

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

January 25, 2021

The video of the January 25, 2021 meeting can be found here:
[January 25, 2021, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:45 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: John Devereux, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Eva, Porter, Donna Smith, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr.

Ms. Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body'' collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes or employees; review of closed session minutes; and individual student matters.

The motion was made at 6:47 p.m. by Ms. Noland, and seconded by Mrs. Porter. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

A motion was made at 6:57 p.m. by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Noland, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The public business session began at 7:00 p.m.

Present in-person for the business session were Superintendent Tony Sanders. The Board members listed above, Chief Legal Officer Miguel Rodriguez, and student Board member Olivia Howell participated in the meeting virtually via Zoom. The following administrators were also present via Zoom: Steve Burger, Dr. Josh Carpenter, Ann Chan, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Dr. Jeff King, Dr. Teresa Lance, Lela Majstorovic, Dr. Ushma Shah, Sheila Downs, Mary Fergus, John Heiderscheidt, Brian Lindholm, and Bruce Phelps. Also present for the meeting via Zoom were other administrators and members of the public.

Ms. Kerr noted that Covid-19 Executive Order 71, which extends modifications to the Open Meetings Act and permits public bodies to meet remotely through electronic means, is still in effect.

Ms. Kerr led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comments

Jose Rosa, a teacher in U-46, stated that the current hybrid model is an equity issue disproportionately affecting the Hispanic community. Mr. Rosa noted that classrooms are empty, as the majority of the Hispanic community has decided to keep their students at home because they do not feel safe. Mr. Rosa questioned which student population the district is serving with this model.

Scott Sternal, Vice President of the ETA, stated that many teachers, including himself, do not feel valued by the District. Mr. Sternal stated that many teachers do not feel heard or adequately prepared, particularly in the areas of contract tracing, use of sick time, and ADA/FMLA accommodations. Mr. Sternal stated that 42 teachers have been denied accommodations, and were not provided with clear reasoning as to why. Mr. Sternal stated his own accommodation was denied, and that his wife and child have had to move to a different residence because of his wife's health condition. Mr. Sternal questioned the District's treatment of its staff and the dismissal of their concerns.

2. Other Business – Board Member and Superintendent Update, If Necessary

A. Additional Information

Olivia Howell stated that today was her first day back in school as a student since March 2020. Ms. Howell stated that all safety protocols were followed, and that as a student, she felt safe at school. Ms. Howell thanked everyone for their hard work in making the return to in-person instruction possible.

Ms. Owens stated that she wanted to give a shout out to Dr. Lance, who facilitated a session discussing racism, that Ms. Owens attended last week. Ms. Owens stated it was a great conversation. Ms. Owens also stated she wanted to give a shout out to Specialized Student Services who gave a great presentation last Tuesday and provided a number of resources and outside supports for children with special needs.

Ms. Noland stated that Saturday's Board self-evaluation was incredibly helpful, and that IASB facilitated a great discussion.

Ms. Kerr congratulated Mr. Sanders for receiving the Kishwaukee 2020-2021 Superintendent of Distinction award. Ms. Kerr also thanked all Board members for their participation in the Board self-evaluation meeting this past Saturday. Ms. Kerr noted there are plans for a special meeting to discuss the strategic plan in the near future

Mr. Sanders stated that he could not thank teachers enough for their efforts in returning to in-person instruction, and that it has been a joy to see students following safety protocols. Mr. Sanders noted that a safe return to schools would not have been possible without all of the committee work that took place, and that he was very appreciative of everyone's time and efforts.

Ms. Kerr stated that the Board is aware of teacher concerns in returning to in-person instruction, and that the Board is appreciative of all staff. Ms. Kerr stated that if issues arise, teachers should speak with administration to come to a resolution. Ms. Kerr stated the Board also hears from parents who are concerned about students not being in the classroom enough, and that it is a difficult balance to strike.

B. FOIA Requests

Mr. Sanders stated there was one (1) FOIA request that the District has responded to since the previous Board meeting, and the response is available on the Board book and would be made available on the District's website.

