

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.  
December 11, 2017  
Jefferson School - Multipurpose Room  
8200 N. Greendale Avenue, Niles, IL 60714**

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Larry Ryles, Rick Biagi, and Eastman Tiu. Board members Tom Sotos, Mark Eggemann, and Fred Sanchez arrived during the closed session. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Heinz, Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad, Assistant Superintendent Joel T. Martin, Director of Facility Management Ron DeGeorge, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm, Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi of Hodges, Loizzi, and three members of the public.

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 all reports for this meeting are also available on the website noted. Or, reports may be obtained through the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge.

**BOARD RECESSES AND ADJOURNS TO CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:05 p.m., it was moved by Board President Borrelli and seconded by Board member Biagi to adjourn to closed session to discuss collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees [5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2)]; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussion whether a particular parcel should be acquired. [5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5)]; and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)].

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Tiu, Biagi, Borrelli, Ryles

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Eggemann, Sotos, Sanchez

The motion carried.

The Board adjourned from closed session at approximately 7:02 p.m. and took a brief break before resuming the regular meeting at approximately 7:07 p.m. With the consensus of the Board, the agenda was modified to move the musical prelude in advance of the hearing.

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

Emerson Chamber Orchestra students under the direction of Erica Faulhaber, Orchestra Director, performed a short program of holiday music, to the warm appreciation of all present.

In addition to those individuals mentioned previously, also present were Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez, Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden, Assistant Director of Student Services Vasiliki Frake, Assistant Chief School Business Official Brian Imhoff, and approximately 50 members of the public. Board member Larry Ryles was no longer present.

### **BOARD PRESIDENT REMARKS**

Board President Borrelli provided an update on the status of negotiations with the Support Staff Council (SSC). He reported that on November 28, the District negotiating team had its first mediation session with the SSC group. He noted that some items were tentatively reached, but more remains to be done. He noted that the Board had been updated tonight in closed session, and going forward has provided direction and a framework to the negotiation team. He announced that the next meeting of the two groups would be on January 8, 2018.

### **BOARD CONDUCTS PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX LEVY**

Board President Borrelli provided background information about the reasons for the tax levy and the proposed increase. He noted that the adoption of the 2017 Tax Levy is the culmination of work that has been done by the administration since the 2017 CPI-U of 2.1% was known in January 2017. Once the CPI-U was known and the Board's assumptions for Financial Projections were updated in February 2017, he reported that administration began putting together the 2017-18 Budget and the 5-Year Financial Projections, beginning with future enrollment and staffing needs for the upcoming school year. Board President Borrelli noted that at the October 10, 2017, October 23, 2017 and November 13, 2017 Board of Education meetings, administration had reviewed with the Board the tax levy process for the District, including the implications for future financial projections. He noted that at the November 13, 2017 meeting, the Board was polled regarding the Loss & Cost added on to the Operating Funds and Debt Service Funds, and that the Board had directed the administration to keep the Loss & Cost on all funds this year, including Debt Service. Board President Borrelli confirmed that the 2017 tax levy request had been set higher than the CPI-U of 2.1% so that the District may capture all legally entitled funds generated from new construction within the school district borders. He noted that the County Clerk will make the legally required adjustments to the District's tax levy before issuing the tax levy extension in the late spring of 2018. He reported that the funds received from the tax levy account for 85% of total revenue the District anticipates receiving each fiscal year, and that the funds received from the 2017 tax levy will be expended over the course of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 fiscal years, and would be used to pay salaries; benefits including legally required payments to Social Security, the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), Medicare and the Teachers Retirement System (TRS); operational costs including transportation of students and maintenance of District 64 facilities; and repayment of outstanding bond payments.

Board President Borrelli then moved to open the hearing and accept public testimony, which was seconded by Board member Eggemann. The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Tiu, Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sotos, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Ryles

The motion carried.

Board President Borrelli invited testimony from the public; none was received. He then invited comments from the Board members; none was received.

There being no testimony, at 7:28 p.m. Board President Borrelli adjourned the public hearing on the tax levy and immediately reconvened the regular meeting.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President Borrelli led the Pledge.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Board President Borrelli invited public comments on items not in the agenda, which were received as follows:

- Michael Hendricks, a District 64 alumni and current homeowner, urged the Board to contain costs and lower real estate property taxes.

