

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

October 5, 2020

The video of the October 5, 2020 meeting can be found here:

https://youtu.be/N7K20ye_hZY

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 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 as 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.

Board President Sue Kerr resumed the October 5, 2020 Board of Education Meeting at 7 p.m. Ms. Kerr noted that the governor's executive order allowing to meet electronically has been extended, and therefore the meeting will be held electronically via Zoom. Superintendent Sanders is present at the Board Office, with the Board members participating remotely.

Present in-person for the business session were Superintendent Tony Sanders. The 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: Ann Chan, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Bruce Phelps, and Brian Lindholm Also present for the meeting via Zoom were student Board member Olivia Howell, Dr. Jeff King, Steve Burger, Dr. Teresa Lance, Lela Majstorovic, Sheila Downs, Mary Fergus, other administrators, and members of the public.

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

1. Accent on Achievement – Ms. Kerr

National School Lunch Week - Ms. Kerr stated that just reading a Proclamation of Appreciation doesn't begin to convey how appreciative the District is for all that Ms. Hildreth and her staff have done and how much they are appreciated. Ms. Kerr then read the Proclamation of Appreciation. Therefore, let it be resolved that the Board of Education

recognizes its talented staff for National School Lunch Week, October 12-16, 2020 and asked administrators, teachers, students, parents and community members to join in recognizing and thanking these individuals for their dedication towards service on behalf of students presented this fifth day of October, 2020 and signed by Sue Kerr, President Board of Education. Mr. Sanders also thanked Ms. Hildreth and her staff.

2. Comments from the Audience – Ms. Kerr

A. Matthew Thomas - Mr. Thomas stated he was speaking on an item for the Elgin City Council relating to the U-46 Board of Education agreement for continuing with the presence of school resource officers. Mr. Thomas does not believe the presence of police in schools promotes safety or security. Mr. Thomas provided an explanation as to his views on this matter. At the end of his three minutes, Mr. Sanders thanked him for his comments.

B. Sandra Davila - Ms. Davila stated he was an educator and also wished to comment on School Resource Officers and Operation Homefront. Ms. Davila expressed her views for the need of racial reconciliation and racial healing. She stated that racism is systematic and exists in U-46, which is why we need to address the fact that police continue to oppress people of color. She stated that the staff member that is in charge of the program has been seen in front of KKK monuments, and the District should question the nature of this individual. She also asked the Board if they were aware of the alleged release of all student names from Larkin, Elgin and Streamwood High Schools to military recruiters. She specifically asked for no more police officers in schools, and stated that the money saved by not having police officers in schools would be better used on restorative programs. Mr. Sanders thanked her for her comments.

C. Christian Carney - Ms. Carney, expressed frustration with the Hybrid Learning Model as in her opinion it does not support all families in the district. The timeframe for families to return to schools is not suitable and inadequate under the current plan. Mr. Sanders thanked Ms. Carney for her comments.

D. Jeff Blake - Mr. Blake's comments were in reference to his concerns about the School Resource Officers (SRO) program and how SROs exchange student information with the general police department. From his perspective, the information is misleading because alleged gang activity in the schools then turns into home visits by the police, which then turn into illegal searches at the student's homes and improper targeting of students outside of the school. Mr. Blake stated that when he was in school at Larkin, the SRO was plain clothed and worked to build relationships with students. The SROs that work in schools now are in full uniform and seem to be there to police and target students and that is not right. Mr. Sanders thanked Mr. Blake for his comments.

There was one public comment received via email which has already been followed up on. Mr. Sanders also noted that the topic of School Resource Officers (SRO) was not on the Board agenda for tonight. The Board requested an update on the SRO program back in August. Contracts will not be brought forward until all our municipalities have signed up on those contracts first.

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

Mr. Sanders updated the Board on the status of students returning to school stating that:

- Students who participate in the Transition Program and other select programs returned to school this week. Self-contained specialized student services students will return beginning next week as well as pre-k through 2nd grade.
- Currently 624 families have not yet responded to the survey and staff has begun contacting these families to confirm their choice.
- 56% of families are in favor of a Hybrid model.
- 37% elected to remain in Distance Learning.
- The goal for pre-K through 2nd grade would be to assign students to a teacher who either teaches Hybrid or In-Distance Learning, but not both.
- Survey results for Pre-K through 12 Grade currently indicate 20% chose to remain in Distance Learning with 47% indicating they would like to return to a Hybrid model when it is offered. 24% of families have not responded and are being contacted.
- Mr. Sanders stressed that we have been clear that those families that we have not been able to contact will be assigned to the Distance Learning model.

An email has been sent to Pre-K through 2nd grade teachers in response to concerns relating to the draft Hybrid model presented on September 28, 2020. Mr. Sanders also noted that whatever the schedule is, the minimum threshold must include daily instruction for all kids whether that is in Distance or In-Person learning and that students need to see their teacher on a daily basis. Secondly, there must be a minimum of 12 1/2 hours for in-person or synchronous instruction in order to comply with State guidelines. The administration recognizes that this work is very hard for everyone, teachers, principals, administrative staff as well as students and their families. However, all parties must be patient.

Mr. Sanders said there would also opportunities for grades 3 through 6 as well as for Middle and High school students to have access to buildings.

Dr. Johnson expects additional communication will be sent to teachers later this week including information pertaining to professional development and training opportunities for the transition to Hybrid Learning as well as finalizing the Hybrid Learning schedule. The expectation is that families would be notified of student and teacher assignments going out the week of October 19.

Dr. King provided an update on the status of the ongoing preparations taking place to be sure that the classrooms are organized, sanitized and ready for students. Mr. King also went through the protocols in place in a building when someone is identified as being infected.

Ms. Thommes requested clarification on the number and percentages of families who did not respond to the survey. Mr. Sanders provided additional responsive information.