C. Presentation by ETA President Barb Bettis (ETA Requested Item)

Ms. Bettis, Elgin Teachers Association President, requested time on the Board Agenda pursuant to Section 2.52 of the Elgin Agreement. Ms. Bettis stated that she wanted to clarify what happened at the Board meeting on 1/11, and that it was not her intention to not be shown on the Zoom video when she was presenting. Ms. Bettis stated that the collaboration between ETA and the District has been strong in many areas since March 2020, as there have been approximately 8-10 subcommittees that ETA members have been involved in. Ms. Bettis stated that at the 1/11 Board meeting, she was referencing ETA's minimal involvement in the safety plan specifically. Ms. Bettis stated that it is vital that ETA plays a role as the District moves forward, and that ETA is asking for true collaboration. Ms. Bettis stated that ETA leadership is ready to begin having these conversations tomorrow, as they are in buildings now. Ms. Bettis stated that some concerns include the sharing of data - including disclosing the number of students in the building and the true percentage of students and families who are not completing self-certification before entering the school. Ms. Bettis stated that without data, ETA cannot have an honest discussion of the hybrid system. Ms. Bettis stated that two topics that remain unclear are related to contract tracing and sick leave. Ms. Bettis stated that she met with administration today to discuss these issues, but teachers are still reporting to work without clear procedures in place. Ms. Bettis stated that not having these items clearly communicated adds to teacher stress and to their feelings of distrust.

3. Consent Agenda – Mr. Sanders

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting – January 11, 2021
- C. Termination of Maricela Baeza Arroya - Food Service Technician
- D. Termination of Daniel Skaggs - Maintenance
- E. Contract Renewal - Assessment - Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
- F. Contract Renewal - Business Services/Financial Operations - Employee Retirement Plan Investment Advisor
- G. Bid - Plant Operations - Hillcrest Elementary School Domestic Water Replacement Project #927

- H. Bid - Plant Operations - Liberty Elementary Insulation Project #M0056
- I. Bid - Plant Operations - Ridge Circle Elementary School Domestic Water Replacement Project #1375
- J. Bid - Plant Operations - Elgin High School Domestic Water Piping Replacement, Final Phase - Asbestos Abatement Project #0240
- K. Bid - Plant Operations - Ron D. O'Neal Elementary School Domestic Water Replacement Project #1401
- L. Bid - Plant Operations - Streamwood High School - Paint Removal Phase Three Using Chemical Stripper Project, First Floor, #M0064

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the consent agenda item A-L, as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote 7-0.

4. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

A. Itemized Bills – January 25, 2021

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the attached bills. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$8,820,184.69.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mrs. Porter, to approve the itemized bills in the amount \$8,820,184.69. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

B. Dual Language Social Studies Electives (Resource Only) Proposal

Mr. Vandemoortel, Coordinator of World Languages and K-12 Social Studies, was available for questions relating to the Dual Language Social Studies Electives (Resource Only) Proposal.

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Noland, to approve Dual Language Social Studies Electives (Resource Only) Proposal, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

5. Other Business – CAC Update (Board Policy 2.152 – Advisory Committees to the Board

A. Additional Information

There were no CAC updates.

6. Other Business – Mr. Sanders

A. December Financial Report

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, reviewed the Financial Report and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

- B. Investment Report for the Second Quarter
Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, presented the Investment Report for the second quarter and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.
 - C. Secondary Schools Financial Report for the Second Quarter
Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, reviewed the Secondary Schools Quarterly Financial Report and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.
8. Work Session – Mr. Sanders
- A. Dual Language Social Studies Electives (Resource Only) Proposal
Mr. Vandemoortel, Coordinator of World Languages and K-12 Social Studies, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the Dual Language Social Studies Electives (Resource Only) Proposal.
9. Work Session – Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4.060 - Purchasing/Purchasing Authority)
- A. Bid - Plant Operations - Ridge Circle Elementary School Domestic Water Piping Replacement Asbestos Abatement Project #1375
Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award of the low bid meeting specification to Universal Asbestos Removal in the amount of \$89,075.00, and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
10. Work Session - Change Orders (Board Policy 4.164 - Construction Contracts, Bidding, Awards, and Payments)
- A. Change Order - Plant Operations - Larsen Middle School Phase 1 Gymnasium Renovations Project #505
Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from Northwest Contractors, Inc. in the amount of minus \$27,049.37.
 - B. Change Order - Plant Operations - Larkin High School - Pathways Culinary Arts, Early Childhood, Healthcare Science Renovation Projects #264, #265, #266, and Science Lab Renovation Project #267
Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the attached change order and were available to respond

to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from Happ Builders, Inc. in the amount of minus \$24,214.00.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Noland, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of January 25, 2021 at 7:49 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 8th day of February 2021.

Susan E. Kerr
President

Myra A. Rodriguez
Secretary