

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

August 9, 2021

The video of the August 9, 2021 meeting can be found here:
[August 9, 2021, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Melissa Owens, Eva Porter, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr.

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 6:07 p.m. by Mr. Devereux, second by Ms. Owens. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Noland joined closed session at 6:20 p.m.

A motion was made at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Devereux, second by Ms. Owens, 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.

Open session reconvened at 7:30 p.m. due to a tornado warning.

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, Ann Chan, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Dr. Teresa Lance, Lela Majstorovic, Sheila Downs, Mary Fergus, Brian Lindholm, and Bruce Phelps. Present for the meeting via Zoom were other administrators and members of the public.

Ms. Kerr noted that Covid-19 Executive Order 84, which extends modifications to the Open Meetings Act and permits public bodies to meet remotely through electronic means, is still in effect.

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

A moment of silence was held for three U-46 students: Alex Czerwik, Cameron Kelty, and Abel Castro Jr.

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

A. Return to School 2021-2022

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, and Dr. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, provided the Board of Education with an update on the Return to School 2021-2022.

Purpose of Presentation

1) Celebrations; 2) What will “school” look like; 3) Update the Board on the latest guidance; 4) Share final plans for our return to in-person learning; 5) Provide examples of when prevention strategies may be reduced; 6) Overview of testing and quarantine procedures.

Celebrations: All students will return for full-day, in-person instruction; All students and staff have technology for support; All schools provided funds to welcome back families and students; All instructional fees waived for the year.

Elementary School: ● Students can expect a normal school year with full days with their teacher, in their classroom. Specials (art, music, and PE) occur. ● Desks/seating will be 3 feet apart to the extent possible. ● Masks will be worn by all (students and staff). ● Before/after school programs resume. ● Breakfast and lunch served at no charge. ● Social-emotional support will be embedded in our work. ● Field trips resume as long as safety protocols can be followed.

Middle School/High School: ● Students attend all day, every day. Regular schedule (no A/B days). ● Students should feel like they are back in a normal school - just with masks required, social distancing to the extent possible, and hygiene etiquette, etc. ● Concerts, plays, extracurricular activities resume, but will follow the prevention strategies (which may include reduced spectators). ● Breakfast and lunch served at no charge. ● Field trips resume as long as safety protocols can be followed.

Updated State & Federal Guidance

July 27, 2021- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their guidance to recommend “universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status”

July 27, 2021 - Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced it had fully adopted the update from the CDC recommending that masks be worn in indoor settings regardless of an individual’s vaccination status in areas with substantial or high transmission, and recommending universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Updated Local Health Guidance: ● July 28 - Cook County Health Department “strongly endorses the new CDC guidance calling for universal masking in all schools.” Provides the expectation that schools will follow the masking guidance, and state the use of the term “should” by the CDC does not mean a strategy is optional. ● July 28 - DuPage County Health Department “strongly recommends school districts begin the school year requiring universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors in K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status.” ● July 29 - Kane County Health Department updates guidance to strongly support “universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors in K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status.” Kane County also emphasizes the term “should” used by the CDC does not mean any strategy is optional.

Governor Executive Order

On August 4, 2021, Governor JB Pritzker signed an Executive Order Number 18 requiring masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Vaccinations

“Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.” - Centers for Disease Control guidance. ● Parents asked (not required) to share child’s vaccination status which will help with contact tracing and hopefully avoid quarantine. ● Parents of unvaccinated students asked to allow student to participate in regular COVID testing, also to help avoid quarantine. ● Vaccines will continue to be strongly encouraged.

Masks Required

● Masks will be universally required across all schools and departments by staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. This requirement aligns to the Governor’s Executive Order and the latest guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and our three local health agencies. ● All passengers and drivers on buses must wear a mask regardless of vaccination status pursuant to CDC and IDPH guidance. ● Bus drivers who are alone on a bus may unmask.

Social Distancing

● 3 feet to the extent possible plus mask is best strategy. U-46 has worked at elementary especially to ensure 3 feet to the extent possible. ● 3 feet of social distance in middle and high school may not be possible in all areas (such as lunch, band, and chorus). Universal masking even for the fully vaccinated will help prevent any spread.

Other Provisions

- 1) Decisions to remove prevention strategies will depend upon:
 - a) Governor Executive Orders in place at the time.
 - b) Our local data (community spread, vaccination rates, results of school testing).
- 2) No self-certification for students or staff and no temperature checks;

however, parents/staff should monitor symptoms and remain home when sick, and report COVID symptoms to the school.

