

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

November 1, 2021

The video of the November 1, 2021 meeting can be found here:
[November 1, 2021, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:03 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board members answered roll call: John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr.

Ms. Olson noted that Covid-19 Executive Order 92, which extends modifications to the Open Meetings Act and permits public bodies to meet remotely through electronic means, is still in effect.

President 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; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of closed session minutes; and individual student matters.

The motion was made at 5:04 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0. Board member Eva Porter joined the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

A motion was made at 6:55 p.m. by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to move to open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present for the business session were Superintendent Tony Sanders, Board members John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Eva Porter, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Chief Legal Officer Trisha Olson, and student Board member Jessica Pearce. The following administrators were also present at the District's central office: Dr. Josh Carpenter, Ericka Brown, Ann Chan, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Dr. Teresa Lance, Lela Majstorovic, Brian Lindholm, Bruce Phelps and Sheila Downs. Present for the meeting via Zoom were 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. Strategic Plan Updates

Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, Ms. Hill, Director for Assessment and Accountability, and Mr. Raimondi, Coordinator for Assessment and Accountability, presented the Strategic Plan Updates to the Board of Education. The topics for this update included the 2021 School Report Card and the 2020-2021 5Essentials Survey Results.

Key Changes: 3 Release dates of data

October 29: No Assessment data

December 2: Some Assessment data (U46 included, but not statewide): IAR, SAT, Participation Rates (IAR, SAT, and Illinois Science Assessment [ISA]), College and Career Ready

April 27: The rest of the assessment data and statewide

Data not released at all: KIDS, Illinois Science Assessment, IAR Student Growth Percentiles, Summative Designations

District Snapshot: •53 schools •85% graduation rate •7% mobility •Summative Designations (Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted, Comprehensive) – retained status from 2018-2019 – no new designations •Growth IRA •FY21 School Finances - \$14k per student •FY21 Evidence Based Funding \$360 million EBF – 63% of adequacy •22% chronic absenteeism •87% teacher retention rate

Academic Data (delayed/impacted by COVID-19) •9th grade on track – all results within 2% of 4-year graduation rate •Graduation rate – 85%

Early College Coursework: 30.5% of students taking early college coursework

Student Snapshot: •Enrollment – 35,958 students •2,981 students identified as gifted •57% low income students •14% of Students have IEPs •1% of students homeless •37% English learners •92% student attendance rate •7% student mobility •22% chronic absenteeism •2% dropout rate •29% chronically truant students

5Essentials: Although many districts in the state were able to administer the 5Essentials, some other districts could not administer their own climate survey. Because of this, Illinois is not sharing the School Climate Survey results on illinoisreportcard.com

5Essentials Survey (Students and Teachers)

Research shows that schools strong on the Essentials are more likely to: • improve student learning and attendance year after year • graduate students from high school • improve student college entrance scores • get students into college • keep their teachers

Schools strong on three or more of these essentials were 10 times more likely to improve student learning than schools weak in three or more areas.

5Essentials Results: •U-46 Moderately Organized for Improvement •Supportive Environment •Involved Families •Effective Leaders •Ambitious Instruction •Collaborative Teachers

District Strategic Plan Next Steps •Determine appropriate metrics and goals •Establish new baseline data and reporting structure

Ms. Martin stated that slide 5 showed that the participation rate went down significantly from previous years, and asked how the District could appropriately use this data given the lower participation rates. Mr. Raimondi stated that given the circumstances of the pandemic, school districts were not required to have a 95% participation as in previous years. Mr. Raimondi noted the District would be looking at other sources of data including common assessment and formative data.

Ms. Owens noted that Freshmen on Track seems to be a good leading indicator, and asked if this is typical. Mr. Raimondi stated this data is typical, as was shown at CPS. Mr. Sanders stated other indicators at the District level would include attendance, and rigor diagnostics data.

Mr. Devereux stated the website includes a 40-page summary that he found pretty useful, and the summary included a few pages of specific equity targets. Mr. Devereux asked if the Board could be provided with a full copy of the 5essentials report.

