

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

December 7, 2020

The video of the December 7, 2020 meeting can be found here:
[December 7, 2020, BOE Meeting](#)

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 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, Donna Smith, Kate Thommes, Eva Porter and Sue Kerr.

Ms. Kerr stated that Governor Pritzker issued Covid-19 Executive Order 67 which extends modifications to the Open Meetings Act and permits public bodies to meet remotely through electronic means. Based on the current health concerns, Ms. Kerr determined that it was neither practical nor prudent to hold an in-person meeting of the Board of Education on December 7, 2020. Therefore, the Board meeting scheduled for December 7, 2020 was held remotely using Zoom Webinar in compliance with the procedures set forth in Public Act 101-640 and Covid-19 Executive Order 67.

Present in-person for the business session was Superintendent Tony Sanders. The other Board members listed above and Chief Legal Officer Miguel Rodriguez were present for the meeting virtually via Zoom. The following administrators were also present virtually 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 student Board member Olivia Howell, other administrators, and members of the public.

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

1. Strategic Plan Report - Mr. Sanders (Board Policy 2.020 - School Board Powers and Duties)
 - A. Update on the 2020-2021 Back to School Plan

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, Dr. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, and Ms. Majstorovic, Superintendent of Secondary Schools presented an update on the 2020-2021 Back to School Plan.

Instructional Model Scenarios

- Full in-person instruction;
- Full-time distance learning;
- Hybrid approach (bring students back in smaller groups for in-person instruction on certain days each week);
- Plans that would allow the District to operate under any of these models during the school year as conditions changed.

COVID-19 Metrics

- Current metrics indicate a substantial spread across all of our communities;
- Tracking of new cases for youth in district zip codes and across U-46. The new cases per 100,000 among youth is indicating substantial transmission in each of our zip codes.

Student Return Dates

- Grades PreK - 6 (January 11)
- Secondary Small Groups (January 11)
- Middle School Hybrid (January 19)
- High School Hybrid (January 19)

Priorities and Facets of All K - 6 Models

Components of the Hybrid Learning Day:

- Daily instruction (in-person or synchronous);
- 12 ½ hours minimum for in-person or synchronous instruction;
- Potential for abbreviated in-person days;
- Grab-and-go lunches

Priorities and Facets of All 7 - 12 Models

- Safety will be prioritized.

-There will be daily in-person or synchronous instruction for all students, with a minimum of 12 ½ hours of synchronous or in-person instruction per week. In the hybrid model, students will be split into three groups - Groups A and B will be determined for in-person and hybrid classes and Group C will include our distance learners.

-Students will also have asynchronous time built into the day. During this time, there will be opportunities to log into class periods for additional instruction, participate in live post-secondary planning with their counselors, and receive live social-emotional and/or academic support.

-The schedules follow a model where students will engage in half of their classes on one day and the other half of their classes on another day.

-In addition, all high schools will be open campus to allow students who are scheduled to come in person the ability to arrive later or leave earlier in order to minimize the number of students on campus at any given time. Students scheduled to be in-person on those days are still welcome to attend during those periods and will have access to a learning lab or may make appointments to meet with teachers/counselors during that time.

-Lunch and Breakfast will be grab and go for all secondary students daily, but there will be food available on-site in order to meet any students' needs. In addition, nutrition services staff will continue to offer curbside pick-up for any students who are not in session.

-Synchronous instruction will occur remotely on Mondays when there is a five-day school week, but small groups of students may have opportunities to access specialized labs or equipment during this time.

-A phased roll in of students will occur with DREAM Academy, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th graders returning the week of January 19th and juniors and seniors returning during the week of the 25th. This will allow students who have never accessed our buildings or who haven't had a full year in the building time to acclimate to the new space and protocols.

Priorities and Facets of DREAM Academy Model

-Safety: In-person instruction will occur with all individuals wearing masks throughout the day, maintaining six feet of social distance, and washing hands frequently. Extra hand-washing stations have been installed across the district.

-Instructional Time and Modes: Every student will receive at least 140 minutes per class period of synchronous remote online, concurrent, or in-person instruction during the week, and a balance of asynchronous or independent instruction throughout the week. The district will strive to achieve parity in education across all models.

-Scope of the Week: Students will attend in-person classes two consecutive days per week, for all class periods. Students will engage in daily synchronous, asynchronous, and/or concurrent instruction for remaining periods.