3) Continued contact tracing (why it helps if we know who is vaccinated).

4) Quarantine will still be necessary if a student has COVID, or presents symptoms of COVID. Students in quarantine will receive access to class work via Canvas.

5) Occupancy on buses will not be limited (masks must be worn).

6) Food service will proceed with social distancing to the extent possible, but not with six feet of social distance.

7) Until further notice, visitors will be discouraged unless by appointment for a school-related purpose (IEP meeting, etc.). Masks will be required by visitors to schools.

Quarantine Protocols per CDC

“In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where: • both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and • other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.”

Exceptions to Quarantine

- Asymptomatic individuals who have been fully vaccinated (best prevention).
- Asymptomatic students participating in Shield screening.
- Asymptomatic individuals who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days and have documented proof.
- IDPH COVID-19 Interim Exclusion Guidance is currently under review with anticipated revisions to reflect new state guidelines.

Instruction During Quarantine

We will ensure students who are in quarantine continue to receive access to instruction from their classroom teacher. • Teachers are required to make course resources available via Canvas • Possible concurrent instruction dependent upon curriculum, instruction and classroom learning events. Teachers are not required to provide concurrent instruction. • Tutorial sessions available to students before or after school to support learning during quarantine. • Ongoing review of quarantine instruction.

Next Steps

8/9/21 - Board of Education Resolution

8/10/21 - Communication to staff and families

8/16/21 - First Day of School K-12

Ms. Owens asked if teachers would be taking part in tutorial sessions, or other staff. Dr. Johnson stated these would be ETA positions, and administration is working to finalize the process. Ms. Owen asked if teachers would still be able to do some of these sessions

concurrently. Dr. Johnson stated teachers will still have this as an option, and the available technology and classroom setup are responsive to concurrent instruction.

Ms. Martin stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Sanders and administration for starting the year off with some positivity, and her hope was that this year would feel more like 2019, but that she has some concerns on how this plan will affect the youngest learners who depend on social interactions. Ms. Martin stated she is hoping the district keeps an open mind. Dr. Johnson stated it does continue to be a question on how teachers can engage students. Dr. Johnson stated she met with some teachers today, and they are making every effort to connect with their students. Dr. Johnson noted that the district is in a different place than 2020, and it is everyone's hope this school year can seem more like 2019, but with added protective layers. Mr. Sanders noted that he and Dr. Johnson visited classrooms last spring, and teachers were very innovative.

Ms. Martin asked when families would be getting more information on SHIELD testing. Mr. Sanders stated he thought health services had already sent communication on how to opt-in to testing, but will double check. Mr. Lindholm noted the information would be sent out this week.

Ms. Thommes asked for clarification on quarantine procedures for students if a student is asymptomatic and is testing positive. Mr. Sanders stated he would need to double check the procedure with Health Services. Ms. Thommes asked if school lunch would look more similar to 2019. Mr. Sanders stated there were new lunch options, and it would look more like 2019.

B. 2021-2022 School Readiness

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, Ms. Chan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Ms. Majstorovic, Assistant Superintendent of Schools provided the Board of Education with an update on 2021-2022 School Readiness.

Ms. Chan provided a staffing update. For the 2021-2022 school year, there are currently 88.9 open positions. Ms. Chan noted that this number is above average because the district intentionally created positions to ensure the safety of students and staff due to COVID protocols.

Dr. Carpenter stated that 130 new teachers attended orientation, and professional development for staff started two weeks ago. Dr. Carpenter stated administration is currently matching new teachers with a mentor. New administrators participated in an orientation last week.

Ms. Majstorovic gave an update on the district's instruction initiative U-46 Rising. Ms. Majstorovic stated that last May, 5 schools were chosen as schools for rigor and equity: Laurel Hill, Channing, Creekside, Willard, and Parkwood. Teachers worked with principals and teams over the summer, and have been participating in professional

development. The cabinet team participated in a retreat last week with the president of LSI, Michael Toth. Mr. Toth was also the keynote speaker at the back to school all administrator meeting.

Mr. Sanders thanked administrators, teachers, and staff who spent time over the summer getting ready for the new school year. Mr. Sanders stated Transportation has their routes completed, but is struggling to find drivers. The fleet is ready for first day of school. Plant Operations completed \$40 million dollars in budgeted projects during the summer along with executing a new cleaning contract, assisting in the setup of classrooms according to CDC guidance, and implementation of additional cleaning procedures. The 1019 facility will be opening soon, and a ribbon cutting ceremony is expected on September 30th. Business Services assisted in the purchase and distribution of Chromebooks, monitors, and interactive boards to classrooms. All new curriculum adoptions that the Board has approved are ready for the new year. Food Service is excited to be back in schools. A number of new meal selections are being launched this year, and the district garden is back up and running. Financial Services has distributed funds for welcome back events for each school.

