

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 6:00 p.m.
February 20, 2018
Jefferson School - Multipurpose Room
8200 N. Greendale Avenue, Niles, IL 60714

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Larry Ryles, Rick Biagi, Eastman Tiu, Tom Sotos, and Fred Sanchez. Board member Mark Eggemann arrived during the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Heinz, Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Joel T. Martin, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez, Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden, Director of Facility Management Ron DeGeorge, Interim Director of Student Services Mike Padavic, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm, Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi and Kerry Pipal of Hodges, Loizzi, and about 15 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 President Borrelli expressed the Board and District's sympathies to the families in Florida and the students and staff members affected by the most recent school shooting tragedy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Ryles led the Pledge.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) MIDDLE SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM

Board President Borrelli briefly recounted that at the August 28, 2017 meeting, the Board had approved a SRO pilot program at the two middle schools for the 2017-18 school year. He reported that since that time, the District had worked closely with legal counsel Hodges Loizzi to formulate an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Park Ridge and Village of Niles that would be needed to launch the program, which will be focused on strengthening family-school partnerships consistent with the middle school environment and different from the high school model. Board President Borrelli noted that in the intervening months, the Board had received community input and had heard from local police over the course of many meetings. He noted that the Board had requested that Ekl, Williams & Provenzale LLC in December 2017 provide their legal perspectives on SRO programs, and that the Board at the January 22, 2018 meeting had agreed to make public the draft IGAs,

the Ekl, Williams report, and other materials providing a range of information and perspectives about SRO programs. He stated the Board had scheduled tonight's special meeting to focus on the draft IGA with legal counsel; review the Ekl, Williams report with its representative; and to hear public comments.

Board President Borrelli invited public comments on topics other than the SRO IGA; none were received. He announced that the Board would review the draft of the IGA with legal counsel Hodges Loizzi first and then review the Ekl, Williams report, and that the Board would invite public comments after each step.

Dr. Heinz then invited Hodges Loizzi attorneys Tony Loizzi and Kerry Pipal to walk the Board through the draft IGA. Ms. Pipal noted that the review would work from the Niles version, and that differences to the Park Ridge version would be pointed out. She worked through each page and paragraph individually; she and Mr. Loizzi responded to Board member questions throughout.

Every section was thoroughly addressed; Board discussion focused primarily on these areas:

- Paragraph 3/Assignment and Selection of the SRO - Ms. Pipal pointed out the key difference between Niles and Park Ridge is that Niles Police will have one officer designated to serve as the SRO for Emerson Middle School. In contrast, Park Ridge will provide one or more police officers to serve as SRO at Lincoln Middle School; the agreement provides a mechanism for the District to review and select the individuals. Park Ridge Chief Frank Kaminski and Niles Police Commander Bob Tornabene joined the discussion to provide further information and engage with the Board in discussion about: staff within their departments available for assignment as an SRO now and potentially in the future; qualifications and training of SRO officers; substituting SRO if designated officer is unavailable; the complaint process available to be followed in the event of a complaint raised about an SRO through the Uniform Grievance Procedure and through the Police Department standard methods, and whether District 64 could be notified of complaints; and related topics.
- Preamble - The Board discussed whether to add a statement of the mission of the SRO program as as "Whereas" clause to clearly define the program, which is focused on providing education and resource services.
- Paragraph 8/Program Review - All were in agreement that program evaluation would be important; various methods of evaluating the program were discussed and the types of data that could be collected. Mr. Loizzi pointed out that data collection and metrics would not need to be included in the IGA only if the District needs the cooperation of the City or Village to gather or provide; otherwise if the data is collected by District 64 it does not need to be included within the IGA language. Dr. Heinz reviewed the collection of data through activity logs, co-teaching lessons, etc. that would be collected as the program is structured with middle school administrators. Some level of survey data from students pre- and post-introduction of the SRO is

expected to be obtained when the pilot program is launched.

- Exhibit B/ Duties and Responsibilities of SRO Officer - Dr. Heinz and Ms. Pipal confirmed that the list is intended to be exhaustive and explicit, and defines the SRO's role and focus on education and resource responsibilities at the schools under the direction of the school principal. Further discussion ensued concerning notification of parents included in the section on distinguishing disciplinary misconduct to be handled by school officials from criminal offenses to be handled by the Police Department.

Ms. Pipal noted that the District also would establish a Reciprocal Reporting Agreement with the Village of Niles; one is already in place with the City of Park Ridge.

Board President Borrelli then invited comments from the public, which were received as follows:

- Adam Thompson, parent, questioned when the SRO would be expected to provide enforcement assistance while at the school if needed.
- George Monical, parent, encouraged the collection of data from students to measure the effectiveness of the SRO program.
- Lorena Fisher, parent, pointed out the need for the SRO to be cognizant of behaviors of students with special needs and have a plan for interacting with these students.

Board members discussed whether adding more explicit language addressing special needs students would be helpful to add to the IGA. Dr. Heinz, legal counsel, panelists and the middle school principals confirmed District 64's current practices in place related to special education student behavior when intervention may be needed by school administrators and staff. It was confirmed that an SRO would be expected to adhere to the duties as stated in the IGA, and defer to school administrators in almost all circumstances so that it would be handled as a school issue by administrators.

- Ginger Pennington, parent, urged the Board to devote resources to providing more trained psychologists and social workers instead of an SRO.
- Janessa Nichols, resident, addressed the Board concerning the need for and goals of the SRO program.

