

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28  
HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the HOH Conference room in said district on Tuesday evening, March 12, 2024, and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel.

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

DeShawn Arms  
Beth Bazer  
Christine Beeftink  
Matt Cassidy  
Jennifer Gallinson  
Mara Silver-Schack

Absent: Adam Weinstock

Also present were Dr. Jason Pearson, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official; Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Terry Ryan, Communications Director; Chrissy Yonaites, Recording Secretary; Ramsin Israel, Tech Specialist; Dimitri Vassilopoulos, Tech Specialist; Judi Epcke, Technology Coordinator, Kerri Edwards, Union Representative; Meadowbrook Staff Maggie McElvain and Pam Robison.

Public Attendees: Kate Sweas, Drew McElvain and Kristine Lewis.

## **VISITORS COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS**

A PTO parent spoke about class sizes. A Meadowbrook teacher spoke about the class sizes and communication issues.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### Strategic Plan Updates

Dr. Pearson mentioned that there is another meeting on March 14. After this meeting, a community survey will be conducted to gather public input and refine goals and strategies. The plan will be brought to the Board for approval in late spring.

### Student Services Opportunity Review

Dr. Pearson presented the Student Services Opportunity Review contract with DM Group to the Board. He noted that the district continues to receive feedback on staffing and levels of student needs. He discussed that a systematic study from an outside firm

will allow the district to understand what the district is doing well and possible areas of improvement.

DM group was selected based on past history of working with them in a former district and they have experience working with similar districts like Highland Park, Deerfield and other suburban on the East Coast.

Dr. Pearson noted that the contract is under the consent agenda. The work would begin in the spring, with results and recommendations in early summer. The total cost of the proposal is \$85,000, half of which would be funded with grant money.

#### Director of Technology

Dr. Pearson introduced Maria Stavropoulos to the Board noting her past work experiences. She will start on July 1, 2024 with a one year contract.

It was moved by Member Bazer and seconded by Member Beeftink that the Board of Education approve the contract for the Director of Technology with Maria Stavropoulos.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Bazer that the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024, since members had each previously been sent copies.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Bazer, Beeftink, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: Members Arms and Cassidy. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Student Services Opportunity Review- Pulled**

This contract was pulled from the consent agenda for further consideration and will be voted on at the next board meeting.

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

#### **Payroll**

The payment of employee salaries for the second half of February 2024, in the amount of \$1,786,488.25 and covered by check numbers 67551 through 67563 and deduction

check numbers 67564 through 67583 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 March 12, 2024.

**Bills**

Vendor invoices totaling \$180,494.57 and Warrants listed as Numbers 62427 through 62500, and the following voids: 62157, 202300412, 202300435 confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated March 12, 2024.

**Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Resignations and Dismissals**

| <b>Staff Recommended for Employment</b> |                        |                 |               |                       |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                             | <b>Position</b>        | <b>Location</b> | <b>Salary</b> | <b>Effective Date</b> |
| Maria Stavropoulos                      | Director of Technology | District-wide   | \$130,000     | 7/1/24                |

\* Certified Candidate details below

| <b>Staff Resignations, Retirements and / or Terminations</b> |                                   |                 |               |                       |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Position</b>                   | <b>Location</b> | <b>Reason</b> | <b>Effective Date</b> |
| Marina Carniel   | Special Educ Asst.                | NBJH            | Resignation   | 3/12/24               |
| Lexie Garay  | District Health Assistant         | NBJH/MB         | Resignation   | 3/31/24               |
| Lisa Chapon  | S/L Pathologist - Young Explorers | WM              | Resignation   | 6/4/24                |
| Sophia Nudelman  | Social Worker                     | WM              | Resignation   | 6/4/24                |
| Katie Coogan   | Classroom Assistant               | MB              | Retirement    | 6/4/24                |

| <b>Staff Leave of Absence</b> |
|-------------------------------|
|-------------------------------|

| <b>Name</b>         | <b>Position</b>      | <b>Location</b> | <b>Reason</b>                   | <b>Effective Date</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ariana Mazza Bensyl | Physical Therapist   | MB              | Parent Leave                    | 3/21/2024             |
| Mary Claire Fuchs   | Mathematics Teacher  | NBJH            | Child Care Leave 2024-25        | 8/19/2024             |
| Vasiliki Karabatsos | Multilingual Teacher | Greenbriar      | Unpaid Leave of Absence 2024-25 | 8/19/2024             |
| Kristin Cash        | Technology Coach     | Greenbriar      | Parent Leave                    | 8/19/2024             |

| <b>Background Data on Certified Staff Recommended for Employment</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Name</b>  | <b>Maria Stavropoulos</b>  |
| <b>License</b>   | General Administrative (Kindergarten through Grade 12); Technology Specialist (K-4 & 5-8); Elementary Education (Kindergarten through Grade 9)   |
| <b>Education</b>   | Master's Degree, Roosevelt University, Teacher Leadership & Organizational Development; Bachelor's Degree, Elmhurst College, Elementary Education & Teaching   |
| <b>Experience</b>  | Learning Technology Supervisor, Township High School District 214, 7/2022 - present; Director of Technology, Prospect Heights School District 23, 6/2016 - 6/2022; Teaching, Learning and Technology Coordinator, Prospect Heights School District 23, 7/2014 - 6/2016 |

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

## **STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE**

#### **eRate Contracts**

Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official, presented three eRate contracts for approval. Northbrook School District 28 participates in the Federal eRate program, which provides discounts to schools and libraries for internet and voice services. She provided an overview of the work that is included in each contract as there was a comprehensive memo included in the packet.