Ms. Kerr asked if high school sports would be back to normal. Ms. Majstorovic stated sports would be going back to normal, and following all safety and IDPH guidelines.

Ms. Thommes stated she was happy to see how excited everyone is for the new school year, and thanked everyone for their hard work.

2. Public Comments

Per Board Policy, public comments were reduced to two minutes per speaker as there were over 20 public comments.

Lisa Rossi stated that she had emailed the Board for scientific documentation on mask mandates, and the district continues to cite CDC studies. Ms. Rossi stated mandatory mask mandates do not make a difference in the spread of COVID-19, as the mortality risk is effectively zero for children. Mr. Rossi stated the government is censoring information about COVID.

Angelika Rol Vel Rul, a U-46 parent, stated masking children is a political game, and we are treating children like it is Nazi Germany. Ms. Rol Vel Rul stated it has been said over and over that masks don't work, and the executive order should have no bearing. Ms. Rol Vel Rul stated this will not go away with masks and vaccines, and that quarantine rules are unlawful. Ms. Rol Vel Rul stated she knows what is best for her own children.

Kori Duncan stated that she has grave concerns regarding SB818 as it rewrites the existing state standards for sex education. Ms. Duncan stated that the curriculum source offers graphic

descriptions of sexual education that are not appropriate for a young child, and that children should not be exposed to this type of content as it sexualizes young children.

Carina Gomez, a U-46 parent, stated that the governor does not have the authority to mandate that children wear masks. Ms. Gomez stated that the summer was spent somewhat normal, and that it is ridiculous at this point to make children wear masks. Ms. Gomez stated that children and parents have rights to make their own decisions.

Gloria Duran stated that she was speaking on behalf of 350 U-46 parents, and that the district voted against parental choice even before the governor's executive mask order. Ms. Duran stated that SHIELD testing is a scam, and wearing masks does not align with the school district's mission. Ms. Duran called for Board members to step down if they are not interested in representing the community. Ms. Duran thanked Ms. Martin for advocating for U-46 students.

Maciej Dluzniewski, a parent in district, stated that masks don't protect people from COVID-19, and the district is following the state's guidance without asking questions. Mr. Dluzniewski stated COVID vaccines no longer prevent transmission, and that parents are responsible for their own children – not the district and not the government. Mr. Dluzniewski stated the district should stop teaching sex education and stop teaching CRT, as it is not the district's job to teach his children morals or how to discriminate against others. Mr. Dluzniewski stated parents know what is best for their own children.

Agnieszka Bajorek, a parent in district, stated that she questions all medical research due to her own past experiences and that she wants to be in charge of making health decisions for her own children as she is pro health freedom. Ms. Bajorek stated she does not want to co-parent with school boards or the government, and that masks should be optional. Ms. Bajorek stated COVID has zero risk for children and PCR tests are meaningless.

Linda Sabo stated that parents are asked to follow the CDC guidance without any questions, even though there has been flip flopping on masks by health professionals. Ms. Sabo stated PCR tests are inaccurate, and the public was first told the virus was not man made and we now know that it was created in a lab. Ms. Sabo stated it does not make sense to test people with no symptoms, and that the government is rushing the approval of the vaccine. Ms. Sabo stated the government is with the media, and the truth is being censored.

Carrie Oldenburg stated the Board previously heard parents provide research and accounts of how masks are harmful, and Mr. Sanders has been on social media dismissing parents. Ms. Oldenburg stated she wanted to bring more research to the Board's attention, such as a study in Saudi Arabia from 2001 regarding negative health effects from veils, a German study from 2020 where 68% of children reported impairments from masks, and a study regarding surgical masks. Ms. Oldenburg stated she doesn't understand how the Board can discriminate against those with disabilities who cannot wear masks.

Andrew Bucaro stated he was against CRT, and the Board should also be ashamed for sexualizing our kids and teaching racism in schools. Mr. Bucaro stated the rules for vaccinated/non-vaccinated students are segregation, vaccinated people are spreading viruses, and the narrative has been that this is a pandemic of the non-vaccinated when it isn't. Mr. Bucaro stated COVID isn't going anywhere, and schools need to stop indoctrinating our children.