-Attendance: Student attendance is taken once each period during synchronous and/or in-person instruction, consistent with current practice. Asynchronous attendance will default to present unless a student has a scheduled meeting with a teacher during this time. All schedules include a scheduled lunch period. Lunch will not be served in the building and students will be assigned a learning lab during this time. All students will receive a grab and go lunch at the end of the school day. Additional details about breakfast are forthcoming.

-Five Day Week Schedule: When there are five-day weeks, Mondays will be considered asynchronous days where students will engage in independent work or access post-secondary, social emotional, or academic supports.

-Standards-Based Learning and Assessments: Following our grade level learning standards and assessments with social-emotional lessons embedded as much as possible.

Tentative Timeline

-12/14/20 - Professional development for all high school teachers

-12/15/20 - Professional development for all middle school teachers

-1/8/21 - Professional development for all secondary teachers

-1/11/21 - All secondary teachers and staff return to sites

-1/11/21 - 1/15/21 - Teachers select 1 day for self-directed professional development

-1/19/21 - First day of hybrid instruction for all 7th grade, 8th grade, freshman, sophomore, and DREAM Academy students

-1/25/21 - First day of hybrid for all junior and senior students

B. Update on Site-Based Expenditure Reporting

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, and Dr. King, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, presented the Board of Education with a Site-Based Expenditure Reporting update.

Site-Based Expenditure Reporting is required by new Federal ESSA. The baseline year of data is FY19, which is also the first year the district began investing in new Evidence-Based Funding. As a result, the district: returned 8 middle school counselors; provided 5 additional assistant principals for larger elementary schools (and subsequently more); provided more instructional coaches for schools; invested in 1:1 technology in grades 9-12 (13,000 devices); focused on lowering class sizes K-2 where possible (normally staffed at 28:1). U-46 remains funded at 59% of its Adequacy Target.

FY20 Per-Pupil Averages

- \$12,022.78 – Elementary
- \$13,572.58 – Middle
- \$13,175.65 – High
- \$28,068.93 – Pre-K
- \$25,384.28 – Alternative Education
- \$43,242.09 – Private placement (rates determined by Illinois State Board of Education)

Primary drivers:

- Teacher salary and benefits (note change in salary structure between FY19 and FY20 which could account for some variances at sites). The main driver of this was the retro pay in FY19 for the new teacher salary structure, moving everyone to the new schedule and increasing the starting pay to \$50,000, including TRS. Hence, the real change occurred in FY18 but was paid in FY19.
- Percent capacity – Higher student enrollment changes the denominator across building expenses (custodian, principal, secretaries, and facility costs).
- Special programs – Specialized programs (special education and gifted) require additional transportation, and self-contained classrooms have intensive staffing needs.

Next Steps

- Facilities master plan;
- Potential reductions in FY21 funding from Illinois;
- Further state reductions in FY22 from Illinois;
- We must be mindful of equity as we contemplate reductions, not increases.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

A. Bid - Business Services - Cameras for Classrooms

Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, presented the bid and was available to respond to Board questions. Administration recommended award of the low

bid meeting specification to Insight Direct in the amount of \$324,525.00 and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes to approve the Bid - Business Services - Cameras for Classrooms, 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.

4. Other Business - CAC Update (Board Policy 2.152 - Advisory Committees to the Board)

A. CAC Bylaws Update

Mr. Bury and Mr. Sweeney, CAC Chairs, presented the CAC Bylaws update. Some of the changes include: name change to Community Advisory Council, allowing committee meeting attendance to count toward certifications for schools, allowing certification deadline to extend to March, and allowing employees to remain members even as their children age out of the district.

5. Work Session - Contracts Over \$25,000.00 (Board Policy 4.060 - Purchasing/Purchasing Authority) Work Session - Contracts Over \$25,000.00 (Board Policy 4.060 Purchasing/Purchasing Authority)

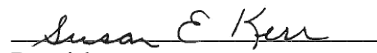
A. Contract Renewal - Equity and Innovation - Panorama Education

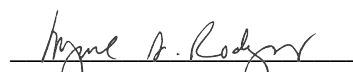
Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, Dr. Lance, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Innovation, and Mr. Lindholm, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Panorama Education in the amount of \$40,250.00, and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of December 7, 2020 at 9:36 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 11th day of January 2021.


President


Secretary