

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
April 27, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19**

Board President Rick Biagi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All participants attended via remote participation. Board members in attendance via remote participation were Rick Biagi, Tom Sotos, Carol Sales, Rebecca Little, Dr. Denise Pearl, Fred Sanchez, and Larry Ryles. Also present were Superintendent Eric Olson and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin.

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 6:31 p.m. it was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Ryles 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)].

The votes to adjourn to the closed meeting were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING AND RESUMES THE REGULAR MEETING

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. In addition to those listed above, also attending via remote participation were Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad, 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 30 members of the public. District legal counsel James Levi joined the meeting for the transportation services discussion portion of the agenda.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Ryles led the pledge of allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Board president Biagi noted that the Board had been in a closed meeting to discuss the superintendent’s evaluation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Joan Sandrik: Park Ridge resident submitted comments requesting revisions to the 2020-2021 school calendar to align institute or off days with elections, or to cease holding elections in the schools for the safety of the students.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

The agenda was approved as posted with no amendments or additions.

APPOINTMENT OF FIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Superintendent Olson noted that the District had received 64 applications and after an extensive interview process, had selected Mrs. Courtney Goodman to lead Field School next year as its principal. Mrs. Goodman had been an assistant principal in Skokie District 731/2 for the past three years. Dr. Olson noted her positive personality and leadership qualities and welcomed her to the District. Mrs. Goodman introduced herself and greeted the Board.

ACTION ITEM 20-04-10

It was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the appointment of Courtney Goodman as Field Elementary School Principal effective July 1, 2020, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent and not upon the Board’s direct knowledge regarding the individual selected for appointment.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Dr. Olson announced the appointment of Ms. Tessa Aiossa as the next associate principal at Emerson. Ms. Aiossa had been an assistant principal at a high school for the past two years and will work alongside principal Samantha Alaimo. Ms. Aiossa introduced herself and greeted the Board.

ACTION ITEM 20-04-11

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 appointment of Tessa Aiossa as Emerson Middle School Associate Principal effective August 4, 2020, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent and not upon the Board’s direct knowledge regarding the individual selected for appointment.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AGREEMENTS

Chief School Business Official Kolstad was joined by legal counsel James Levi and noted that this discussion had been tabled at the April 20 regular meeting. She had since been in contact with Lakeview Bus Lines, Inc. (Lakeview) and renegotiated the terms of the amendments. She stated that the regular transportation amendment to pay the bus company for services not rendered during school closures due to COVID-19 was no longer part of the discussion and had been removed. The amendment to the special education agreement would not cost the district any money, as it would be reimbursed by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Payments to the bus company would amount to 50% of 50% of the fees that the company would have earned for transporting special education students to and from school on regularly scheduled school days. Attorney Levi confirmed the terms and also stressed that the increase to next year’s contract had been brought down to 0% for the general education transportation services (instead of 3.75%), and 1.40% for the special transportation services agreement. Mr. Levi confirmed for the Board that language had been added to the agreement for the District to recoup any money if the bus company were to profit by collecting payments from other districts in excess of drivers salaries. Audit rights were included in the agreement. Mr. Levi also confirmed that ISBE had amended its regulations to provide for the reimbursements to school districts for these payments. The Board also discussed the possibility of requesting Lakeview in the future to perform services to the extent that schools remain closed next school year.

ACTION ITEM 20-04-12

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 Third Amendment

to the Regular Education Transportation Services Contract to Lakeview Bus Lines, Inc. at a 0% increase in the current rates for regular transportation.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

ACTION ITEM 20-04-13

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 First Amendment to the Special Education Transportation Services Contract to Lakeview Bus Lines, Inc. at a 1.40% increase in the current rates for special education transportation.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: Ryles

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

ACTION ITEM 20-04-14

It was moved by Board Member Pearl and seconded by Board Member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the COVID-19 related Second Amendment to the Special Education Transportation Services Contract with Lakeview Bus Lines, Inc. for the period of March 17, 2020 to April 30, 2020.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Sotos, Little, Pearl, Sales

NAYS: Ryles, Biagi, Sanchez

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

Mrs. Kolstad and attorney Levi left the meeting at the conclusion of this discussion.