Ms. Thommes stated that slide 8 includes the numbers for advanced placement, which is an area the District is working to improve upon. Ms. Thommes stated that the numbers appear that there are no black students in the dual credit program. Mr. Raimondi stated the data could be a minimum threshold, where a number is not displayed if under a certain threshold. Ms. Thommes asked if this data could be looked into further, and possibly added to the District's equity goals. Mrs. Porter noted that the enrollment for advanced placement declined, and there were no black students in advanced placement. Mrs. Porter asked if the numbers could be looked at for this data point as well.

2. Public Comments

Marie Scheitman stated that pandemic policies are against the rights of students, and that \$6.6 billion dollars were given to public school districts across the country for compliance with these policies. Ms. Scheitman stated that money is a temptation to enforce unconstitutional mandates, and indoctrinate students with CRT, Marxism, and explicit sex education standards. Ms. Scheitman stated the District needs to concentrate on its true purpose, and should focus on improving math and reading scores instead of enforcing mandates.

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

A. Additional Information

Ms. Kerr stated the Board received a charter school application, and asked Ms. Olson to outline the review requirements. Ms. Olson stated the Board would comply with the Illinois School Code requirements: providing hearing notice in a newspaper, providing notice to the public on the district’s website, and holding a public hearing 45 days after receipt of the application. The Board would have 30 days after the hearing is held to grant or deny the application. Ms. Olson noted the District also has an established process for reviewing charter applications. Mr. Sanders stated the application should be published this week on the District’s website, and next steps would be scheduling the public hearing where the organizer will present the application and the Board can ask questions.

Mrs. Porter stated that on October 23rd she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the U-46 Welcome Center. Mrs. Porter stated that the Welcome Center is a beautiful facility that will serve the community well.

B. Report to Membership - 2021 IASB Delegate Assembly

The Board discussed the 2021 IASB Delegate Assembly Resolutions and agreed that Ms. Thommes would represent the Board as follows:

- Resolution #1 Pre-Service Teacher Education and Licensure in Literacy & Resolution #8 Science of Reading Curriculum – No
- Resolution #2 Student Safety and Protection Plan – No
- Resolution #3 School Board Member Compensation – No
- Resolution #4 Board Member Childcare Reimbursement – 3 No, 4 Yes
- Resolution #5 Remote-Virtual School Board Open Meetings – Yes
- Resolution #6 Reorganize Board – From 28 to 40 days – Yes
- Resolution #7 Indigenous People Curriculum Inclusion – Yes
- Resolution #9 Health & Sex Education Curriculum – Yes
- Resolution #10 Cannabis Sales – Yes
- Resolution #11 Clean Energy Infrastructure Federal Funding, Resolution #12 Electric School Buses/Charging Stations Federal Funding, Resolution #13 Landscaping Federal Funding – No (if there is compelling argument at the Delegate Assembly the Board can reassess)
- Resolution #14 Expand Broadband Internet Access – Yes
- Resolution #15 Child Safe Gun Storage – No
- Resolution #16 School Code Review – No

Amended Existing Resolutions/Reaffirmation of Existing Positions – Yes
New/Amended Belief Statements – Yes

C. FOIA Responses

Mr. Sanders stated there were six (6) FOIA requests that the District has responded to since the previous Board meeting, and the responses are available on the Board book and would be made available on the District’s website.

4. Consent Agenda – Mr. Sanders

- A. Personnel Report and Workers’ Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting – October 18, 2021
- C. Resolution Regarding Proposed 2021 Levies
- D. Determination of 2021 Tax Levy
- E. Bid - Food and Nutrition Services - Packaging for Commissary Production Line
- F. Bid - Plant Operations - Vehicle Replacement
- G. Change Order - Plant Operations - Hilltop Elementary School Site Paving Project #950
- H. Occupancy Permit - 1

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

5. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

A. Itemized Bills – November 1, 2021

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the attached bills. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$11,157,728.01.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Owens, to approve the list of bills, as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote 7-0.

B. Approval of Settlement Agreement for Case Number 18-23538 (RDD) Sears Holding Corporation et al., (NY Bankruptcy Court), School District 300, et al. v. Hoffman Estates, 2018 CH 12683 (Cook County Circuit Court), and Sears Bankruptcy Proof of Claim (19977)

Motion by Ms. Kerr, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the Settlement Agreement, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

C. Approval of Settlement Agreement for Case Number 2019 L 000421 Khristina Johnson v. U-46, et al. (DuPage County Circuit Court)

Motion by Ms. Kerr, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the Settlement Agreement, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

D. Notice to Remedy - Teacher B

This matter was before the Board whether to approve the Notice to Remedy for Tenured Teacher B (Carolyn Gilbert).