### **REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL AUDIT FY17**

Assistant CSBO Brian Imhoff reported on the outcome of the required annual audit, which was performed by independent, external auditors Klein Hall CPA. He reported that the District had received an unqualified audit opinion for 2016-17, which indicates the financial statements prepared by the Business Office are free of material misstatement and fairly represent the District's financial condition. He noted that the auditors did not propose any adjustments to the District's year-end balances. Further, Assistant CSBO Imhoff reported that the required communication letters from the auditors indicated that the District had no internal control weaknesses or deficiencies, which is the seventh year in a row that the District had had no reportable findings. He pointed out that the auditors had made no recommendations for internal consideration and had not highlighted anything out of the ordinary in their other management letters. Assistant CSBO Imhoff confirmed that the audit serves an important tool to validate the accuracy of the financial information that routinely serves as the basis for many of the Board's decision, and that the opinions of the independent auditors add transparency regarding how the community's money is being spent. Board members congratulated the Business Office for another exemplary audit, and discussed the selection process of the auditing firm. Board members reached consensus to continue with the current auditors Klein Hall CPA through the current fiscal year and consider issuing an RFP for the 2018-19 audit.

### **ACTION ITEM 17-12-1**

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Tiu that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, accept the annual audit report as presented for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Sanchez, Borrelli, Biagi, Eggemann, Tiu

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Ryles, Sotos

The motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF FINAL 2017 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION #1193, RESOLUTION #1194 INSTRUCT THE COUNTY CLERK HOW TO APPORTION 2017 TAX LEVY EXTENSION REDUCTIONS, AND RESOLUTION #1195 AUTHORIZING TAX FOR ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT PURPOSES**

CSBO Kolstad reported that the Board was now ready to approve the levy, following many months of review and discussion about the levy and uses of funds and completion of the necessary notices and other public steps. She confirmed that following the Board's discussion at the November 11, 2017 meeting, the Board had agreed by consensus that once the fund balance in Debt Service is used in the upcoming fiscal year for the next step in the Capital Projects Financial Framework for summers 2019 and 2020, the District will maintain a \$250,000 balance in the Debt Service Fund to cover potential issues with future levies. She noted that the Board had agreed that if the balance is at \$250,000 or more, the Board may direct the administration to prepare a resolution to have Cook County reduce the Loss and Cost by a certain percentage for that tax levy year. CSBO Kolstad reported that the Board Policy Committee will be asked to put this into policy, so that future boards and administrations will understand the decision that was made regarding Loss & Cost.

**ACTION ITEM 17-12-2**

It was moved by Board member Biagi and seconded by Board member Sanchez that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, adopt the attached Resolution #1193 Providing for a Levy of Taxes For the Year 2017, Resolution #1194 Instruct the County Clerk How to Apportion 2017 Tax Levy Extension Reductions, and Resolution #1195 Authorizing Tax For Illinois Municipal Retirement Purposes. These resolutions and supporting documentation will be filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Tiu, Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Sotos, Ryles

The motion carried.

### **WATER TESTING UPDATE**

CSBO Kolstad reported that District 64 had conformed with the requirements of the the new Illinois Public Act 99-0922 for water testing of school districts, and had gone beyond the guidelines to test all Illinois Department of Public Health required drinking water sources within our pre-K through grade 5 schools and our two middle schools, as well as a number of non-required drinking water and/or potable water sources within the schools buildings. She confirmed that the District had contracted with United Analytical Services Inc., an environmental health company, to conduct both the required and extended testing, which had been completed in the fall. CSBO Kolstad reported that District 64 results showed that out of 189 water sources testing, 184 were within safe/acceptable ranges and that testing verified that all functioning drinking fountains at District 64 schools have met national standards and are considered safe for students and staff members to drink from. CSBO Kolstad reported that the District was taking steps on the five sources that were identified as requiring attention, including four classroom sinks and one disused bubbler, none of which are used for drinking. She further noted that the detailed results had been shared with all parents and staff, and had been published to the District 64 website. Director of Facility Management DeGeorge then reviewed and responded to Board member questions concerning the specific steps being undertaken by the District's plumber on these five sources following IDPH mitigation guidelines, and the timeline for completion.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENT UPDATE**

