

Board OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7 p.m.
March 21, 2024
Jefferson School - Hendee Rooms
8200 Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714

Board president Pearl called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Matt Doubleday, Phyllis Lubinski, Demetri Touzios and Rachel Georgakis. Member Kennedy joined via Phone. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Ben Collins, Dr. Joel Martin, Assistant Superintendent of HR, Dr Adam Parisi, Chief School Business Official, Matthew Tombs, Director of Innovation and Technology, Noel Mendoza, Director of Facilities, Alicia Schmeisser, Director of Student Services, Chris Lilly, Communications Specialist, Christine Bednarek, Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Bret Balduf, Principal of Carpenter Elementary School, Mr. Sean Degman, Assistant Principal of Carpenter Elementary School, Mr. Kevin Dwyer, Principal of Roosevelt School, Ms. Tessa Shulman, Principal of Emerson Middle School and approximately 50 members of the public were in attendance.

Board of Education meetings are videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the district's website at <http://www.d64.org>. The agenda and reports for this meeting are also available on the website or through the District's Office at 8182 W Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Students from Carpenter School and Battle of the Books lead the board in the pledge of allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dr. Pearl thanked the students and said they did a great job and we would have a great board meeting with a celebration of some special things happening in the district.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Introduced their respective school's Battle of the Books participants in attendance.

Dr. Pearl thanked the students for attending and asked how many books they read during the program. The students stated they read 40 books.

The board then took a picture with the participants.

SPOTLIGHT ON CARPENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Carpenter Principal Mr. Brett Balduf and Assistant Principal Sean Degman, presented to the board on Carpenter School.

Each month the school focuses on a monthly value that they run through their Dens which are mixed grade level groups. They were interrupted by Connor who performed a dance and then later by Ana, Viviana and Mila who performed a dance to Girls Just Want to Have Fun.

The district admin and board were assigned a team for March Manners Madness and if they win they will be able to play basketball against Mr. Balduf and Mr. Degman and some Carpenter students.

THOSE WHO EXCEL AWARDS

Dr. Collins stated that the Illinois School Board recognizes parents, educators and other staff and that it takes everyone's effort to ensure that students have what they need everyday. He recognized Dr. Joel Martin who received the Meritorious

Award for Administrators. He stated that Joel is a good confidant and that he does his job very well with extreme professionalism.

Tessa Shulman introduced Kelly Van Horn and Rebecca Navez from Emerson who both received the Award of Special Recognition. She stated that both have been the heart and soul of Emerson School and they are passionate about what they do and they live to make things better for the children.

Dr. Dwyer spoke about Demelza Steinfels who received the parent volunteer award. Mrs. Steinfels who is currently the PTO President at Roosevelt as well as Lincoln Middle School. In addition she is also the Director and Producer of the Roosevelt VShow. He stated he was so proud to represent Mrs. Steinfels.

Mr. Balduf introduced Janet Petrielli and Maribeth Aimers who both received the Award of Special Recognition and stated that the secretaries truly run Carpenter and everything that happens runs through the office. He joked that they were even in charge of fixing copy machines and that they are likely professionals at it by now. Mr. Balduf said they both always handle everything with grace and professionalism. Sadly both are retiring at the end of this year and he said that he and Mr. Degman are struggling thinking about filling their shoes as they would not be able to do their jobs without the support of these ladies.

The board then took a picture with the group.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXING UPDATE

Dr. Collins stated he, Dr. Parisi and Member Lubinski attended an ED Red meeting where the Cook County Assessor presented and after he reached out to Mr. Dalianis to present to the board what the tax base looks like and how the tax process works.

Mr. Dalianis joked that he has attended a lot of board meetings, however, he's never had to follow break dancing, rapping or Cyndi Lauper songs so he asked the board to bear with him. Mr. Dalianis first walked the board through the tax appeals overview. He then explained the district's properties classifications. He also discussed the property tax exemptions in the district. Mr. Dalianis then explained who the district's top fifteen properties were and what their taxes paid were. Mr. Dalianis then pointed out that there are only a total of four industrial properties in the district and when asked by Dr. Collins stated that was incredibly rare. He stated that 93.3% of the parcels in the district were residential which was very significant.

Dr. Collins mentioned that some of those top fifteen properties' have seen their taxes decrease in recent years. And he explained that Mr. Dalianis works on behalf of the district in appeals.

Member Lubinski stated she found it interesting that the corporation's taxes are decreasing while homeowner's taxes are increasing.

Member Pearl thanked Mr. Dalianis and stated that the information was extremely helpful.

Board President Pearl stated that the board would move the agenda around and moved A7 Personnel Report next on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT

Dr. Joel Martin stated that every year at this time we have the regular personnel report as well as several resolutions regarding District employment. At this time we need to evaluate staff openings based on anticipated enrollment for next year. There will be staff honorably dismissed and we can go back to fill these positions once we have a clear picture of enrollment numbers. Any honorably dismissed employee is eligible for rehire.