Ms. Porter stated that as a Board Member, she has received and read emails from teachers and parents voicing concerns surrounding the learning models presented. She has listened to

the presentations and information received as well as considering the medicine and science surrounding this pandemic. Ms. Porter stated that she realizes that students learn best in the classroom and that the district is carefully planning a way of safe return, which is what we all want.

Ms. Owens was curious as to the current attendance rate and if it was substantially up or down compared to the beginning of the school year. Mr. Sanders stated that the district is currently at an average of 93.9% student attendance. Factoring in excused absences, student attendance is at 95.4% and that the growth goals for this year will focus on attendance and engagement of students. Ms. Owens also wondered if would be possible to crossover-reference between the slightly lower attendance rate that we are seeing and the families that have not yet responded to the survey. Ms. Owens also stated much of what she is hearing related to Distance Learning at the Middle and High school level, which we know is very difficult but in no way reflects how well the teachers and staff are doing.

Dr. Johnson stated that once Pre-K is back on October 26th, the shift of focus preparing grades 3 through 6, which will most likely follow a similar timeline of events. Ms. Johnson also went on to explain the goals for Middle and High School including specific courses, transportation challenges, Athletics and other activities. Consideration is being given to how these opportunities can be brought forward. We know that when students are engaged and connections are built with our colleagues, this transfers over into academic coursework.

Mr. Sanders stated that the goal is to have those opportunities available and provide an update to the Board during the second quarter.

A. 2020 Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions Committee Report

The ISAB has a meeting in November. There will be a one day-virtual meeting, which includes a resolution committee meeting. Each district can have one representative to vote on resolutions that have been proposed by districts throughout the state. Ms. Thommes agreed to represent the district at the November 14, 2020 virtual meeting.

Resolutions

1. Grayslake CUSD 127 Loan program. IASB recommends not adopt, Board and District agree
2. Glenn Ellyn and Carol Stream Gun Storage Laws. IASB recommends not adopt, Board and District agree.
3. Peoria SD 150 School Report Card. ISAB recommends not adopt - Board and District agree.
4. Avoca 37 Teacher Licensure IASB recommends not adopt, but there may be revisions - Board and District agree.
5. Altament CUSD 10 Teacher Shortage – IASB recommends adopt - Board and District agree.

6. Naperville CUSD 203 E-Learning Day – Election Day – IASB recommends adopt - Board and District agree.
7. New Berlin CUSD 16 Local Control of Pandemic – IASB recommends adopt this version – Board and District agree.
8. Edwards County CUSD 1 Local Control of Pandemic – IASB recommends to not adopt this version – Board and District agree.
9. Woodland CCSD 50 Position Statement 1.16 – Renewal Charter Schools - IASB recommends adopt – Board and District agree
10. Woodland CCSD 50 Position Statement 1.17 – Renewal Charter Schools At-Risk Students– IASB recommends adopt – Board and District agree
11. Woodland CCSC 50 Position Statement 2.27 – Charter School Financing – ISBE recommends adopt – Board and District agree
12. Indian Prairie SD 204 Belief Statement Equity – ISBE recommends adopt – Board and District agree

B. FOIA Requests

2 Mr. Sanders stated that these have been responded to and are available in the Board Book and will be on the website this week.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel Report and Workers’ Compensation Cases
- B. Termination of Jaquelyn Gavina - Secretary
- C. Minutes of Board Meeting – September 28, 2020

Motion to approve Consent Agenda, Ms. Owens, second Ms. Porter. Roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion carried is by a vote 7-0.

5. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

- A. Itemized Bills – October 5, 2020

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 \$4,794,073.64.

Motion to approve itemized bills, Ms. Porter, second Ms. Owens. Roll call yes votes Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion is carried by a vote 7-0.

- B. Approval of Closed Session Minutes– October 2020
April 20, 2020

May 4 & 18, 2020
June 1, 15 & 29, 2020
July 20 & 27, 2020
August 3 & 17, 2020
September 14, 2020

- C. Audio to be Destroyed
October 29, 2018
November 5 & 19, 2018
December 3 & 17, 2018
January 14 & 26, 2019
February 4, 20 & 25, 2019
March 4, 11 & 18, 2019
April 1, 2019

Motion to approve closed session minutes and audio to be destroyed, Ms. Porter, second Ms. Noland. Roll call yes votes: 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 was carried by a vote 7-0.

- D. Administration recommends approval of the proposal from Early Childhood for Distance Learning supplies from School Specialty in the amount of \$31,327.41

Motion to approve the proposal for School Specialty, Ms. Noland, second Ms. Owens. Roll call yes votes: Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion was carried by a vote 7-0

- E. Administration recommends the approval of the proposal from Student Wellness for the purchase of Polar Heart Rate Monitors from Polar Electronics in the amount of \$230,580.

Motion to approve the proposal for Polar Electronic, Ms. Porter, second Ms. Noland. Roll call yes votes: Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion was carried by a vote 7-0

6. Other Business – CAC Update (Board Policy 2.152 – Advisory Committees to the Board)
Tracy Kelly, CAC secretary, provided the Board with the dates and topics of upcoming CAC meetings. This information is also available on the CAC website.

7. Work Session – Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4.060 – Purchasing Authority)

Specialized Student Services Disproportionality Consultant - Administration recommends approval of the proposal from Virtuoso Education Consultants, LLC (VEC) for one year in the amount of \$169,500 and requests authorization for the district administration to execute related documents.

The Board has requested additional information and updates on this proposal.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Noland to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of October 5, 2020 at 9.14 p.m. Roll call yes votes: 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 was carried by a vote 7-0.

Approved this 2nd day of November 2020.

Susan E Kerr Myra B. Rodger
President Secretary