Board President Borrelli noted that at the November 13, 2017 meeting, several parents had unexpectedly addressed the Board during the public comment period regarding their concerns about their current fourth grade children transitioning to middle school one year early in August 2018. He noted that neither the Board nor Dr. Heinz had been aware of these concerns prior to the meeting, and that the timing of this information also coincided with the retirement of Director of Student Services Jane Boyd. Dr. Heinz then provided the Board with a written report on the organization of the District's elementary special education program and her research into the option being discussed with parents, one of which was to transition several students to their home middle school one year early. She recounted her extensive efforts undertaken since that meeting to speak with special education families and staff to gain a fuller picture of how the District's special education program has evolved through time and the challenges it faces in the near future. Dr. Heinz reported that currently, the special education instructional classrooms at the elementary schools have fewer students, but may represent an age range beyond what the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recommends or allows, and that the District has utilized four waivers for the past two years to continue serving students in grades K-5 together at the home elementary school. She noted that the proposal former Director Boyd had developed what she believed was a viable option to advance children to middle school one year early to address the age-span issue while being of value to all students involved. Looking ahead to 2018-19, Dr. Heinz recommended that the District remain committed to working through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process where staff and parents take an active role in identifying the specific educational needs and goal areas for each child, and that a full range of placement decisions for fifth grade students for 2018-19 would be reviewed and decided on a case-by-case basis. As a result, Dr. Heinz confirmed that District 64 would continue to seek permission from ISBE for 2018-19 as/if needed to have a larger than four-year age span to keep all

students in one classroom serviced by one teacher and supported by teacher assistants. She also recommended that the District conduct a special education audit at the direction of the new Interim Director of Student Services to gather input from a wide variety of stakeholders and to recommend a delivery model and staffing implications for the instructional classrooms. Dr. Heinz also reported that the District would engage the Board in a further conversation in February about staffing needs for 2018-19 for schools that have larger than the ISBE allowed age spans at the elementary grades, and also confirmed that space considerations would also be identified at the schools. Assistant Student Services Director Vasiliki Frake confirmed that the waiver process would continue. Dr. Heinz again reaffirmed for the Board and all members of the community that the District remains committed to providing students with a continuum of services to meet the needs of all learners, and that offerings for special education students far exceed what is required in terms of a free and appropriate public education, which is a point of pride shared by District 64 and this community.

Following further Board member questions and discussion, Board President Borrelli invited public comments. The following individuals provided insights about their experiences and offered a range of recommendations for the Board's consideration going forward: Miki Tesija, parent; Tom Brown, Roosevelt parent, who also provided a petition with more than 1,000 community signatures and 150 comments regarding the early transition to middle school; Mike Locascio, parent; Mark Martin, parent; Lorena Fisher and Thomas Fisher, parents; John Petrocci, parent; Kate Szczepaniak, parent; Barbara Spiewak, Field parent; Lina DiVito and Lorrie Domin, parents; and Lisa Zago, parent.

Board President Borrelli thanked all those who had taken time to share their experiences and thoughts with the Board and Dr. Heinz, and noted that the Board would continue to closely monitor progress on special education program concerns.

At 9:13 p.m., Board President Borrelli called a brief recess; the meeting resumed at 9:32 p.m.

#### **DISCUSSION ON SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

Board President Borrelli reported that the Board had directed that the firm of Ekl, Williams & Provenzale provide additional insights to the District's legal counsel Hodges Loizzi into the creation of a draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Park Ridge and the Village of Niles, which is needed to introduce School Resource Officers (SRO) at the two middle schools for a pilot program for 2017-18 that the Board had approved in August. Board members, Dr. Heinz and legal counsel Tony Loizzi of Hodges Loizzi discussed the timeline for receipt of the Ekl, Williams report; how and when the Board may be able to review the recommendations and a "red line" draft of such changes to the existing draft agreements, which had previously been shared with the two municipalities for their review; and whether the Board's review could be conducted at the regular January 22, 2018 meeting or at an earlier special meeting to be called as suggested by a three Board members. During related discussion, Board members affirmed their desire to provide an opportunity for public comment on whatever recommendations are received as part of the Board's review process. The Board continued to discuss the sequence of how any recommended changes should be reviewed and then submitted to the

