

District 172 Regular Meeting of The Board of Education

Thursday, February 15, 2024 Board Meeting

Media Center, 2950 Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood, Illinois 60411

1. **CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 pm by Vice President Guthrie**
2. **ROLL CALL: Mrs. Gray-present, Mrs. Newton-present, Ms. Guthrie-present, Ms. Krueger-present, Mr. Colwell-present, Ms. Lee-present, President Jenkins-Brown-absent**
3. **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all stakeholders present.
4. **Lauterbauch and Amen FY 23 Audit:** A **Presenter: Don Shaw**
independent auditors financial report was provided to the board for review. Mr. Shaw presented a summary of the annual financial budget to the board. Page 1 of the audit report shows reference to the *Opinion* of the report. It is noted that the audit shows each major fund, the aggregate remaining fund information for SD 172, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position. In the *opinion* of the report, the year ended in accordance with the modified cash basis. Page 7 in the report represents the independent fund financial savings balance sheet, with a total of \$8,178,606 ending fund balance, and \$7,254,048 (89% operating) general fund balance. Page 9 in the report represents the statement of revenue which shows a net increase of \$402,999 in fund balances. Mr. Shaw noted that the revenue received is higher than expected, with the expenses being below budget. Member Gray stated that she noted a lot of fund balance deficits and asked Mr. Shaw for clarification. Mr. Shaw replied that the capital projects fund was the only fund with a deficit, which is why the audit shows the expenses exceed the revenue. Member Gray also had questions regarding the student account not being monitored, missing board minute meetings from February 2022 through June 2022. Mr. Shaw noted that the student activity account was behind, but it is now being reconciled, and now that meeting minutes are uploaded online, the comment (surrounding missing meeting minutes) will be removed in the next audit report. Member Gray asked about the capital asset list report and asked to be provided with a copy of such assets. Mr. Shaw referenced page 20 for capital assets expenses. Mr. Shaw further noted that the capital assets are monitored through a third party called Industrial Appraisal. Dr. Nalls stated she would contact Industrial Appraisal for a report on the asset list and provide it to all board members. Overall, it was determined that the audit was

clean and had no issues with internal controls.

5. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Development and Spending Authority

Presenter: Dr. Alicia Evans

Dr. Evans noted that the fiscal year begins July 1, 2024 with the official budget being approved in September 2024. However, spending authority is needed to begin making purchases and paying for monthly expenditures prior to the budget approval.

Dr. Evans presented to the board a summary overview of the current financial status for the district as of January 2024. The overview included updates for areas on budget development, planning and spending authority. Dr. Evans noted as of January 2024, the overall revenue collected to date is approximately 61%, with an additional revenue from property taxes expected in April 2024, for an estimation of an additional 52% (\$1.2 million). The evidence base funding is being collected as anticipated with an estimation of \$3.3 million to be received by the start of the fiscal year. In state revenues, the district has collected more than anticipated. The Federal dollars on titles, Esser, IDEA will be spent in order to receive the maximum reimbursement. Dr. Evans reported that on the expenditure side, the largest expense is noted in salaries/benefits, but it is anticipated the district will be under budget in this area. She noted procedures will be put in place for spending on purchase services, supplies/materials, capital outlay and that further budgetary measures may come in the form of position cuts with those positions funded under the Esser grant.

6. FOIA REQUEST

Presenter: Dr. Nalls

a. Illinois Retired Teachers Association: FOIA satisfied 01/17/24

b. Shaunta Gray: Copies of all legal bills for the past 11 years: FOIA satisfied 01/24/24

Member Gray made a point of clarification regarding the FOIA report. Member Gray asked about pending litigation noted on page 25 in the report. Dr. Nalls stated this is a matter for closed session but indicated that the district does not have any pending litigation. Dr. Nalls asked member Gray to send her request surrounding this matter in writing and she will get a response to the board in 48 hours.

7. Superintendent's Report: SY 24 School Maintenance Projects

Presenter: Dr. Kim Nalls

172 applied for a \$50K maintenance grant. The grant was approved with a matching contribution required from the district. The grant was put in the budget. The grant will be used on projects for the gymnasium and kitchen repairs. GMA Architects are in the process of obtaining bids.

Once bids are complete, recommendations will be put forth to the board for action. Anticipated work will begin on these projects starting in May 2024 and concluding July 2024 if approved.

8. First Reading of Board Policy 2:220

Presenter: Dr. Nalls

Attorney Fester, at the request of the board president, revised board policy 2:220. This revised policy will sit for 2 meetings for review and action on this revised policy will take place at the next regular board meeting scheduled for March 21, 2024.

9. School Calendar 2024-2025

Presenter: Dr. Veda Newman

Dr. Newman discussed the revisions for the upcoming 2024-2025 school calendar with recommendations to align the school calendar with Bloom school district to meet the needs of families that feed into these schools from Sandridge SD 172. An initial draft calendar was sent to all school staff for their recommendations. A survey was sent to all staff with 54% recommending adopting the calendar as is and 45% indicating changes. All staff members were invited to participate in a committee for feedback/changes. Dr. Newman, Mr. Kosina, Ms. Hirosky, Ms. Conrad, Ms. Ginaven met and made recommendations for consideration. The district resided to mirror the current school calendar with changes being made to start the school year earlier in the month of August.

