

School District U-46

Elgin, Illinois

October 19, 2020

The video of the October 19, 2020 meeting can be found here:

[October 19, 2020, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6 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 55 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 October 19, 2020. Therefore, the Board meeting scheduled for October 19, 2020 was held remotely using Zoom Webinar in compliance with the procedures set forth in Public Act 101-640 and Covid-19 Executive Order 55.

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 6:03 p.m. by Ms. Noland and seconded by Ms. Thommes. 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 7:00 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, 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 was Superintendent Tony Sanders. The Board members listed above and Chief Legal Officer Miguel Rodriguez were present virtually via Zoom. The following administrators were also present virtually via Zoom: Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Ann Chan, Brian Lindholm, Bruce Phelps, and Dale Burnidge. Also, present for the meeting via Zoom were

student Board member Olivia Howell, Dr. Jeff King, Lela Mestrovic, Dr. Ushma Shah, Steven Burger, Mary Fergus, other administrators, and members of the public.

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

Ms. Kerr re-stated that Governor Pritzker issued Covid-19 Executive Order 55, 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 October 28, 2020. Therefore, the Board meeting scheduled for October 28, 2020 was held remotely using a Zoom Webinar in compliance with the procedures set forth in Public Act 101-640 and Covid-19 Executive Order 55.

A moment of silence was held for Denise Dunphy who taught at U-46 for 30 years, the last 25 years as an English Language Arts teacher at Eastview Middle School. Denise died on October 9, 2020.

1. Accent of Achievement – Mr. Sanders

A. National School Bus Safety Week

Prior to the Proclamation of Appreciation being read, Mr. Sanders shared his deep appreciation for the U-46 Education department administrators, bus drivers and staff that kept U-46 working during the pandemic by taking on additional roles that do not entail transporting U-46 students. Ms. Kerr read the Proclamation of Appreciation presented to the representatives of the U-46 Transportation Department.

2. Strategic Plan Report - Mr. Sanders (Board Policy 2.020 - School Board Powers and Duties)

A. Alignment Collaboration for Education (ACE) Update:

Nancy Coleman, Executive Director of ACE and Peter Sikorski, Chair of ACE provided updates on the three areas in which ACE supports the District:

- Early Education Preparation
 - In addition to existing priorities for early education, ACE formed a Child Care task force in conjunction with over 20 community organizations to provide all day childcare and remote learning assistance for U-46 families.
- Elementary, Middle, and High School Trauma Informed Care
- Educational Pathways to Post-Secondary Careers

- Education Platform was moved to remote learning through the fall semester and if necessary, can continue into the spring semester. This plan includes all high schools plus the Dream Academy and Freshman through Senior grade levels.
- EXPLORE event has been delayed until March possibly with a different format depending if this event can be held live or remote.

Mr. Sikorski updated the Board on the Alignments Human and Financial resources.

B. Updated Plan for Reopening for School Year 2020-2021

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, and Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Lela Majstorovic, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Equity and Brian Lindholm, provided an update on the 2020-2021 Back to School Plan.

Dr. Johnson provided an update on the continued planning and models for Pre-K -2 Hybrid instruction and schedules. Dr. Johnson also provided an approximate timeline for returning grades 3 through 6 to school. Ms. Lela Majstorovic, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Equity provided an update for the return of Middle and High school students.

1. Pre-K-2 Grade

- 10/8 -On Going: Specialized Student Services Programs return
 - Transition Programming: SEHS, Center House and CPS
 - ENI and ENII
 - ILP and MLP
 - DHH
- 10/19 – 10/23 In-person Attendance Days/Transportation and Teacher/Student Assignment Updates for Households
- 10/26: Pre-K-2 Hybrid starts

2. Future groups to return later:

- Grades 3-6 (Fall/Winter while in Moderate Transmission Risk, possibly after Thanksgiving break)
- Middle School (small groups while in Moderate Transmission Risk, possibly the very end of November – early December)

- High School (small groups while in Moderate Transmission Risk, possibly the very end of November – early December)

Mr. Sanders stressed that moving forward with these plans is contingent on the District monitoring the rise in Covid-19 cases within our communities and our ability to adhere to the public health guidelines.

3. Public Comments

A. Megan Larson commented on the SRO Program (School Resource Officers). Ms. Larson believes that the Board should take a deeper look at the SRO Program to make sure that the officers are provided training specifically in student interaction, trauma informed care, students with disabilities and other situations unique to school environments and diverse student populations.