two municipalities for their approval, so that the pilot program could get underway in 2018. Mr. Loizzi also pointed out that District 64 would not want to ask the two municipalities to act on an IGA twice, so that a timeline would need to be developed for the District 64 Board to review recommendations and incorporate any changes before presenting it to the other public bodies. Board President Borrelli concluded that the Board and District would need to await the actual receipt of the report from Ekl, Williams and the recommendations from Hodges Loizzi before a timeline to meet could be determined.

### **PRESENT TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR AND TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2019-20**

Dr. Heinz reported that the District's Calendar Committee had met to review a draft calendar for 2018-19 and to prepare a tentative calendar for 2019-20. She noted that both proposed calendars remain closely aligned with Maine Township High School District 207 regarding the key vacation periods of winter and spring recess, which families in the past have confirmed are of high priority. She reviewed the key dates for each school year, and pointed out that District 64 paces about one week behind D207 for the start and close of school during both years. Dr. Heinz confirmed that the calendars provide for the minimum of 176 days of student attendance as required by Board Policy 6:20, and noted they would return for final adoption by the Board at the next regular meeting.

### **FIRST READING OF POLICY 7:180**

Dr. Heinz reported that the District was presenting the required, two-year review of the Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment policy for the Board's consideration. She noted that the policy itself had only one recommended update from PRESS, and that the only additional change was adding the names of the District administrators designated as contacts for reporting purposes.

### **APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT**

Board President Borrelli stated that the Board is relying upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and administration in their professional judgment as to the hiring of these individuals per Policy 2:130.

Dr. Heinz noted that the updated personnel report tonight includes her recommendation to appoint Michael Padavic as Interim Director of Student Services for the remainder of 2017-18 school year. She noted that Mr. Padavic had retired in June from Oak Park Elementary School District 97 in Oak Park, Illinois, where he served for eight years as Senior Director of Special Services. She reported that Mr. Padavic offers an unusually well-rounded perspective on all of the different aspects of student services, based on his training as a social worker and through his lengthy career providing or overseeing services for special needs children in a diversity of settings, including residential facilities, special education cooperatives, and at both the high school and elementary school levels. In seeking an interim director, Dr. Heinz reported that the District had focused heavily on seeking to identify a veteran administrator who could move seamlessly into the role and could offer District 64 up to the 100 days allowed by the retirement system regulations to bridge over to the end of the current school year. Dr. Heinz reviewed the transition plan in place to introduce him directly to special education staff and parents as he joins the

District on December 12. She reported on the priority calendar she has developed with him to focus on the key issues as expressed in her earlier report at tonight's meeting and parent concerns mentioned. Dr. Heinz reported that Mr. Padavic had been unable to attend the Board meeting tonight due to a long-standing previous commitment on a project for a neighboring district, and that she looked forward to introducing him in person at the January 22, 2018 regular Board meeting.

#### Personnel Report

Michael Padavic - Employ as Interim Director of Pupil Services for District 64 effective December 12, 2017 - \$530.40 per day (up to 100 days to be determined).

April Mosier - Employ as Early Childhood Teaching Assistant at Jefferson School effective November 13, 2017 - \$15.65 hr.

Elim Pittges - Employ as (.50) Early Childhood Teaching Assistant at Jefferson School effective November 27, 2017 - \$15.65 hr.

Susan Scialabba - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Carpenter School effective December 4, 2017- \$15.65 hr.

Kevin Maisel - Employ as Lunch Program Supervisor at Washington School effective December 4, 2017 - \$14.00 Hr.

Barbara Ziegler - Employ as Lunch Program Supervisor at Washington School effective December 5, 2017 - \$14.00 Hr.

Angela Lesniak - Resign as Special Education Teacher at Washington School effective November 17, 2017.

Elizabeth Gray - Retire as Elementary School Teacher effective June 2018.

Brian Jacobi - Retire as Band Director effective June 2019.

