

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

October 4, 2021

The video of the October 4, 2021 meeting can be found here:
[October 4, 2021, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:15 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, and Sue Kerr. Board member Kate Thommes arrived after roll call.

Ms. Olson noted that Covid-19 Executive Order 86, 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 6:17 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens. 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.

A motion was made at 6:54 p.m. by Ms. Martin, 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. The Board recessed until 7:00 p.m.

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. Accent of Achievement - Mr. Sanders

A. National School Lunch Week

In recognition of National School Lunch Week, October 11-15, 2021, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to Ms. Hildreth, Director of Food and Nutrition Services. Since March 17, 2020, the U-46 Food and Nutrition Services Department has served 7.3 million meals to the U-46 community. The Food and Nutrition Services Department continue to encourage our students to eat healthy and live healthy lifestyles.

B. National Principal Appreciation Month

In recognition of National Principal Appreciation Month celebrated in October, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to Jennifer Schwardt, Association of Elgin School Administrators (AESA) President. National Principal Month recognizes the essential role that principals play in the education, growth, and well-being of students. Like principals across the nation, principals in U-46 have faced unprecedented challenges in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years due to COVID-19. They have used their vision, dedication, and determination to provide an atmosphere in which students can continue to learn and succeed during an ongoing pandemic.

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

A. 2021 Capital Projects Summary and Energy Efficiency Initiatives

Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, reviewed the 2021 Capital Projects Summary and Energy Efficiency Initiatives and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

Ms. Downs stated that U-46 made an investment of over \$40 million in the infrastructure of buildings, including parking lot reconstruction projects, roof replacements, athletic upgrades, and countless other projects that will benefit students, staff, and the community for years to come.

Projects included: Opening of the U-46 Welcome Center; Flooring projects at South Elgin High School, Independence Center, Abbott Middle School; Roof replacements at the Educational Services Center and Independence Center for Early Learning; Upgrades to High School Auditoriums (Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin); Playground installations (McKinley, Illinois Park, Sunnysdale, Horizon, Independence, Larkin fitness equipment); Middle School gym updates (flooring, bleachers) at Canton and Larsen; Library relocation and renovations at Lowrie; Mechanical upgrades (Elgin, Parkwood, Hillcrest, Ridge Circle, Ronald O'Neil, Transportation); Parking lot re-pavement (Hilltop, McKinley, Sunnysdale, 955 E. Chicago); Exterior upgrades (Ellis, Washington, Bartlett Elementary); Athletic and stadium upgrades (South Elgin, Memorial Stadium); and Additional smaller projects throughout the District.

Ms. Downs stated the District has made a concerted effort to participate in energy efficient rebates, and was able to generate over \$600,000 of revenue by participating in Demand Response events, engaging in strategic energy management, and securing incentives and rebates. The District partnered with ClearResult and Cenergistic to provide technical assistance and information and insight as it relates to best practices in energy management. Ms. Downs stated the Energy Star certification was granted to 14 U-46 buildings.

The Board thanked Ms. Downs and her team for all of their efforts.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

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

A. Additional Information

Ms. Owens thanked the team that is working on the District’s equity audit, and stated she enjoyed her time with the team.

Mrs. Porter stated she enjoyed her equity interview, and it was refreshing to be able to voice her opinion of equity in District and discuss how the District is moving forward.

Ms. Pearce stated that students were able to meet in small groups to discuss equity, and students were engaged in the conversations. Ms. Pearce stated that she hopes more of these types of conversations will take place, and that the opportunity will be extended to more students.

B. 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 – September 27, 2021
- C. Bid - Plant Operations - Drinking Fountain Installation at 14 Elementary Schools - Environmental Work, Project #2065
- D. Bid - Information Services - VMware Servers Replacement

Motion by Mr. Devereux, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the consent agenda items A-D, 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.

6. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

A. Itemized Bills – October 4, 2021

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 List of Bills in the amount of \$6,405,053.47.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Martin, to approve the itemized bills in the amount \$6,405,053.47. 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.

B. Superintendent's Updated Goals 2021-2024

The Board of Education voted on updated Contract Goals for Superintendent Sanders.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens, to approve Superintendent Sanders' updated contract goals, 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.

Ms. Martin thanked the Board for the level of detail provided in the goals, and stated that as a first time Board member, the amount of detail is helpful to see the direction the District is headed.

C. Proposal - Plant Operations - Lowrie Elementary School Emergency Plumbing Repair

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from Diemer Plumbing and Excavating, Ltd. in the amount of \$137,498.78 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. Martin noted there have been a few plumbing issues at Lowrie recently, and asked if there is a bigger issue that needs to be looked into. Ms. Downs stated that typically Lowrie does not have substantial plumbing issues, but as of late, has experienced a few unique plumbing issues due to masks being flushed.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Proposal - Plant Operations - Lowrie Elementary School Emergency Plumbing Repair, 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. Approval of the SEIU Tentative Agreement

Ms. Olson, Chief Legal Officer, presented a proposed Three-Year Tentative Agreement with the Service Employee International Union (SEIU). Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Agreement. Ms. Olson stated the agreement was negotiated in principle on June 10, 2021, and ratified by SEIU members on September 24, 2021 by a 96% margin. The agreement is for the years 2021 through 2024. New starting wages are implemented for all employees. For 2022 through 2023, all employees who had a proficient or better will get a 3% increase to their hourly wages, and those with a less than proficient will get a 1.5% increase. For 2022 through 2023, new hires will be placed at the starting wage. For 2023-2024, all employees who had a proficient or better will get a 2.5% increase to their hourly wages, and those with a less than proficient will get a 1.25% increase.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the SEIU Tentative Agreement, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

E. Safe Routes to School Program Grant

Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the Resolution and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the Resolution in Support of Participation in the Safe Routes to School Program within School District U-46 and requested authorization for District administration to execute related documents.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the Safe Routes to School Program Grant Resolution, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

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

A. Additional Information

Chanda Schwartz stated that the next CAC general meeting would take place on October 7th via Zoom. The topic of this meeting will be Academic Teaming, and the public is able to pre-register at the link provided on the District's calendar. Ms. Schwartz stated the next CAC Instructional Initiatives meeting will take place on October 12th via Zoom at 7:00 p.m., and the topic will be Magnet Academies.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of October 4, 2021 at 7:41 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 18th day of October, 2021

Susan E Kerr
President

Justin A. Alm
Secretary