Olivia Bucaro stated that schools do not have to divide and destroy the community with curriculum that promotes hate. Ms. Bucaro stated the American Rescue Act knew the district would comply with mandates for money instead of listening to the community. Ms. Bucaro stated the district is accelerating the narrative of division and encouraging the sexualization of children. Ms. Bucaro stated the district is grooming a generation to be subservient and compliant, but parents are engaged in the fight ahead to not follow the narrative.

Lori Kelly stated that she was speaking on behalf of hundreds of U-46 employees who won't speak up due to fear of retaliation. Ms. Kelly stated employees should not have to be forced into submission for fear of losing their jobs. Ms. Kelly stated the school district has been in direct violation of the law, unions won't support their staff, and this country is headed down a path that looks like 1930s Germany. Ms. Kelly stated the district needs to do the lawful thing and make masks optional.

Matt Rol Vel Rul, a U-46 parent, stated it is not the district's right to tell anyone if they should or should not wear a mask, and that kids are losing socialization skills with masks. Mr. Rol Vel Rul stated SHIELD testing is segregation. Mr. Rol Vel Rul stated that during lunch hour students will have masks off, so what would be the point of making them wear masks all day. Mr. Rol Vel Rul stated the Board is here to be a representation of the community, not to push their own agenda, and everyone should be able to make their own choice about masks.

Dr. Holly McNeil stated that she has worked for the district for 23 years as a teacher, and wanted to thank the Board for the powerful Equity Matters Symposium. Dr. McNeil stated she has never experienced professional development like this, and wanted to state that it was well worth the time and effort.

Heather Mathews stated she had recently received abrupt news that U-46 was not allowing Bartlett Park District use of Centennial Elementary for their before and after school program, despite the district's IGA with Bartlett Park District. Ms. Mathews stated the district is claiming the program cannot run due to the ban on facility rentals, and that this is leaving dozens of families in a lurch right before school starts. Ms. Mathews asked for the district to do the right thing, and to not take away this program.

Lisa Lamour stated that the district is not honoring the IGA with Bartlett Park District, and families have been signed up for this before and after school program since May. Ms. Lamour

stated she understands there is the Right at School program, but the district should not be leaving families scrambling a week before school starts for childcare. Ms. Lamour wanted to confirm that if the district is unwilling to honor the park district program, that students would be accepted into the Right at School program.

Melissa Varner, a parent in district, stated she is aware the governor has issued a mask mandate, and it seems like the Board was vocal in supporting it even though they were aware there are a lot of upset parents. Ms. Varner stated it is also not appropriate to post articles online that mock parents that want their children unmasked. Ms. Varner asked for the data that supports this decision.

Stephanie Gandsey stated she wanted to thank the Board for all of the work they have been doing to get children back to school. Ms. Grandsey stated that she is one of the parents from Centennial that received communication about the Bartlett Park District program being discontinued, and the email communication did not specify why this was the case. Ms. Grandsey stated she would like this decision to be reconsidered.

Moises Contreras, a U-46 parent, stated that he has concerns about the new sex education standards, and the district should not be promoting these types of teachings to kids at such a young age.

April Wickey stated the district did a great job of presenting Erin's Law in an age-appropriate manner, but that she does not agree with introducing sex education as young as kindergarten, and asked why the district is trying to sexualize kids at such a young age. Ms. Wickey stated parents should be responsible for teaching sex education and determining what is appropriate, not the district.

Demetrio Diaz stated he gathered signatures and information opposing SB818 within the community, and the Board is elected to be the community's voice. Mr. Diaz stated the community wants the Board to repudiate laws and curriculum that cause damage to our kids. Mr. Diaz stated parents are the only ones who know what is the best age to teach these things to our kids, and he asked the district not to take away parents' right to choose for their kids.

Mr. Sanders stated SB818 is a bill that is awaiting the governor's signature, and it is not yet law. Mr. Sanders noted the books held up during public comment are not U-46 approved curriculum, and if the bill passes, the district would be required to develop a curriculum and that curriculum would then go forward for presentation to the Board. Mr. Sanders stated he suggests that people read the bill to see what is actually required, and if people have concerns, he would encourage them to write the governor with their proposals.

Ms. Kerr stated the bill also allows parents to opt out of sex education, and does not teach sex education before 5th grade. Ms. Kerr encouraged those in the audience to read the bill.

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

A. Additional Information

Ms. Martin stated the Board was able to see the list of back to school events being offered and wanted to encourage families to take advantage of these events and to get out and meet community members and fellow classmates. Ms. Martin also wanted to remind families that all schools have counselors and staff available if needed.