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.

Bianca Scroggins - resign as Kindergarten Teacher at Franklin School effective June 10, 2020.

Diane Kucharski - retire as EL Teacher at Franklin and Washington Schools effective June 10, 2020.

ACTION ITEM 20-04-15

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 for April 27, 2020, 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: Ryles, Little, Sanchez, Pearl, Biagi, Sotos

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR EXPANDING THE CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

The Board resumed the discussion that had started at the April 27, 2020 regular meeting, and discussed the possibility of not voting on this issue but merely providing it with Board support via consensus. The Board noted that under normal circumstances, this would not have come to the Board for approval, and would be an administrative decision. Director Frost presented the updated data from the previous week, mainly the additional viewers of the iMovie posted online, the updated FAQ sheet, and charts following the parent survey. She noted an increase of 40% in the survey participation from the previous week and stated that the District had reached more people than a mere in-person presentation would have under normal circumstances. The charts once again showed the top strengths perceived of the new program: specialized instruction, opportunity to remain within the district, and the inclusion of the special education students as a positive for both the special and general education population. The main concerns were once again staff allocation and costs. The Board then asked some questions and resumed the discussion. Dr. Frost confirmed that training would take place promptly if this program were to go ahead. She stated that all building administrators were informed of the proposal and expressed their support. She noted that 11 students were currently outplaced and met the profile for this program. The Board noted the need to provide the program for older students as well and the need for services to be in place at higher grade levels as well. The Board stressed that this was not the end of the special education discussion, only one element of the necessary changes that needed to take place. President Biagi asked for comments received on this topic, which were read as they were being received by email:

- Miki Vucic Tesija: District 64 parent and PT3 member, would have liked for the District to consider a homeschool model even if she does support the Structured Learning Center (SLC). She would like to have such SLC at the middle school levels as well. Mrs. Tesija subsequently submitted another comment on the power and duties of the Board in which she expressed concern that they would not vote on this program proposal and thought it was within their duties to do so.
- Lorena Fisher: District parent and PT3 member, submitted a comment on the cost of the new SLC versus the cost to the district for outplaced students. She subsequently commented the district should implement a task force to implement an overall special education program, noting that PT3 had no decision-making power.
- Grant Haughton: parent of an outplaced student and former PT3 member, commented to add his support of the new SLC program and stress the necessity to keep pushing through the issues raised by a prior audit.
- Tom Fisher: District parent and PT3 member wanted clarification on plans to address the continuum of services for students in grades 4 through 7.
- Jenni Belmonte: staff member at Carpenter elementary, commented to say that severe structural changes were made to the sped program in past administration.

Dr. Frost confirmed that the administration will build on this program for the future in order to address the needs of older students. The Board then resumed the discussion centered on its responsibility, noting that it did not want to set a precedent for the superintendent and the administration to have to seek the Board's approval on future decisions. The Board reached consensus that a vote was not required and it would provide informal approval for the program to proceed. All Board members voiced their support of the program. Members thanked Dr. Frost, Dr. Olson and the PT3 group for their work. They noted they would like to see the training take place quickly, as well as a possible future implementation at the middle school level. They also noted that the survey's charts reflected positive feedback on communication received and applauded the work of the administration to restore the lost trust.

Dr. Olson and Dr. Frost confirmed that PT3 meetings would resume shortly virtually.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board inquired about a possible enrollment increase due to private school students transferring during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent financial impact. Dr. Olson stated the District would look at the numbers and watch out for any influx. He noted that the District was working on refunding lunch money and packing students' items in the schools by having staff collect and bag them. Staff would come in on a staggered schedule to pack and label and the District would then plan for parents to come in and collect safely.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:34 p.m. it was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Sanchez to adjourn, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: May 18, 2020.

President

Secretary