B. Mathew Thomas also commented on the SRO Program. He provided the Board with data analysis of the previous three years of SRO interactions within U-46 and stated that although these officers are some of the best in their communities, it is a disservice to have them exclusively assigned to schools and away from areas where they can truly make a difference in law enforcement. Mr. Thomas also feels that the majority of the services provided by SROs (friendship, mentorship etc.) can be provided more effectively by teachers, counselors, social workers, hall monitors and other school staff.

C. Alissa Quaar also commented on the SRO Program. Ms. Quaar stated that she does not feel that the District is aligned with their statement regarding Black Lives Matter. It is important to take into consideration how SROs police students of color. The programs involving SROs and operation home front were started by a member of the KKK. Ms. Quaar asked if a student is unable to focus because they are scared of or intimidated by the SROs and the programs like operation Homefront which she feels are put in place to criminalize the student well before they reach adulthood, how can they be academically successful in that environment?

D. Sandra DeVilla – Ms. DeVilla would like to see the discussion pertaining to the need for School Resource Officers be addressed publicly and with transparency. She feels that the Board of Education should delay the vote until these matters are further discussed openly and with community input.

E. Pauline Paulasuto - Ms. Paulasuto comments also pertain to School Resource Officers. Ms. Paulasuto stated that she is in a field where she runs across many social media comments. Ms. Paulasuto feels that the District needs to realize that student concerns

in relation to SROs and police in general expressed on social media are valid and should be considered in the discussion of whether or not police officers should be in schools.

F. Elijah Clark stated that he feels students who participate in Fine Arts programs should be afforded the same resources as students who participate in Athletic programs.

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

The Board revisited IASB updates from the October 5, 2020 Board meeting

5. Consent Agenda – Mr. Sanders

A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases

B. Proposal – Specialized Student Services – Disproportionality Consultant

C. Termination of Gergana Dzhorgova – Paraeducator

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes to approve the consent agenda items 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.

6. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

A. Itemized Bills – October 19, 2020

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the itemized bills. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the itemized bills in the amount of \$7,716,092.98

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Porter to approve the itemized bills in the amount \$7,716,092.98. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

B. Approval of the ESSO Tentative Agreement

Motion by Ms. Kerr, second by Ms. Thommes to approve the ESSO tentative agreement. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote 7-0.

C. Notice to Remedy – Administrator B - Ashley Ziemek.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second Ms. Owens to approve the notice to remedy – Administrator B - Ashley Ziemek. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0

D. Proposal - Fine Arts – Elementary Specials Distance Learning Supplies

Motion by Ms. Noland, second Ms. Owens to approve the proposal from School Specialty in the amount of \$532,232.87 and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0

E. Proposal – Fine Arts – Secondary Art Distance Learning Supplies

Motion by Ms. Noland, second Ms. Thommes to approve the proposal from School Specialty in the amount of \$183,728.16 and requests authorization for the district administration to execute related documents. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0

F. Proposal – Fine Arts – Secondary Music Distance Learning Supplies

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second Ms. Noland to approve the proposal from Musicfirst in the amount of \$339,101.41 and requests authorization for the district administration to execute related documents. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0

7. Other Business – Mr. Sanders

A. Secondary Schools Financial Report for the First Quarter

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations reviewed the Secondary Schools Quarterly Financial Report and was available to answer any questions.

B. Investment Report for the First Quarter

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations reviewed the Investment Report for the First Quarter and was available to answer any questions.

8. Work Session – 2020 Tax Levy (Board Policy 4.030 – Revenue from Tax Sources)

A. Resolution Regarding Proposed 2020 Levies

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations reviewed the Resolution regarding the Proposed 2020 Levies and was available to answer any questions.

B. Determination of 2020 Tax Levy

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations reviewed the Determination of 2020 Tax Levies and was available to answer any questions.

9. Work Session – Mr. Sanders


A. School Resource Officer Contracts for Secondary Schools with the Bartlett, South Elgin, and Streamwood Police Departments

Mr. Sanders presented three police School Resource Officer (SRO) contracts for full-time services in middle and high schools, which are Bartlett, South Elgin, and Streamwood.

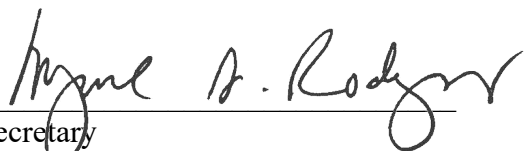
10. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of October 19, 2020 at 10:10 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0

Approved this 16th day of November 2020.



President



Secretary