Ms. Thommes stated she was able to attend Ernie Broadnax Day in Elgin, and it was a really fun experience.

Ms. Pearce stated it was nice to be back in schools and to see people in person, especially knowing all of the work that has gone into the planning process. Ms. Pearce stated she wanted to thank all administrators/staff, and wanted them to know students do appreciate all of their hard work. Ms. Pearce also stated the past few weeks have been difficult, especially for the Bartlett community, and that support is available if needed.

Ms. Noland stated she wanted to congratulate the students who graduated in the summer school graduation, and it was an honor to watch students graduate who had persevered and finished their high school education.

Ms. Kerr stated 24 people did email public comment – 14 people were in favor of the mask mandates – 6 people were opposed – 4 people had other concerns.

Ms. Sanders stated he is following up with Centennial and Bartlett Park District regarding the afterschool programming. Mr. Sanders stated the district is in compliance with the IGA as it currently stands. Mr. Sanders stated all kids will have access to the Right at School program.

4. Consent Agenda – Mr. Sanders

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting – July 19, 2021
- C. Separation Agreement between Donald J. Donner and School District U-46
- D. Contract Renewal - Assessment/English Language Learners (ELL) – LAS Links Assessment for Dual Language Students
- E. Contract Renewal - Assessment – AP Exam - 9-12th Grade Eligible Students
- F. Contract Renewal - Assessment – American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) - AAPPL Test
- G. Contract Renewal - Assessment - Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
- H. Contract Renewal - Assessment – College Board - National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) 10th and 11th Grade
- I. Contract Renewal - Assessment – Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) - MAP

- J. Contract Renewal - Career and Technical Education/K-12 Science and Planetarium - Project Lead The Way (PLTW)
- K. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction – One Hope United
- L. Contract Renewal - Human Resources/Business Services - Risk Management Policies
- M. Contract Renewal - Office of Schools - Athletic Training
- N. Contract Renewal - Specialized Student Services - Behavioral Consultant
- O. Contract Renewal - Specialized Student Services - Geneva Hearing Services
- P. Contract Renewal - Specialized Student Services – Gorbold Behavioral Consulting
- Q. Bid - Business Services - Larkin High School Scoreboard Replacement and Timing System Purchase
- R. Proposal - Business Services - Distribution Center Truck Replacement
- S. Bid - Educational Pathways - Automotive Technology Equipment
- T. Bid - Plant Operations - Drinking Fountain Installation at 14 Elementary Schools Project #2065
- U. Change Order - Plant Operations - Harriet Gifford Elementary School Mechanical System Replacement Project #831
- V. Change Order - Plant Operations - Washington Elementary School Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements Project #1544
- W. Building Permits – 14
- X. Occupancy Permits - 14

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the consent agenda items A-X, 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 – August 9, 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 \$17,167,105.58.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mr. Devereux, to approve the itemized bills in the amount \$17,167,105.58. 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. Resolution Supporting the Return to In-Person Instruction Following Federal, State, and Local Health Guidance

Administration recommended the adoption of this Resolution.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Resolution Supporting the Return to In-Person Instruction Following Federal, State, and Local Health Guidance, as presented.

Ms. Martin stated she had concerns with paragraph 3 of the resolution regarding developing metrics. Ms. Martin stated she would need clarification of why the district is creating health department metrics. Mr. Sanders stated the district has been asking for metrics from the local health departments since the beginning of the pandemic. Mr. Sanders stated the most recent guidance from IDPH provides some examples of metrics to consider, including some recommended ranges, which can be used in the absence of metrics from the health department. Mr. Sanders stated he thinks the district can develop metrics in conjunction with the local health departments. Ms. Martin asked what liability the district would be taking on with developing metrics. Mr. Sanders stated the district would not implement metrics without local health departments' approval, and the district would always follow the most conservative approach. Ms. Kerr asked Ms. Olson to speak generally on tort immunity. Ms. Olson stated the state of Illinois has a tort immunity act that applies to government actions, wherein actions not taken in willful or wanton disregard are generally going to be protected from tort litigation or tort lawsuits. Ms. Olson stated this is in part why the district is taking the most conservative approach to COVID mandates.

Ms. Martin asked what changes to the guidance would need to occur for the Board to revote on this resolution. Mr. Sanders stated there is no legal requirement for the Board to take action on this resolution, as Board actions are generally required in budget/policy items. Mr. Sanders stated this resolution is a declaration of support for the district's plans to reopen.

