

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the HOH Conference room in said district on Wednesday evening, December 18, 2024.

President Gallinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

Jennifer Gallinson
DeShawn Arms
Beth Bazer
Christine Beeftink
Matt Cassidy
Mara Silver-Schack
Adam Weinstock

Absent: None.

Also present were Dr. Jason Pearson, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official; Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Maria Stavropoulos, Director of Technology; Terry Ryan, Communications Director; Chrissy Yonaites, Recording Secretary, and Jeremy Bartunek, Greenbriar Teacher/Streaming Tech.

NBJH Staff Members: Mary Perkins, Heather Corral, Nicole Gas, and Heather Pear.

Public Attendees: Chris Tennill (Creative Entourage), Tim Crowe, Steve Farwell, Jackie Early, Cory Dolins, Caitlyn Dolins, Lisa Raju, and Jeremy Reese.

Facilitating Team Members: Bruce Ahlborn, Steve Szumowski, Kathy McNamara, Gauri Brown, Tamara Reese, Erin Dineen, Megan Watters, Kristin Ware, Cari Stoneburner and Jenna Dickson.

VISITORS COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS

Multiple Facilitating Team members spoke about the great experience they had being part of the team. They also thanked the entire team for all of their hard work.

Two community members spoke about the need for building improvements and the necessity for stronger community messaging with clearer plans and drawings, talking points and resources to gain proponents.

Chris Tennill- Creative Entourage

Chris Tennill, a consultant from Creative Entourage, presented the Community Engagement survey findings to the Board. He described the process of the survey, how and why questions are formatted a certain way and what the results indicated.

There were 1,100 surveys completed. Overall, the results show that the District is viewed as strong and that there is a high level of trust in the Administration.

The survey purposefully asked about the \$94.9M bond proposal multiple times. The first ask is to get an initial response then it is asked again after providing more information about the initiative. Overall, there was about 43.2% agreeable to the proposal with approximately 15% undecided. Mr. Tennill noted that some but not all of the 15% may be persuadable to be in favor of a referendum after more information and specific plans are disseminated.

Mr. Tennill also showed data from other elections where the initial agreement was similar to the district and won the referendum. The board asked Mr. Tennill questions about the data points and risks of going forward with the referendum or waiting for another election cycle.

FACILITATING TEAM REPORT TO THE BOARD

The Building Tomorrow Together Facilitating Team co-leaders (Steve Szumowski, Gauri Brown and Tamara Reese) presented their final report to the Board. They explained all the activities they participated in to develop their recommendations. This included their team meetings, community workshops, building tours and a public survey.

In their presentation to the board, the team co-leaders described the engagement process and their analysis of facilities needs, financial responsibility and evaluation of next steps. Through the process, a consensus emerged that resulted in a change in direction from simply fixing identified needs in aging buildings to a more long-range plan that starts a replacement cycle to meet the needs of our students for generations to come.

Each of D28's schools has notable and major needs that would benefit from a successful referendum. There are major consequences over the next decade if the district is not able to improve its schools in the next few years, including aging and obsolete mechanical systems, increased day-to-day maintenance costs, and continued space issues.

In alignment with the feedback from the second community engagement workshop, the team recommends pursuing a \$94.9 million referendum that, combined with district funding of \$20 million, will build a new Meadowbrook elementary school, and fully fund

the renovations and updates recommended in the Facilities Master Plan for the other three schools.

The team offered pros and cons for seeking voter approval of the plan in either of the next two upcoming elections. Both options require a comprehensive communications effort about the district finances, building needs and priorities and the correlation between school finances and the quality of education and facilities.

The Board asked follow-up questions and noted how they felt about the recommendation. There will be a Special Meeting on January 8, 2025, to discuss and vote on putting a referendum on the April ballot.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Cassidy that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

Payroll

The payment of employee salaries for the last half of November 2024, in the amount of \$1,881,520.70 and covered by check numbers 68028 through 68039 and deduction check numbers 68040 through 68057 inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated December 18, 2024;

The payment of employee salaries for the first half of December 2024, in the amount of \$1,935,762.33 and covered by check number 68058 through 68072 and deduction check numbers 68073 through 68088 inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated December 18, 2024.

Bills

Vendor invoices totaling \$1,036,181.94 and Warrants listed as Numbers 63888 through 64036, and the following voids: 63429, 63893 and 63923, confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated December 18, 2024.

Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leave Requests, Dismissals, Resignations

Staff Recommended for Employment

Name	Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date
Holly Vosburgh	KidCare Director (long term substitute)	MB	\$30.00/hr	12/09/24
Megan Coughlin	Classroom Asst.	WM	\$19.24/hr	12/10/24
Shahnoor Shahzad	Classroom Asst.	MB	\$19.24/hr	12/16/24

* Certified Candidate details below

Staff Resignations, Retirements and / or Terminations				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Marisa Martin	Spec Ed Asst	MB	Resignation	12/20/24
Zelal Pinarci	Spec Ed Asst	MB	Resignation	01/03/25
Evan Kasner	KidCare	WM	Resignation	12/9/24

Staff Leave of Absence				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Kim Houlihan	Math Interventionist	GB	Parent Leave	3/14/25
Anna Solorio	YE S/L Pathologist	WM	Parent Leave	4/4/25

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy Silver- Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

No updates.

CLOSED SESSION

In

At 8:37 p.m., it was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education go into a Closed Session to discuss the following:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity as authorized by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Bazer, Beeftink, Cassidy Silver- Schack and Weinstock. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Out

At 9:30 p.m, it was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Beeftink that the meeting return to Regular Session. All members present voted Aye. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:32 p.m., it was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Bazer that the meeting be adjourned. All members present voted Aye. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Beth Bazer, Secretary

Jennifer Gallinson, President