At 7:21, Board President Borrelli recessed the meeting. The meeting resumed following a short break.

Turning to the Ekl, Williams memo, Board President Borrelli thanked Board member Biagi for recommending the involvement of Ekl, Williams & Provenzale to assist the Board in reviewing the proposed IGA. He invited Mr. Pat Provenzale to review the legal memo prepared for the Board.

Mr. Provenzale provided an overview of his goals to provide information to the Board on what are best practices and how this affects the writing of an IGA to mitigate if not entirely eliminate the risks that can be associated with placing police officers in schools and the differing roles that an SRO can play. He

noted that the District's intent is to focus on the educator-counselor role of an SRO, and that he used that prism when reviewing the IGA. He noted that his goal was to provide the Board with a best practices audit and what is generally accepted in the U.S. to place an SRO at a school, and that the report cited many sources of information.

Board President Borrelli invited Board members to ask Mr. Provenzale their questions. Board discussion focused primarily on these strategies or recommendations provided in the report:

- Recommendation B/Assignment of more than one person as the SRO and selection process of SRO - The discussion carried forward from earlier in the meeting as to the differences between Niles and Park Ridge Police in the staff available for assignment as SRO. Mr. Provenzale noted that if the Board accepts this limitation, then there are strategies to mitigate the potential impact of having more than one individual serve in that role. Park Ridge Police Chief Kaminski confirmed the current staffing constraints at Park Ridge and potential changes to that in the future, but could not commit to providing a single officer. He noted that if the SRO program were ever to be made full-time as in District 207, that would be a different type of assignment rather than the current model for D64 of 8-10 hours per week. The Ekl, Williams recommendation on the selection process for the SRO to include community representation was also discussed. Dr. Heinz noted the participation by parents in the interview process of final candidates for administrative positions. Mr. Loizzi pointed out that the Ekl, Williams proposal could be modified to include consultative feedback similar to the administrative interview process rather than be subject to a majority vote.
- Recommendation C/experience and training of SRO - Board members discussed whether the current level of educational attainment of the Niles and Park Ridge Police was sufficient for the educational aspects of the SRO's role working alongside certified staff, and the other types of training and experience that would be useful for those selected for the SRO role to have.
- Recommendation D/complaint process - Mr. Provenzale pointed out a legal question that should be explored further is the status of the SRO as an agent of the District or as an independent contractor. Following clarification of procedures by the two police departments and further Board discussion, Mr. Provenzale noted that the current complaint procedures and interpretation of the statutes by the police appear sufficient to provide individuals the means to file complaints about an SRO.
- Recommendation F/"exigent circumstances" compared to "real and immediate threat," and school office - Understanding that there is case law under the Fourth Amendment that would be more familiar to police officers concerning "exigent circumstances," Mr. Loizzi recommended that to eliminate any ambiguity the exigent language should be adopted in the draft. He also confirmed that the Illinois School Code already addresses the concerns raised by Ekl, Williams related to the SRO using the school as a booking station.

The Board then returned and continued its previous discussion regarding the potential interaction of an SRO with a special education student experiencing a behavioral issue. During the discussion, Mr. Padavic confirmed that each school has a crisis team with educators trained to de-escalate behavioral issues with special education students who are summoned immediately to such situations as they may arise.

Board President Borrelli invited comments from the public, which were received as follows:

- Alice Dobrinsky, parent, urged the Board to clarify and publicize the specific goals and mission of the SRO program.
- Lorena Fisher, parent, addressed the Board about whether there is a need for an SRO program.

In response to these concerns expressed about whether D64 has a discipline problem with students at its middle schools, Dr. Heinz, Lincoln Principal Dr. Tony Murray, Emerson Principal Dr. Jim Morrison and Assistant Principal Tim Benka all affirmed that the level of behavior issues experienced in District 64 is consistent with the expected issues confronted typically in middle schools, that D64 students are well behaved, and that incidents are similar to or even lower than they have experienced in their work in previous districts, or during their lengthy career in D64 for Mr. Benka. They also reported that police had been helpful in addressing vaping as a current concern in the community, and that the SRO would be a positive addition. Several Board members also related positive impact of police working with youth in the community, noting the SRO program at Maine Township High School District 207 and the way police had interacted with youth during the summer to quietly and effectively help the youth themselves deescalate with their peers a potential disturbance when a large group of young people had gathered.

Further public comments were received:

- Alice Dobrinsky, parent, again addressed the Board and reiterated that the goals for an SRO program should be clearly communicated to parents.

Several Board members and Dr. Heinz confirmed that the SRO role is educational-resource focused, and that the IGA is being drafted to clearly address this.

APPROVAL TO COMPLETE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF PARK RIDGE AND VILLAGE OF NILES

Board members reached consensus to move forward to edit the draft IGA as discussed this evening, and will confirm the areas to be addressed on a summary list that Dr. Heinz was asked to circulate to the Board. Mr. Loizzi and Ms. Pipal also were asked to update the IGA and provide a “red line” draft showing revisions for the Board’s further review at an upcoming meeting and to share the draft with Ekl, Williams.

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ADJOURNMENT TO COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE: FINANCE

At 9:13 p.m., it was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Biagi to adjourn to a Committee-of-the-Whole: Finance not to return to the special Board meeting.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion carried.

President

Secretary