Patricia Kisielius - Retire as Elementary Teaching Assistant effective January 2018.

Suzanne Stevens - Retire as Elementary School Teacher effective June 2018.

Carol Zydek - Retire as Middle School Math Teacher effective June 2019.

#### ACTION ITEM 17-12-3

It was moved by Board member Eggemann and seconded by Board member Biagi that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report, 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: Sanchez, Ryles, Sotos, Borrelli, Biagi, Eggemann

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion carried.



**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Bills, Payroll and Benefits**

Bills

10 - Education Fund-----	\$1,026,784.29
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund -----	247,672.53
30 - Debt Services-----	6,117.48
40 - Transportation Fund -----	271,848.72
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)-----	-
60 - Capital Projects -----	-
61 - Capital Projects - 2017 Debt Certificates -----	63,047.16
80 - Tort Immunity Fund -----	3,969.00
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund -----	-

Checks Numbered: 128746-128747, 1286750-128902

Total: \$1,619,439.18

Payroll and Benefits for Month of November, 2017

10 - Education Fund-----	\$6,226,463.60
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund -----	341,329.79
40 - Transportation Fund -----	1,476.15
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund -----	124,188.17
51 -SS/Medicare -----	141,569.76
80 - Tort Immunity Fund -----	-

Checks Numbered: 13667-13763

Direct Deposit: 900125010 – 900127468

Total: \$6,835,027.47

The Accounts Payable detailed list can be viewed on the District 64 website [www.d64.org](http://www.d64.org) > Departments > Business Services.

**B. Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending November 30, 2017**

The monthly Financial Update can be viewed on the District 64 website [www.d64.org](http://www.d64.org) > Departments > Business Services.

**C. Resolution #1196 Regarding the School District to Pay Certain Invoices Prior to Board Approval at the January 22, 2018 Regular Board of Education Meeting**

**D. Second Reading and Approval of Policy 7:180**

**E. Destruction of Audio Closed Minutes (none)**

ACTION ITEM 17-12-4

It was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Eggemann that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda of December 11, 2017 which includes: Bills, Payroll and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending November 30, 2017; Resolution #1195 Regarding the School District to Pay Certain Invoices Prior to Board Approval at the January 22, 2018 Regular Board of Education Meeting; Second Reading and Approval of Policy 7:180; and Destruction of Audio Closed Minutes (none).

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sotos, Ryles, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### ACTION ITEM 17-12-5

It was moved by Board member Eggemann and seconded by Board member Biagi that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on November 13, 2017 and the Closed Meetings on October 10, October 23 and November 13, 2017.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Sanchez, Ryles, Sotos, Borrelli, Biagi, Eggemann

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion carried.

## **OTHER DISCUSSION AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Dr. Heinz discussed upcoming meeting agendas and reports with the Board, and reviewed recent FOIA requests received by the District. Assistant Superintendent Lopez provided an update on the participation of eighth grade students in the Illinois Youth Survey scheduled for the week of January 29, 2018. She noted that the survey had been administered every other year in District 64 since 2002 to understand youth attitudes and behaviors, and that results will be shared with the Board when received this summer. Dr. Lopez also updated the Board on the December meeting of the District 64 Middle School Review Committee, which began work earlier this fall. She noted that the committee had met to review data and themes from student focus groups and from a recently concluded ThoughtExchange conversation. Dr. Lopez further reported that a Scheduling Subcommittee had been created and will meet with consultant Dr. Michael Rettig in January to generate a variety of schedules for consideration.

She noted that once the subcommittee has brainstormed scheduling options, the options would be brought forward to parents and staff for feedback as the committee's work continues.

Dr. Heinz also announced that interested parents and community members had begun to submit applications to participate in the 2017-18 Superintendent Focus Group on Social Emotional Learning, which will continue to strengthen relationships and develop more lines of communication between the District and larger community specifically on this topic area. Dr. Heinz also shared perspectives from her participation in a safety seminar and other workshops during the annual Triple I Conference in November.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:28 p.m., it was moved by Board President Borrelli and seconded by Board member Eggemann to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Sanchez, Ryles, Sotos, Borrelli, Biagi, Eggemann

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion carried.

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President

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Secretary