10. Discussion of Discipline Improvement Plan:

Presenter: Dr. Birts

SSD 172 met indicators for a discipline improvement plan due to a higher-than-normal (20%) level of suspensions at the school. Mr. Kosina presented to the board the discipline improvement plan. The district has created a discipline and improvement plan to address actions to reduce the use of exclusionary discipline and/or racial disproportionally. The state has reviewed and accepted the plan. The state will adopt the plan once approved by the board. Member Gray asked how the discipline is currently being monitored. Mr. Kosina noted that the school is currently using Infinite Campus to monitor and track all incidents. Member Guthrie asked for clarification around the strategy/action plan regarding weekly notifications to parents. Mr. Kosina replied that the administration currently notifies parents of all discipline/intervention's activities. Currently all strategies and actions plan listed in the Discipline and Improvement Plan are in place.

11. Motion to Approve CONSENT AGENDA (11.1-11.4)

Member Gray asked to vote on items individually. All members in agreement.

- 11.1. Approval of Minutes: Motioned by Newton
2nd by Kreuger. No discussion

Gray=yes, Newton=yes, Lee=yes, Colwell=yes, VP Guthrie=yes, Kreuger=yes, President Jenkins-Brown-absent

Motion Carries

11.2. Approval of Payroll \$380,070.32:

Motioned Newton, 2nd by Lee No discussion

Gray=yes, Newton=yes, Lee=yes, Colwell=yes, VP Guthrie=yes, Kreuger=yes, President Jenkins-Brown absent

Motion Carries

11.3. Approval of Personnel: Motioned by

Newton, 2nd by Kreuger Discussion requested by member Gray regarding retirement of Dr. Nalls intent to retire in June 30,2029 that was not brought into open meeting to discuss/modifying or extending her contract. Dr. Nalls commented that John Fester (board attorney) indicated that the board can go into closed session to discuss personnel including discussing the superintendent contract. Dr. Nalls stated, "the district was legal in that the President took what is called a "straw hold". "Any board member can bring forth an idea or suggestion in closed session. The board did not take any action on this in closed session. Five members supported the idea for the attorneys to talk to each other for a new superintendent contract. The superintendent must be evaluated and must demonstrate proficiency in meeting goals before another contract can be offered or extended. The superintendent contract is not on this agenda". Member Gray asked Dr. Nalls, if any conversations/actions have taken place between the two attorneys. Dr. Nalls responded that the board's attorney will attend the March board meeting to address any concerns. Motioned by Newton, 2nd by Kreuger

Gray=no, Newton=yes, Lee=yes, VP Guthrie=yes, Colwell=yes, Kreuger=yes, President Jenkins-Brown-absent

Motion Carries

11.4. Approval of Trial/Fund Balance

Motioned by Newton, 2nd by Lee No discussion

Kreuger=yes, Newton=yes, Lee=yes, Colwell=yes, VP Guthrie=yes, Gray=yes, President Jenkins Brown-absent

Motion Carries

12. **Motion to Approve Payment of Bills \$147,114.66**

Motioned by Newton, 2nd by Lee No discussion

Newton=yes, Gray=yes, Kreuger=yes, Colwell=yes, Lee=yes, VP Guthrie=yes, President Jenkins-Brown-absent

Motion Carries

13. **MOTION TO APPROVE PRESS POLICIES 113 SECOND**

READING Motioned by Newton, 2nd by Kreuger

No discussion

Kreuger=yes, Lee=yes, Gray=yes, Newton=yes, Colwell=yes, VP Guthrie=yes, President Jenkins-Brown-absent

Motion Carries

14. **Motion to Approve Discipline Improvement Plan**

Motioned by Newton, 2nd by Kreuger

Lee-yes, Newton-yes, Colwell-yes, Gray-yes,
Kreuger-yes, VP Guthrie-yes, President Jenkins-
Brown-absent **Motion Carries**

**15. Motion to Approve Memorandum of Understanding:
District 172 and GSU** Motioned by Newton 2nd by
Kreuger

Dr. Nalls informed the board that SSD 172 has
partnered with GSU (Governor's State University)
to provide students with psychology services for
those students that were out of compliance due to
the district not having services available. Two
psychologists (under the supervision of Dr.
Kuntz) have been assigned to provide testing,
reading evaluations and case study evaluations
for special education. The cost for each
evaluation is two hundred dollars.

Lee-yes, Newton-yes, Colwell-yes, Gray-yes,
Kreuger-yes, VP Guthrie-yes, President Jenkins-
Brown-absent **Motion Carries**

16. MOTION TO APPROVE SY 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR
Motion by Newton 2nd Kreuger **No discussion**

17. PUBLIC COMMENT

PTA updates: Ice cream day will occur one day a
month from February through May. Spring Fling
will occur in April. Fun Fair to take place in
May. The PTA is still looking to secure dates for
the vendor fair and CPR classes. Donations for
the ice cream fair can be made via check payable
to Sandridge PTA. Next meeting is scheduled for
March 13, 2024. Dr. Nalls acknowledge former
board President Mr. Logan for his support.

18. Old Business: none

19. New

Business: Dr.

Nalls notified the board that there will be a
special board meeting in the month of April for
the resolution of non-renewal of teachers.
Letters must be certified, hand delivered to
these teachers by April 18, 2024. A poll will go
out to all board members for a special meeting
date with recommendations for April 8-11. John
Fester (board attorney) will hold an executive
session board meeting in the month of March for a
professional development day. John Fester will
also attend the regular open scheduled board
meeting in March with a special presentation for
the community on the proper way to run for school
board election.

**20. Motion to Adjourn to Closed Session: NO CLOSED
SESSION NEEDED**

**Discussion on the appointment, employment,
compensation, discipline, performance, or
dismissal of specific employees of the public
body, including hearing testimony on a complaint
lodged against an employee of the public body or**

against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

21. Motion to Adjourn: Motioned by Newton, 2nd
Submitted by Board Secretary Lee