tuition students. She reviewed the tax levy rates and the projected revenue for

New Business (Continued):

the upcoming budget period. As requested by the City of Margate, the District will plan to maintain the 0.2686 local tax levy rate. Mrs. Skwarek reviewed the anticipated expenditures and highlighted some key areas that are either subject to change over the next few weeks, or have seen a significant increase or decrease in the upcoming budget. Overall, the District is anticipating a 3.35% decrease in the total operating budget for the 2024-2025 FY.

Mr. Sorensen commented on the need to reach out to the local preschools and the families with children enrolled in the local preschools. He added that the District needs to sell its programs to these parents to encourage enrollment within the district.

There was a brief discussion regarding the much needed lighting project upgrades for the PAC. The conversation centered around the urgency of the project and the lack of funding available to support a large endeavor within the facility. Suggestions to reach out to local families, businesses, and organizations for donations was the highlight of the discussion. The District Business Office and IT Coordinator will continue to work with vendors to better understand the needs of the facility and what the initial and overall costs may be. Once the initial scope of work documentation has been received the Board will meet to strategize and develop a course of action that is best for the district.

The next Board of Education meeting will be on March 6, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the Tighe Media Center.

The Board of School Estimates meeting will be held on March 25, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mrs. Wray-Norris seconded by Mr. Sorensen, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melina Skwarek  
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator