

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

October 18, 2021

The video of the October 18, 2021 meeting can be found here:
[October 18, 2021, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:32 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, Eva Porter, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr. Board member Veronica Noland participated remotely via Zoom.

Ms. Olson noted that Covid-19 Executive Order 89, 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 5:35 p.m. by Mrs. Porter, second by Mr. Devereux. 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 was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Board members Noland and Owens exited the meeting during closed session.

A motion was made at 6:54 p.m. by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Martin, to move to open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Present for the business session were Superintendent Tony Sanders, Board members John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Eva Porter, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Chief Legal Officer Trisha Olson, and student Board member Jessica Pearce. Board members Veronica Noland and Melissa Owens were not present for business session. 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. Accent of Achievement - Mr. Sanders

A. National School Bus Safety Week

In recognition of National School Bus Safety Week, October 18-22, 2021, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to representatives of the U-46 Transportation Department. During a regular school year, the U-46 Transportation Department makes nearly 4,500 bus stops and serves nearly 27,000 students daily. When the COVID-19 pandemic and transition to remote learning brought student transportation to a halt, the transportation team swiftly pivoted to play an important role in the District's response. Team members helped prepare textbook kits for students, distribute laptops, and collaborated with our Food and Nutrition Department to deliver meals to families.

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

A. Alignment Collaborative for Education (ACE) Update

Ms. Nancy Coleman, Executive Director of ACE, and Mr. Peter Sikorski, Chair of ACE, provided the Board of Education with an update on Alignment Collaborative for Education.

ACE Highlights - July 2020-September 2020

● Child Care Taskforce Launched to Facilitate Remote Learning ● High School Work-Based Learning (WBL) Plan Goes Remote

ACE Highlights – October 2020-December 2020

● Post-Secondary Admissions Panels Featuring 12 Universities (Virtual) ● Elgin Community College (ECC) TRIO Staff Attends Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Workshop ● Inspire – Ignite - Instill Appreciation Campaign

ACE Highlights - January-March 2021

● Alignment Launches Freshmen Experience at Larkin High School ● Explore 2020-2021 Showcased 85 Careers to over 2,200 Students ● Alignment joins U-46's Equity Committee focusing on community engagement

ACE Highlights April 2021-June 2021

● Explore 2021 goes virtual introducing 2,293 8th graders to 85 careers across all industry clusters ● Inaugural senior job fair launches with over 30 employers introducing 360 students to available jobs, resume development, and interview skills ● Summer Reading in the Parks expands to five locations with live workshops for kids and families ● Alignment's partnerships grow to more than 185 organizations

Upcoming Career and Post-Secondary Events

● Explore Fall 2021-2022 – 2,500 students participated, 75-85 career professionals, virtual format working well ● University Admission Forums (fall/spring) – 50% of seniors, 50%

of juniors attending • Freshman Curriculum to Career Showcase – CTE courses and associated pathways: Automotive, Culinary, Health Sciences, Business, Education, Manufacturing, Veterinary Science • ECC Parent and Student sessions • High School Counselor Road Trip in the areas of automotive, welding, manufacturing, and engineering; hoping to have over 50 counselors participate • Freshman Experience Curriculum

Ms. Martin asked how the Freshman Curriculum Career Showcase was being advertised. Ms. Coleman stated that communication normally goes through principals, assistant principals, and counselors, but continues to be a challenge. Ms. Coleman stated ACE is meeting with career technical counselors to discuss how to get the word out. Ms. Martin suggested a District-wide communication, and not communication sent to students only. Ms. Pearce noted that teachers are a valuable way to advertise events.

Mr. Devereux asked for feedback on virtual events versus in-person events. Ms. Coleman stated the feedback on virtual events has been very good, as students have been able to get a broader view at events such as the career expo that would not be possible at an in-person event. Ms. Coleman noted there are pros and cons to both formats. Mr. Sikorski stated that virtual events are more accessible to people who might have missed the event, as Zoom capabilities allow recording, and the community has had an easier time engaging virtually overall. Mr. Sanders noted it might be beneficial to use virtual events as a tool to narrow the focus of career topics, and in-person events for more narrowed down presentations.

The Board thanked ACE for their efforts.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments

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

A. Additional Information

Ms. Pearce stated that last week the first Superintendent Student Advisory meeting took place in person, and it was great to have an in-person meeting and the group participated in team building exercises.

Ms. Martin asked if there could be an update given to the Board on quarantine procedures, and that she hopes there is a possibility to look into options and to reevaluate the process. Mr. Sanders stated administration could provide an update at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Thommes noted there was a public comment letter from a significant number of early childhood educators expressing their concerns about the closing of Illinois Park, and asked if these concerns could be addressed in some fashion within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Sanders stated administration could try to address the concerns in some fashion now, but that he planned to address these concerns as part of his goals in preparing a 5-year facilities plan.

Ms. Thommes asked if there were children who were not able to participate in District Pre-K because transportation was not provided both ways, and if this could be a consideration in the future. Ms. Thommes and Ms. Martin suggested doing small group walk-throughs of Illinois Park.

Ms. Kerr stated that she attended the groundbreaking for South Elgin Boys and Girls Club, and that they have great plans for the facility and are hoping to open next summer. Ms. Kerr stated they are always looking for volunteers.

B. 2021 Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions Committee Report

Ms. Kerr stated that Ms. Thommes would be representing the Board at the IASB Representative Assembly. Ms. Kerr asked the Board to look over the resolutions to discuss at the next meeting.

C. FOIA Responses

Mr. Sanders stated there were three (3) 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.

5. Consent Agenda – Mr. Sanders

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting – October 4, 2021
- C. Termination of Eduardo Mendoza-Santiago - Teacher
- D. Building Permit – 1

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Mr. Devereux, to approve the consent agenda items A-D, as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote 5-0.

6. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

A. Itemized Bills – October 18, 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 \$10,363,081.71.

Motion by Mrs. Porter, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the itemized bills in the amount \$10,363,081.71. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

B. Approval of Closed Session Minutes

A Motion was requested and the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of closed session minutes and, therefore, "all Closed Session Minutes, with the exception of the minutes already released including audio recordings, remain confidential. In

addition, all audio recordings more than 18 months old having been put into writing and approved, may be destroyed." Board Policy #2.201 - Closed Session

The following Closed Session Minutes have been reviewed for approval:

Minutes for Approval – October 2021

March 15, 2021
April 12 & 26, 2021
May 3, 10, & 17, 2021
June 7 & 21, 2021
July 19 & 22, 2021
August 9 & 23, 2021
September 13 & 27, 2021

Audio to be Destroyed – October 2021

November 4, 11, & 18, 2019
December 16, 2019
January 13, 25 & 27, 2020
February 10 & 24, 2020
March 3, 9, & 16, 2020

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Mr. Devereux, to approve closed session minutes, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

C. Notice to Remedy – Teacher A

This matter was before the Board whether to approve the Notice to Remedy for Tenured Teacher A (Rebecca Bernasek).

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Notice to Remedy for Tenured Teacher A (Rebecca Bernasek), as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

D. Minutes of Board Committee Meeting

Administration recommended the Board of Education accept the minutes for the September 27, 2021 Board of Education Facilities Committee meeting.

Motion by Mr. Devereux, second by Mrs. Porter, to approve Minutes of the September 27, 2021 Board of Education Facilities Committee meeting, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

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

A. Additional Information

Michael Johnson stated that the CAC Specialized Student Services presentation “A Social Worker's View on Future Planning” is being held tomorrow. Mr. Johnson stated the next CAC Executive meeting will be taking place on October 21st via Zoom, and the FACE volunteer gathering would be held on October 28th via Zoom.

8. Other Business – Mr. Sanders

A. Secondary Schools Financial Report for the First Quarter

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, reviewed the attached Secondary Schools Quarterly Financial Report and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Mr. Burnidge stated that total fund balances increased at all schools due to distribution of funds for science courses with a lab component.

B. Investment Report for the First Quarter

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, presented the attached Investment Report for the first quarter and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Mr. Burnidge stated that the total portfolio of invested funds at the end of September was \$445,905,679.55, the current yield is 0.460% and the accrued interest for the 1st quarter, July 2021 through September 2021, is \$47,825.12. Mr. Burnidge noted that September is the high point for cash due to property tax receipts.

9. Work Session - 2021 Tax Levy (Board Policy 4.030 - Revenue from Tax Sources)

A. Resolution Regarding Proposed 2021 Levies

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, reviewed the Resolution regarding the Proposed 2021 Levies and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. The Certificate of Tax Levy and the Tax Levy Resolution will be presented on November 15, 2021 and adoption will be requested on December 13, 2021. The tax levy must be filed with the counties by the last Tuesday in December. Administration recommended adoption of the proposed levy resolution.

B. Determination of 2021 Tax Levy

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, reviewed the Determination of the 2021 Tax Levy and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. The following steps are required when filing a tax levy: 1. The Board of Education determines the amount of the tax levy at least 20 days prior to taking action on the particular levy. 2. The tax levy must be filed with the County Clerk's office by the last Tuesday in December.

Ms. Martin stated that she understands why the District maxes out the tax levy, but asked how the abatement number was determined. Ms. Martin asked if increasing the abatement number slightly would decrease the amount of dollars that taxpayers' bills would rise, especially given the past 18 months.

Mr. Burnidge stated the District arrived at the abatement amount due to 3 years where the Board chose to not increase taxes.

Ms. Kerr stated the Board would need to have a discussion regarding the abatement number, but it is something to be looked into. Ms. Kerr noted there are a number of capital projects in the coming years that need to be considered as well.

Mr. Devereux stated that Ms. Martin had a good point, and it is something the Board should be cognizant of. Mr. Devereux also noted that the District extended a number of benefits to community including waiving instructional fees, free meals, and free school supplies. Mr. Devereux noted these services would likely offset the potential rise in taxes.

Mr. Sanders stated that the levy increases by the rate of inflation, and a meeting could be scheduled in January to see the impact of increasing the abatement by any amount.

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

A. Bid - Food and Nutrition Services - Packaging for Commissary Production Line

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Hildreth, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award of the low bid meeting specification to Form Plastics Company, Pathway Solutions, Inc., Pressed Paperboard Technologies, and Revere Packaging for three years for a total of \$3,993,121.32 and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Food and Nutrition Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2022-2024 fiscal years.

Ms. Kerr asked if there would be any difficulty in getting this product due to shipping constraints. Mr. Phelps stated the District should not have difficulty in regards to this bid.

B. Bid - Plant Operations - Vehicle Replacement

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award of the low bid meeting specification from Roesch Ford in the amount of \$166,248.00 for four pickup trucks and National Auto Fleet Group in the amount of \$206,739.26 for three vans and one dump truck for a total purchase of \$372,987.26 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 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Ms. Kerr asked if the District would have any difficulty with this product. Mr. Phelps stated there should not be any difficulty at this time.


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

A. Change Order - Plant Operations - Hilltop Elementary School Site Paving Project #950

Mr. Phelps, Director 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 Abbey Paving Company, Inc. in the amount of minus \$102,788.80.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of October 18, 2021 at 8:10 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Approved this 1st day of November, 2021



President



Secretary