He then introduced Mr. Patrick Conlon as the candidate proposed for Assistant Principal at Emerson Middle School. Dr. Martin stated middle school is a time of great change for students and Mr. Conlon’s special education background and his wanting to make connections with students and the ability to work with them to grow was a common theme throughout the process.

ACTION ITEM 24-03-4

It was moved by Member Touzios and seconded by Member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report dated March 21, 2024, including resolution #1332 honorable dismissal of teachers; Resolution #1334 dismissal of probationary educational support personnel employees; and Resolution #1335 non-reemployment of part-time educational support personnel; noting that the Personnel Report is based on the recommendation of the superintendent and not upon the board’s direct knowledge regarding any of the specific individuals selected for employment.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Georgaks, Pearl, Doubleday, Kennedy, Touzios, Lubinski

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Milligan

The motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Dr. Collins stated that we have a great task force meeting on Monday night. The purpose of the meeting was to test the size and composition of the proposal. It was clear that the safety and infrastructure categories were clear and supported. However, areas like the classroom modernization category need to be renamed as it appeared as non-essential whereas the work in that area consists of basic updates to classrooms. The plan needs to make a connection between academic and learning improvements and how this project will help achieve that. In addition there needs to be a strong understanding of previous district financial decisions and being able to articulate that to the community. Lastly there needs to be a long range plan as to how we allocate future spending to minimize future issues.

Dr. Pearl thanked Member Kennedy for attending and stated that they had similar ideas of what came out of the meeting Member Kennegy then thanked the community members who attended for their input.

Dr. Collins then explained the schedule going forward including 14 community events, district information mailings and polling.

Regarding registration Dr. Collins stated that approximately 77% of families were registered for the 2024-2025 school year.

Member Georgakis asked what percentage we would typically be at this time of year? Dr. Martin felt that 77% at this time was very good. He did not have the previous year’s data on hand but stated he felt pretty good at the moment.

APPROVE CHROMEBOOK PURCHASING PLAN

Mr. Matt Tombs explained that each year the district refreshes the chromebooks every year. He explained that chromebooks provided the best and full range of access to features to support computer literacy skills. They provide easy access to Google Workspace or education accounts which is utilized daily in the classroom. Lastly, from a cybersecurity perspective the devices automatically update and viruses are pretty much non-existent. There is a cost savings from last year in terms of the quantity as well as the cost of the recommended device.

Members Kennedy asked about the stylus and if it could be made optional? Mr. Tombs stated that next year he would look into it. And he would have conversations with principals, teachers as well as parents as to the need for the stylus.

ACTION ITEM 24-03-1

It was moved by Member Touzios and seconded by member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the purchase of Chromebook devices from ITSavvy for the annual refresh cycle of our 1:1 Digital Learning Program in the amount of \$393,250.00.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Pearl, Lubinski, Doubleday, Touzios, Kennedy, Georgakis

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Milligan

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF POWERS SCHOOL STUDENT ANALYTICS & INSIGHTS CONTRACT

Ms. Alicia Schmeisser joined Mr. Tombs for this discussion. Mr. Tombs stated that as part of the strategic plan the district is committed to making data informed decisions to improve instruction, interventions as well as build capacity to ensure consistency across all of our specialized programming. To this end the administration has been reviewing proposals for systems to house our student data as well as improve and manage our MTSS and threat assessment procedures. We currently do not have a comprehensive system which allows the staff to look across all of our assessments in achievement and growth nor can we dig deeper into key indicators in reporting student information.

Ms. Schmeisser stated that MTSS interventions are currently housed in Embrace and it is often not easy to make quick changes with student’s interventions and having this data in PowerSchool would allow quicker data driven decisions. In terms of threat assessment and how they are being stored and tracked, we are currently utilizing google forms but having this information in PowerSchool would again remove barriers for staff and allow them to make quicker data driven decisions.

Member Lubinski asked if parent’s would be able to view the details? There is some level of transparency however the parent would not see all of the notes. Ms. Schmeisser stated that with regard to threat assessment there are notifications that can be set so the parent would receive notifications which would help with communications.

Member Georgakis was wondering if there was a cost savings for utilizing this over the Embrace software for the MTSS? While there is a cost savings that was not the decision driver as the driver was more with systems that work together.

ACTION ITEM 24-03-2

It was moved by Member Touzios and seconded by Member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the three year contract with PowerSchool for their Student Analytics and Insights system.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Georgakis, Pearl, Kennedy, Lubinski, Touzios, Doubleday

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Milligan

The motion carried.

A-6 BOARD AUTHORIZES 2024-2025 STAFFING PLAN

Dr. Martin stated there was no change in the plan from last time and we were projecting on a complete rollover with the number of students for next year. If we have to look at adding classes because of enrollment we will be updating the board in future meetings.

