

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
April 20, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19**

Board President Rick Biagi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All participants attended via remote participation. Other Board members in attendance via remote participation were Carol Sales, Dr. Denise Pearl, Larry Ryles, and Rebecca Little. Board members Tom Sotos and Fred Sanchez joined the meeting after the closed session began. Also present were Superintendent Eric Olson; Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Joel T. Martin; Board Legal Counsel Tony Loizzi; and approximately 13 members of the public.

Hodges Loizzi attorney James Levi joined the meeting remotely at 8:20 p.m. for the transportation and food services amendments discussion and left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068.

BOARD RECESSES AND ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING

At 5:32 p.m. it was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Pearl to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act [5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]; and collective negotiating matters between the public body 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 votes to adjourn to the closed meeting were cast as follows:

Ayes: Little, Ryles, Biagi, Pearl, Sales

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Sotos, Sanchez

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING AND RESUMES THE REGULAR MEETING

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. In addition to those listed above, also attending via remote participation were Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez; Director of Student Services Lea Anne Frost, Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden; Director of Facility Management Ronald DeGeorge; Public Information Coordinator Peter Gill (attending but not participating); Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic; and approximately 13 members of the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Larry Ryles led the pledge.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Board president Biagi invited Superintendent Olson to give an update on school closures. Dr. Olson noted that communication would go out to staff and families the next day with updates. 8th grade promotion would be postponed, and plans for resuming school next year were still unknown. Dr. Olson encouraged parents to reach out to the school administrators with any questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments on non-agenda items were invited through a posted email address on the District website and in the Board report, and received as follows:

- Adriana Correa: emergency daycare owner in Park Ridge, submitted a question on the reopening of schools in the fall and plans to implement procedures similar to those required by daycares in order to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Superintendent Olson noted that the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) had not issued guidelines yet for next school year. The District will have to wait and see how things progress.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Board member Sanchez requested the addition of a discussion on planned capital projects and their financial impact on the District's funds, given the current situation. Board president Biagi moved to add the item between appendices 3 and 4 in the agenda, and Board member Ryles seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

UPDATE ON REMOTE LEARNING

Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez noted we were in our 5th week of remote learning, with an 80% daily participation on average. The District conducted a parent survey and results showed that 1,000 families responded, with 77% satisfied with the current program, 12% stating there was too little work, and 18% noting there was too much. The teachers are reaching out to parents for feedback and are brainstorming ways to streamline communication and reduce printing. Teachers participated in workshops to learn new content and platforms. The district is working on maintaining the continuum of learning and is grateful for the partnership with the parents. Dr. Lopez stated the program will continue to evolve. Responding to Board members' questions, she said the attendance check-in system would move

from daily to weekly, after feedback received from parents. She noted that participation in remote learning was a bit higher for middle schools and also varied by grade levels. She confirmed that teachers contact parents whose students are not participating, to encourage them to do so. Principals subsequently reach out to families that do not respond. Collection of assignments is a better way to track participation, rather than attendance login. The District can only encourage participation and does not have an alternative at this time for students who choose not to participate.

PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR EXPANDING THE CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Superintendent Olson noted this was only a presentation tonight and the Board will not vote until the April 27, 2020 scheduled special meeting. Director of Student Services Dr. Lea Anne Frost presented the program which the District would like to implement at the start of the 2020-21 school year. She noted the importance of moving forward with these changes to the current special education services offered in District 64. She explained that students are not part of the community when outplaced or not with the general education population. Data showed that 5.9% of District 64 students are outplaced, while the State target guideline is 3.9%. The new program would address this issue. She said the District received input from the PT3 committee, the special education advisory committee, and the parents by posting a video and a survey. She then summarized her report, explaining the concept of the Structured Learning Classroom (SLC), which the District hoped to implement next school year. She provided a virtual tour of the classroom, which design is conducive to learning by adding supports and removing distractions, but also providing the least-restrictive environment. She noted that the program would serve incoming Kindergarten through 3rd grade students, based on their needs, and would be housed in the new addition at Washington School, with provided transportation. She summarized the 5 goals of the program. She noted that support staff would need to be hired and trained. The District would be moving with this program in August 2020, starting with eight students in the class. She explained that future expansion would be linear, going to 4th grade and beyond. The District would consider other locations if a second classroom is needed. Siblings of students in the SLC would be allowed to attend Washington School. Dr. Frost stated that staff had already expressed interest and attended training in anticipation of this program being implemented. She mentioned that feedback from the community had been positive and reviewed the survey responses obtained so far, noting that parents of outplaced students had participated as well. The survey showed that the main positives was that the SLC was deemed to provide the support students need, and provide inclusion, while the cost of the program was the main concern. Dr. Frost noted that outplacement costs were higher than the costs anticipated to implement this program. The Board stated it would like to see more participation from the community in this decision and debated allowing for comments at the special meeting on April 27, which would be virtual. The movie distributed online by the Student Services department had garnered close to 1,200 views, but the Board requested additional public input and transparency prior to the vote on April 27. Board member Ryles stressed that PT3 had provided opportunity for input and he was comfortable with the feedback provided. Dr. Olson confirmed that the District had widely publicized this meeting as well as the program, and will do so again prior to the April 27 meeting. Board president Biagi encouraged anyone with questions or concerns, to reach out to Dr. Olson or Dr. Frost prior to the April 27 special meeting.

CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

The Board expressed concern over spending money during the financial impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. CBSO Kolstad clarified that the District had only one ongoing project, the Washington School addition, and had no plans for any other projects at the moment. She stated that the SLC project discussed earlier in the meeting would not be implemented at Washington if the addition is not completed. A breach of contract claim by the contractor would be very costly to the District and stopping the project now, although a possibility under the “force majeure” clause in the contract, would have many repercussions. The District would incur costs for materials pre-ordered and work already completed. Additionally, the contractor might “walk away,” forcing the District to re-bid the project in the future at a higher cost. The Board reached consensus to complete the project, as it was too far along.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Board resumed the discussion, which began at the March 30, 2020 meeting, about whether the District was under any legal obligation to pay the bus company while schools were closed. ISBE had encouraged school districts to do so to retain the drivers. Legal counsel James Levi confirmed that the Board was under no obligation contractually to pay for services not provided during this time. He also confirmed that while the CARES Act and ISBE encouraged this, there was no legal obligation, and the majority of school Boards were not doing it. CSBO Kolstad explained that the regular annual contract for transportation was up for renewal with a 3.75% increase for the upcoming year. While the Board had no objection to renewing the contract and was pleased with the services provided, members discussed whether they wished to approve the amendment to pay for services during school closures due to COVID-19 and the governor’s executive order. Among other issues, the Board was concerned with a potential windfall for the bus company, should it collect payments from other districts as well, which would go above the salaries paid to bus drivers. CSBO Kolstad suggested a possible renegotiation of the 3.75% increase for next year to make up for this year’s payments during school closures. The Board agreed to table this discussion until the next Board meeting on April 27, and allow for further contract negotiations with Lakeview Bus Company. CSBO Kolstad would report on all agreements after revisions and renegotiations. No vote took place.

APPROVAL OF SECOND AMENDMENT TO QUEST FOOD MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT

CBSO Kolstad noted that the Board approved the renewal of the regular food services contract at the March 30 meeting, and much like transportation, the amendment on the agenda tonight was for payments to Quest during the COVID-19 crisis and the school closures. Quest was requesting payments for salaries from March 16 through April 10, the remainder of the costs incurred after April 10 would be covered by the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) money Quest had applied for. After some discussion, the Board agreed that it did not see any reason to pay Quest at this time.

Action Item 20-04-5 to approve the second amendment to the Quest Food Management Services contract in the amount of \$20,124.66 to cover salary and benefits to Quest staff for the period March 13, 2020 to April 10, 2020, was moved by Board member Sanchez but died for lack of being seconded.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF NATURAL LAWN CARE

The Board had previously put a moratorium in the fall of 2019 on the use of biosolids on District fields and grounds. The Park Ridge Park District had investigated its uses and agreed to resume using biosolids, deeming them safe. The District is recommending doing the same, in order to ensure consistency in the maintenance of the fields they share with the Park District. Director of Facility Management Ron DeGeorge noted that the Park District had made changes in the way they applied the biosolids, such as prior notification to citizens, no application close to field use for games, etc. Mr. DeGeorge suggested doing the same to ensure the children's welfare, by limiting applications during spring and summer breaks only. He would sit down with a Park District representative to coordinate and synchronize applications, should the Board approve. While the use of biosolids is inexpensive in comparison to other natural lawn care, such as TruGreen or other organic fertilizers, the Board expressed ongoing concerns over the safety of their use. The Board reached consensus that they would like the District to conduct their own research, independent of the Park District, and bring back the findings to the Board along with other possible alternatives to biosolids. This subject was tabled to a later meeting and no vote took place.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT

It was noted 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.

Mary Graff - Resign as building secretary at Franklin School effective June 17, 2020

Michelle Sutschek - Retire as certified nurse at Lincoln Middle School effective June 10, 2020

ACTION ITEM 20-04-7

It was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Sanchez 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: Sotos, Sales, Ryles, Biagi, Pearl, Sanchez, Little

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Bills, Payroll and Benefits

Bills

Fund

10 - Education Fund

Fund Total

\$ 1,253,748.46

20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 239,788.10
30 - Debt Services	\$ 11,774.76
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 717,214.13
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 584,133.85
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 99.00
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
Total:	\$ 2,806,758.30

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$42,221,518.39
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 4,691,556.51
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$ 2,301,893.57
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 2,513,894.50
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 669,559.44
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 843,522.19
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$ 7,484,111.56
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 499,891.18
Total:	\$61,225,947.34

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

- Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending March 31, 2020
- Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Share Vision /O&M Services
- Approval of Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2020-21
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (None)

ACTION ITEM 20-04-8

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for April 20, 2020 which includes: Bills, Payroll and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for Period Ending March 31, 2020; Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Share Vision /O&M Services; Approval of Board of Education Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2020-21; and Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (None)

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Little, Sotos, Biagi, Ryles, Sanchez, Pearl, Sales

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION ITEM 20-04-9

It was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 30, 2020.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Sotos, Biagi, Sanchez, Pearl, Ryles, Little, Sales

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

OTHER DISCUSSION AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION:

Superintendent Olson noted that the District had started a survey on the Strategic Plan update prior to the start of the COVID-19 outbreak but that participation in the survey had since dropped considerably. He noted that while the sample data was sufficient to draw conclusions, he would like to see more responses. The Board agreed it made sense to wait until the fall to resume the survey and collect further data. The Board also agreed to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation in a closed meeting during the upcoming April 27 special meeting. Dr. Olson then reviewed the draft agenda for the May 18 regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Board member Ryles inquired about lunch money refunds, Dr. Olson confirmed it was being implemented. Board secretary Sales noted the Board Policy Committee would be meeting virtually on April 23. The Board inquired about PT3 meetings. Dr. Olson noted they would resume virtually upon conversation with Dr. Frost.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:20 p.m. it was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Sotos to adjourn, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: May 18, 2020.

President

Secretary