

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the HOH Conference room in said district on Tuesday evening, February 25, 2025, and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel.

President Gallinson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

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

Absent: Christine Beeftink

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

District Staff Members: Heather Corral, Courtney Luken, AJ Treiber, Carley Kravasin, Melina Liontas, Kerry Edwards, Taylor Sharwell, Kate Tigue, Emily Kalfen, Jennifer Andersen, Jenna Eberhardt, Sia Drakoulis, Kelly Breen, Katey Schwartzman, Holly Osifalujo, Maren Anderson, Becky Parkinson, Kevin Winters and Heather Lerner.

Public Attendees: Lenny Nieves, Sheila Metzner, Steven Jaeger, Kim Yen, Daniela Roca, Jessica Silverstri, Cindy Roberts, Ashley Strum, Jessie Georgopoulos, Katie Mankoff, Randi Sultan, Taylor Catalano, Erin Przybylo, Nang Akuflo, Nicole Grove, Scott Ottenheimer, Christina Nguyen and Jessie Essmon.

VISITORS COMMENTS / PRESENTATIONS

Multiple staff members and community members spoke to the Board, giving their perspective of the Young Explorers Program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pearson, Superintendent, spoke to the audience about the YE program. He thanked

everyone for their comments and agreed that the program is very strong. He noted the Administration and the Board greatly value the program and there are no changes planned for next year.

Referendum Update

Dr. Pearson provided the Board with referendum updates. Recent work includes two podcasts, direct mailings and creation of large information boards to display at school events. There are upcoming community engagements in March along with a virtual option.

Director of Communications and Community Relations

Dr. Pearson introduced Samantha Scheinman to the Board noting her past work experiences. She will start on July 1, 2025 with a one year contract.

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Arms that the Board of Education approve the contract for Samantha Scheinman for the role of Director of Communications and Community Relations.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the minutes for Regular Meeting, January 28, 2025 and Closed Meeting, January 28, 2025.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Payroll

The payment of employee salaries for the last half of January 2025, in the amount of \$1,898,707.49 and covered by check numbers 68146 through 68157 and deduction check numbers 68158 through 68175 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 February 25, 2025;

The payment of employee salaries for the first half of February 2025, in the amount of \$1,876,976.48 and covered by check number 68176 through 68188 and deduction

check numbers 68189 through 68199 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 February 25, 2025.

Bills

Vendor invoices totaling \$808,103.92 and Warrants listed as Numbers 64223 through 64378, and the following voids: 63985, 64348 and 64349, confirmed by the signature of the President of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated February 25, 2025.

Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Resignations and Dismissals

Staff Recommended for Employment				
Name	Position	Location	Salary	Effective Date
Samantha Scheinman	Director of Communications	District	\$117,000	7/1/2025

Staff Resignations, Retirements and / or Terminations				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Vasiliki Karabatsos	Teacher of ML Learners	GB	Resignation	6/3/2025
Terese Rick	1st Grade Teacher	MB	Resignation	1/31/2025

Staff Leave of Absence				
Name	Position	Location	Reason	Effective Date
Natalie O'Brien	School Nurse	NBJH	Parent Leave	4/16/25
Mary Claire Fuchs	Mathematics Teacher	NBJH	Child Care Leave	8/18/25

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

STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Financial Packet

Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official reviewed the financial reports for the month ended December 31, 2024. After seven months of the fiscal year, the monthly variance report shows 44% of the 2024-25 budget expended and 46% of budgeted revenues collected.

Food Service Sales

As of January 31, 2025, Northbrook JH cafeteria sales-to-date totaled \$53,387. OrganicLife's operating statement showed a surplus of \$2,720 for the month of January. The year-to-date operating surplus is \$19,081.

Preliminary Insurance Renewal

Preliminary insurance renewal rate increases for 2025-26 are as follows: PPO +7.0%; HMO +7.3%; Dental +4.1% and no increase for vision and life insurance.

Member Arms moved, and Member Weinstock seconded, that the Board of Education approve the Finance Report for December 2024.

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

2025-26 School Fees

Ms. Donato explained the proposed student fees for the 2025-26 school year noting a slight increase to bus fees and summer music lessons.

It was moved by Member Bazer and seconded by Member Cassidy that the Board of Education approve the School Fees for 2025-26.

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

CDW-G Contract for eRate

Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official, presented an eRate contract for approval. Northbrook School District 28 participates in the Federal eRate program, which provides discounts to schools and libraries for internet and voice services. There was a comprehensive memo included in the packet.

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education approve the CDW-G contract for eRate.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services informed the Board that the District's Wellness Committee will have their first meeting in two weeks.

STUDENT SERVICES

No report.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

No report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Memorandum of Understanding- Meadowbrook Gymnasium

Ms. Donato explained the Memorandum of Understanding for the Meadowbrook Gymnasium to the Board. The memorandum outlines the anticipated work at Meadowbrook including scope, budget, estimated consultant costs and project schedule.

It was moved by Member Weinstock and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding – Meadowbrook Gymnasium.

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

LEGISLATION

Member Cassidy informed the Board that the state budget was proposed but it is not in

the legislature. He noted that there are unknowns as there are many changes at the federal level.

Dr. Pearson explained that the Administration is affiliated with many associations that are monitoring the federal changes and informing their members as needed. Last week, the State Superintendent messaged that at this point the federal changes have no impact on Illinois schools.

POLICY

Mr. Brophy mentioned that Press Issue 118 is expected to be available in April.

COMMUNICATION

Terry Ryan, Communications Director, informed the Board that the 5essentials surveys were released last week. She will continue to remind staff and families to participate in the survey as it is an important metric for the district.

There were 3 FOIA's this month.

TRUENORTH EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE 804

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

In

At 8:25 p.m., it was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Silver-Schack 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).

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

Out

At 9:50 p.m, it was moved by Member Silver- Schack and seconded by Member Cassidy that the meeting return to Regular Session. All members present voted Aye. Absent: Beeftink. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:51 p.m., all members present voted Aye to adjourn the meeting. Nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Beeftink. Motion carried.

Beth Bazer, Secretary

Jennifer Gallinson, President