ACTION ITEM 24-03-3

It was moved by Member Touzios and seconded by Member Lubinski that Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the recommended 2024-25 Staffing Plan presented and discussed at the February 22, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Pearl, Kennedy, Georgakis, Touzios, Doubleday, Lubinski

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Milligan

NOTICE OF REMEDIAL WARNING OF A TEACHER

The board voted on a staff case which was discussed during closed session.

ACTION ITEM 24-02-5

It was moved by Board Member Touzios and seconded by Board Member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve Resolution #1336 authorizing the issuance of a notice of remedial warning for a staff member.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Lubinski, Pearl, Georgakis, Touzios, Doubleday, Kennedy

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Milligan

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RELAY CONTRACT

Ms. Schmeisser stated that R&G has provided this service for some time and last year the question arose as to the ease with which we can view the scheduling component of when related services saw students. With the current system offered by R&G this is not an easy process. The Relay system will also seamlessly transfer over into our current systems allowing for much easier tracking of services received by students. After collecting three different proposals we are

proposing that the district move to a contract with Relay. Similar to our current contract, there is no payment upfront; they keep 5% of whatever the total Medicaid billing is for the year.

Member Doubleday asked how much do we receive in Medicaid per year? Over the past three school years we paid \$12,212, \$16,539, and \$16,993 for Medicaid billing.

Dr. Pearl stated that it seems like it will be a great timesaver for staff.

Member Kennedy recused himself from the vote due to a professional conflict.

ACTION ITEM 24-03-6

It was moved by Board Member Touzios and seconded by Board Member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge –Niles, Illinois, approve the three year contract with Relay for their Medicaid billing agent.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Lubinski, Pearl, Georgakis, Touzios, Doubleday

NAYS:

PRESENT: Kennedy

ABSENT: Milligan

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	Fund Total
10 - Education Fund	\$281,693.13
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$309,830.59
30 - Debt Services	\$26,941.94
40 - Transportation Fund	\$157,288.79
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$29,534.71
Total:	<u>\$805,289.16</u>

Payroll & Benefits (January)

Fund	Fund Total
10 - Education Fund	\$4,409,177.28
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$559,070.00
40 - Transportation Fund	\$1,662.80
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$83,182.40
51 - SS/Medicare	\$114,177.31
Total:	<u>\$5,167,269.79</u>

The Accounts Payable detailed list can be viewed on the District 64 website's business services page at www.d64.org.

- Bills, Payroll and Benefits
- Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending January 31, 2024

ACTION ITEM 24-03-7

It was moved by Board Member Touzios and seconded by Board Member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for March 21, 2024, which includes: bills, payroll & benefits; approval of financial update for the period ending January 31, 2024; and approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement for Data Sharing and Analysis between Maine Township District 207 and Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Touzios, Georgakis, Doubleday, Pearly, Lubinski, Kennedy

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Milligan

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION ITEM 24-01-10

It was moved by Board Member Touzios and seconded by Board Member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64 Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 22, 2024; and the special meeting on March 6, 2024.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Lubinski, Pearl, Touzios, Doubleday, Georgakis, Kennedy

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT: Milligan

The motion carried.

COMPARISON DISTRICTS DISCUSSION

Dr. Collins stated when we talk about academics specifically the Admin team felt the per pupil spending was the best indicator when choosing comparable districts. He said that if we were comparing other variables for example compensation we may want to use different districts to benchmark against. However, this gives us a group of comparison districts for academics which gives us a chance to move forward. He also stated he would like to meet with each of these superintendents and learn what it is they do.

Member Kennedy took the admin team for putting this together and he appreciates the thought put into it. He asked if Glenview's expenditures were so high because it included the capital? Dr. Parisi responded yes, that number includes their bonding as a result of the referendum.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Collins proposed a Finance and Facilities meeting before the April board meeting at 5:00 p.m. pushing closed to after the meeting if required. He also proposed a meeting with the policy committee as well specifically regarding the behavior portion of the handbook which would include parents. Annually it is a requirement to include parents as part of the

behavioral review. Once Dr. Alaimo returns there would need to be an Education Committee meeting as well prior to the April board meeting.

Member Lubinski updated the board on House Bill 36.06 which is up for a second reading. Dr. Collins and Dr. Parisi stated this is something that we would be in support of and encouraged board members to sign a witness slip.

Dr. Pearl shared that she and member Milligan attended the area schools meeting and stated it was very interesting discussing the specific challenges facing other districts. For example some were working on full day kindergarten, referendums and one specific school an influx of refugees from Ukraine with several hundred students enrolling this past year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 p.m., it was moved by Board Member Georgakis and seconded by Board Member Touzios to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: April 18, 2024.

President

Secretary