Mrs. Porter stated she is in support of the resolution, but the district needs to make sure everything put out as guidance lines up with the law. Ms. Olson stated the resolution aligns with all current laws, regulations, guidance, gubernatorial proclamations, and Executive Orders.

Ms. Owens stated she plans to vote yes to support this resolution, and she is thankful and excited the district is in a different place than last year. Ms. Owens stated she would still support the resolution even without the governor's executive order, as CDC guidelines support the goal of having in person school to the greatest extent and the mitigation options were provided to make sure this happens. Ms. Owens stated hospitalizations for children are at the highest point they've ever been, and they are moving upward in our region. Ms. Owens stated she supports mitigation measures that protect children.

Ms. Thommes stated she wanted to echo Ms. Owens' comments, as we need to protect those who aren't able to be vaccinated. Ms. Thommes stated COVID is not made up, and it is not a joke. Ms. Thommes stated she is glad to live in a district where parents are passionate, but the science supports masks.

Ms. Martin stated she appreciated the reopening plan, but struggled with Section 3, as school districts should not be doing the work of health departments.

Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: Ms. Martin. The motion carried by a vote of 6-1.

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

A. Additional Information

Chanda Schwartz stated the first general CAC meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on September 9th via Zoom, as the group was not sure how to navigate a meeting with potentially hundreds of parents. Ms. Schwartz stated that everyone is welcome to attend.

7. Other Business – Mr. Sanders

A. Secondary Schools Financial Report for the Fourth Quarter

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

B. Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report - School Year 2021

Ms. Chan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Services, presented the report and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Owens, to approve the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report - School Year 2021, 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

8. Work Session – Mr. Sanders

A. Student Code of Conduct

Dr. Barraza, Coordinator of Student Discipline, presented proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct.

Ms. Barraza stated the changes to the document were minimal, as outlined in her memorandum to the Board. Changes included:

- Titles updated to "Coordinator of School Safety" and "Coordinator of Culture and Climate" and "Superintendent." Dates and contact information updated throughout.
- Pronouns updated from gender specific to "they" and "their" throughout.
- Outdated/nonworking internet links deleted throughout.
- Page 3- "Individuals with Disabilities Act" changed to "state and federal law."
- Page 7- "Right at School" changed to "Before and after school programs."
- Pages 19, 36 and 37- The infraction of "defiance/disrespect/insubordination/non-compliance" has been changed to

"non-compliance with staff directive." Corresponding definition in glossary was removed.

- Page 8- The following language was removed: "Share individual student information with any other person than the student and parent guardian in accordance with Board Policy and state law (See the Illinois School Student Records Act)", as it is not an accurate description of our practice.
- Page 28- The definition of "Isolated Time Out" changed to reflect the current legal definition.
- Page 30- The following language was removed as redundant. Reporting procedures are detailed in other sections. "Any student who feels that he or she has been the victim of harassment or who has witnessed harassment should notify any school employee at the school where this is happening. A report can also be filed the Coordinator of Student Discipline at the District Office 847-888-5000 ext. 5426."

Ms. Martin asked why the document moved away from specifying a specific law. Mr. Sanders stated the updated language references all state or federal laws and broadens the language to incorporate all applicable laws.

9. Work Session - Contracts Over \$25,000.00 (Board Policy 4.060 - Purchasing/Purchasing Authority)

A. Contract - Deputy Superintendent of Instruction - Principal Preparation Program

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, Dr. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, and Ms. Hill, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with Northern Illinois University not to exceed the amount of \$108,000.00 and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 fiscal years.

Ms. Owens stated she wanted to thank Ms. Majstorovic for adding her memorandum to the Board documents and for tying this proposal back to the work the district is doing, as it's helpful to see the bigger picture.

B. Contract Renewal - Business Services/Financial Operations – Microsoft Dynamics GP2016

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Unified Business Solutions in the amount of \$30,431.28 and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure

will be charged to the Educational Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

C. Contract Renewal - Educational Pathways – SchoolMint

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Mr. Briesemeister, Director of Educational Pathways, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with SchoolMint, Inc. in the amount of \$26,894.76 for a three-year service contract and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

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

A. Bid - Plant Operations - Elgin High School Stair Replacement Project #243

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the bid and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award of the low bid meeting specification to F.H. Paschen in the amount of \$494,348.00 and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.


11. Public Comment

Brock Friedman was not present on Zoom or in-person to make a public comment.


12. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of August 9, 2021 at 10:11 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 23rd day of August, 2021



President



Secretary