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Owens, to approve the Notice to Remedy for Tenured Teacher B (Carolyn Gilbert), as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0

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

A. Additional Information

Chanda Schwartz stated that the CAC General Committee meeting will take place on November 4th via Zoom. The Specialized Student Services presentation on student anxiety and depression will occur after the meeting's business session.

7. Other Business – Mr. Sanders

A. July, August and September Financial Reports

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, reviewed the Financial Reports and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Mr. Burnidge stated that as of the end of September, the District had received \$74,140,322 in property taxes, compared to \$123,856,950 received at this time last year. Mr. Burnidge noted that the discrepancy is due to Cook County sending tax bills a month later than in previous years. Mr. Burnidge stated that expenditures are on track as to what has been expected. Ms. Kerr asked if the increase in developer fees is due to the growth in the South Elgin area. Mr. Burnidge stated the District requested the fees during the summer, and received payment in September in a larger amount than expected, and that it could be related to developments in South Elgin.

B. September 29, 2021 Enrollments

Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the September 29, 2021 Enrollments and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

Total Enrollment Trend Data

2014: 40,487
2015: 40,137; -350 students
2016 39,711; -426 students
2017 39,205; -506 students
2018 38,571; -634 students
2019 38,014; -557 students
2020 36,623; -1,391 students
2021 36,090; -533 students

Mr. Lindholm stated that 2020 enrollment was down more than usual due to remote learning, and the District has put in a request to reconcile this data with the State Report Card. Mr. Lindholm noted that the enrollment decline in U-46 is not as steep as the rest of the state, and that the declining class sizes in K-6, middle, and high school have remained relatively steady with projected declines. Mr. Lindholm stated that several factors have contributed to enrollment declines including declining birth rates overall.

Total Early Childhood Enrollment Comparison 2020: 1,089; 2021:1,076; -13 students

Total Elementary School Enrollment Comparison (Excludes Private Placement): 2020: 17,540; 2021: 16,995; -545 students

Total Middle School Enrollment Comparison (Excludes Private Placement): 2020: 5,777; 2021: 5,618; -159 students

Total High School Enrollment Comparison Excludes Private Placement, CSP, DCFS, and Home/Hospital: 2020: 12,217 2021: 12,401; +184 students

Ms. Martin stated that the largest enrollment decline is at the elementary level, and asked if the pattern is falling back in line with pre-COVID numbers. Mr. Lindholm stated the decline is what has been projected, and a lot of the decline is due to declining birth rates.

Ms. Martin stated that the District lost almost 1,400 students due to the pandemic, and then gained around 200+ back this year. Ms. Martin asked if the increases were at a certain grade level. Mr. Lindholm stated that he can pull the data on the numbers to check the grade levels.

8. Work Session - Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4.060 - Purchasing/Purchasing Authority)

A. Proposal - Business Services - iPad Age and Obsolescence Replacement

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Mr. Bhatia, Assistant Buyer/Asset Management Manager, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Apple, Inc. in the amount of \$258,020.00 and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Elementary School Emergency Relief Grant and the Emergency Connectivity Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

9. Work Session - Change Orders (Board Policy 4.164 - Construction Contracts, Bidding, Awards, and Payments)

A. Change Order - Plant Operations - Sunnydale Elementary School Pavement Reconstruction Project #1460

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the change order and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Abbey Paving Company, Inc. in the amount of minus \$21,543.62.

B. Change Order - Plant Operations - South Elgin High School Tennis Court Reconstruction Project #279

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the change order and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Abbey Paving Company, Inc. in the amount of \$34,561.03.

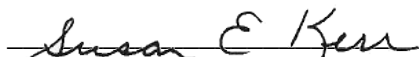
President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent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

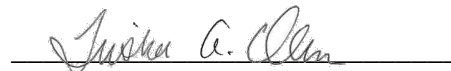
Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to move to closed session at 8:42 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

A motion was made at 9:25 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to move to open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of November 1, 2021 at 9:27 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 15th day of November, 2021


President


Secretary