Ms. Donato explained that the existing wireless access points are at the end of their useful life and new technology is superior. The district also needs cabling work to move the fiber to a new server room location due to the need for increased bandwidth. Lastly, Ms. Donato noted the need for a new firewall device again for the preparation of increasing the district's bandwidth.

Each contract was voted on separately below.

#### **Contract with CDW-G for eRate Firewall**

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Cassidy that the Board of Education approve the CDW-G contract for the eRate firewall.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

#### **Contract with CDW-G for eRate Wireless Access Points and UPS**

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Beeftink that the Board of Education approve the CDW-G contract for eRate Wireless Access Points and UPS.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

#### **Contract with Total Infrastructure Solutions for eRate Infrastructure Project**

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Bazer that the Board of Education approve the Total Infrastructure Solutions contract for eRate Infrastructure Project.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services noted that the Stipend Committee met last week, the Joint Insurance Committee is meeting next week and the Plan Time Committee will meet the following week.

### **STUDENT SERVICES**

No updates.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

No updates.

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

### **Facility Master Plan Update**

Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official, presented a 10-year Master Facilities Plan. She reviewed the plan, which includes items that have been prioritized as projects that help ensure buildings are functional. These projects total \$19.7 million, which the district will be able to fund. Ms. Donato noted that they eliminated \$3.7 million in work that was redundant or less of a priority.

For the remaining \$56 million of outlined work, the Board will have a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the projects in more detail. Additionally, the district does not have the budget for these projects and the Board will need to discuss alternative funding sources to execute these potential projects.

### **Summer Projects**

Ms. Donato provided the Board with information on the proposed summer work projects in addition to the materials shared in the board packet. There were five individual projects under consideration for the Board approval. All these projects align with the facility master plan work items.

Three sections of the Greenbriar roof need replacement and the proposal received came in less than the estimated cost in the Master Plan.

A rooftop HVAC unit for Greenbriar and a smaller unit at Westmoor. Greenbriar's current HVAC unit requires continued maintenance and the additional unit at Westmoor will address a current issue in Room 105.

The gym floors at Greenbriar and Northbrook Junior High need to be refinished.

Ms. Donato also presented the last two approval items as costs to not exceed in lieu of a contract. This is because the bidding process is not yet complete but would like the Board to authorize the work to continue to stay on track for completion over the summer. The Greenbriar front office will be reconfigured to create two offices and the office workspaces at the district office will be reconfigured along with updates to the HOH Community room.

### **GB Roof Replacement - Tremco Contract**

It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Bazer that the Board of Education approve the Tremco Contract for the GB roof replacement.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

### GB & NBJH Gym Floor Refinishing - Consolidated Flooring Contract

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Bazer that the Board of Education approve the Consolidated Flooring Contract to refinish the GB and NBJH Gym floors.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

### GB & WM Rooftop Unit Replacements - Thermosystems Contract

It was moved by Member Beeftink and seconded by Member Bazer that the Board of Education approve the Thermosystems contract for the GB and WM rooftop unit replacements.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

### District Office Project not to exceed

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Bazer that the Board of Education approve the proposal for the District office project to not exceed \$150,000.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

### Greenbriar Office Project not to exceed

It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the proposal for the Greenbriar office project to not exceed \$100,000.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

## **LEGISLATION**

Member Cassidy updated the Board that while not yet passed, the State is looking to develop a new agency called Department of Early Childhood. If passed, there could be some impact to schools such as oversight and operational changes.

Member Cassidy also mentioned Governor Pritzker recently presented his proposed budget which includes significant increases in educational funding.

## **POLICY**

## **Policy- Final Reading and Adoption**

Edward Brophy reminded the Board that the final version of the updated board policy will be used for the new online format of the board policy. Once established, the new format will be publicized. Additionally, the final version is shared with the union and optional meetings will be offered allowing staff to ask questions regarding the policies.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Cassidy that the Board of Education approve the Policy as presented.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Terry Ryan, Communications Director, provided an update on feedback on strategic planning noting that they received good feedback from the community survey.

NBJH Science Research Students received the Division C Champion Trophy. 26 of the 34 students participating in the program qualified for the state fair which takes place on May 4.

NBJH Musical performances were taking place this week.

There were three FOIA requests this month.

## **TRUENORTH EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE 804**

Member Beeftink noted there was no February meeting. There is a meeting on March 13. She will provide an update at the April Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

In

At 8:18 p.m., it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education go into Closed Session to discuss the following:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity as authorized by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).



- 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 voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy, Gallinson and Silver-Schack. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

Out

At 9:31p.m, it was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Cassidy that the meeting return to Regular Session.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:32 p.m., it was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Bazer that the meeting be adjourned. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Member Weinstock. Motion carried.

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Beth Bazer, Secretary

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Jennifer Gallinson, President