

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
November 12, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19
Alternate Remote Attendance at Roosevelt School (Gym)**

Board President Rick Biagi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All participants attended via remote participation unless otherwise noted. Board members in attendance via remote participation were Tom Sotos, Dr. Denise Pearl, Fred Sanchez, Rebecca Little, and Larry Ryles. Superintendent Eric Olson attended in person at Roosevelt School, along with Board member Carol Sales, and Director of Student Services Lea Anne Frost. Also attending remotely were: Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden; and Board Legal Counsel Tony Loizzi. No member of the public was physically present at the alternate remote location and none were present virtually at that time.

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 & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING

At 6:32 p.m. it was moved by Board member Ryles and seconded by Board member Little 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: Sanchez, Biagi, Little, Ryles, Sanchez, Sotos, Pearl

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & CONVENES TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON
2020 TAX LEVY**

At 6:45 p.m. the Board returned from closed session to convene to a public hearing on the 2020 tax levy. In addition to those listed above, also attending via remote participation were: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez; Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad; 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. No member of the public was physically present at the alternate remote location, and approximately 45 attended virtually.

The motion to convene to the public hearing was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Sanchez.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

President Biagi noted that the 2020 Tax Levy hearing was being conducted by the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District No. 64, Cook County, Illinois pursuant to Section 23:140 of the School Code. The Board approved the 2020 Tax Levy in tentative form on October 8, 2020. On October 29, 2020 notice of tonight's public hearing was published in the Park Ridge Herald Advocate. Notice of this hearing was also posted on the District's website. He then invited comment from the administration and members of the Board; none were received. Board President Biagi invited comments from members of the public; none were received. He then asked for further comments or clarifications from the administration or Board; none were received.

At 6:49 p.m., it was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Sotos to adjourn the public hearing and return to the regular meeting.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM PUBLIC HEARING ON 2020 TAX LEVY & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING

The Board adjourned from the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. and took a short break before resuming the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board president Biagi noted that yesterday was Veterans' Day and took a moment to recognize Board member Ryles and thank him for his service to the country. Board member Ryles then led the pledge.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

President Biagi had no other remarks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the District website and in the Board report. Public comments were also welcomed at the alternate remote location; none were received. One public comment was received via email as follows:

- Sonja Dziedzic: Emerson Middle School Art teacher expressed concern over the limited current elective options under the COVID-19 hybrid program. She feared the middle school elective program had been altered in ways that negatively impacted the elective options for students now and in the future. She stated that the administration's limits on how the electives were delivered to students were weakening the program. She expressed a desire for further dialogue with the administration to hear the teachers' concerns. Her statement was supported by Terry Broeker, music teacher at Emerson Middle School.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Dr. Olson recognized the District's technology department and their work during the pandemic. As the schools moved to a remote learning scenario, the department had to step up and provide support, adapt to new systems, provide assistance on a daily basis to teachers, administrators, substitutes, parents, and students. Director of Technology, Mary Jane Warden, thanked the Board and Dr. Olson for recognizing the incredible work the department had done to adapt and continue to make schools run seamlessly. She stressed her department had wonderful staff helping and working with everyone to accomplish this and she was proud of their efforts.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Dr. Olson stated that November 15 was designated by the Illinois School Board Association (IASB) as "Board member recognition day" and thanked the Board members for their dedication, work, and perseverance. He noted that this year, under the current pandemic and its impact on education, the members' time and efforts were more important than ever. He also thanked the Board for their cooperation and support.

PT3 BOARD UPDATE

Director of Student Services, Dr. Lea Anne Frost updated the Board on the group's activities thus far this year. The group met twice virtually and was working in subgroups. The two main focuses this year were parent education and stakeholder communication. A parent representative, Jennifer Laudadio, stated that the group had the best interest of students in mind. She said not all decisions are agreed upon by all, but countless hours of work went into them. She felt supported as a parent. Staff representative Kristen Bublitz stated that instructional teachers often feel like an island amongst themselves, the PT3 group felt like an opportunity to make connections. She stated her group had researched websites for ways to improve ours, and helping parents access training and information would be extremely helpful. She considered the work important. Dr. Frost also gave an update on the Structured Learning Center (SLC) at Washington and said they had battered construction and CODIV-19, but the program was operating 5 days a week since August. The Washington School staff had their first formal training on autism just yesterday. The program was progressing well and looking to expand. Board member Ryles stated he would like to keep the education of general education students about special education students in the conversation to promote inclusion.

RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING UPDATE

Dr. Olson noted that the District had taken an "adaptive pause" as of the past weekend. The pause has to occur for a minimum of two weeks. No student or staff member would be in the buildings during this time. He stated the return to in-person could happen on November 30 if the numbers allowed it. He was however cautious and questioning what those numbers would look like following the Thanksgiving break and the potential of travel. He also explained that the administration would meet and discuss next week to decide what to do with instructional students, should we remain in remote learning. He also said the Pandemic Advisory Committee would meet twice in December to provide parents, staff and administrators an opportunity to connect and work together. He stressed that the hybrid model the District had chosen of two full days a week for each cohort as opposed to an AM/PM model has been beneficial in tracking and quarantining less people when positive cases of COVID-19 were identified.

DISCUSSION OF ABATEMENT OF THE 2020 DEBT SERVICE LEVY

Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Luann Kolstad was joined by Chapman & Cutler counsel Anjali Vij for this discussion. CSBO Kolstad stated this would be an opportunity to offer relief to taxpayers. The bonds in question were issued in 2014 to complete work at Field School and the final payment would be made next year. The current debt service fund is at a secure \$2.5M. The abatement of this particular debt service tax levy roughly equals to a \$72 saving for a \$400K home. She explained that the County requires a 5% Loss and Cost to make up for delinquent uncollected real estate taxes, but Park Ridge has a 99% collection rate, therefore the District is collecting well above its actual need. CSBO Kolstad explained that should the Board agree, the resolution to abate would be brought back at the December 10 regular meeting for adoption and then filed with the Cook County Clerk. She stated that auditors were also looking at this while conducting the annual audit, the issue would be addressed in the annual audit report.

APPROVAL OF STAFFING AGREEMENTS FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS WITH PARALLEL GROUP

Dr. Joel T. Martin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources explained this year’s struggles to find substitutes for daily absences. In a normal year, the fill rate for needed substitutes is around 97%. This year, due to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, that fill rate has progressively gone down. In October it was down to 91%, then in November it was 87%. That means 67 unfilled positions in a day, 2 to 3 positions at each building that go unfilled every day. The vacancies have been covered by administrators or teachers giving up their plan time. However, this is not sustainable in the long run, with winter coming and more absences anticipated. In addition the available pool of substitute teachers is dropping off as well due to the fear of exposure to COVID-19. Dr. Martin stated that the administration would like to enlist the help of outside staffing agencies to remedy the issue. He explained that they only bill for substitute teachers used, conduct criminal backgrounds, and provide qualified people. He answered Board questions and concerns about the proposed contract. Dr. Martin confirmed that the substitutes work in multiple districts (as do the current substitutes the District uses); there is a clause in the agreement should the District seek to hire some of them permanently; the pay is \$120/day, with long-term substitute being paid at \$265/day; substitutes are limited as to the number of days they can work in a given year. He also stated that the agreement would need to be renegotiated next year if sought to be extended, and would again come before the Board for approval. The Board inquired why only two public posts for substitute teacher openings that expired on November 15, 2020 appeared through an Internet search. Dr. Martin alleged that his department had sought new ways to hire substitutes, by broadening their advertising and seeking people on non-educational sites, social media, and other venues. The agreement with one agency does not have any exclusivity and the District can hire multiple agencies. The Board stressed that this contract would not be a sign that the District was moving away from their own substitutes, just looking for more support.

ACTION ITEM 20-11-2

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Pearl that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the agreement with Parallel Employment Group, as amended.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT CALENDAR FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Olson stated the school year would start on August 19, earlier than this year since the District had no planned construction. The breaks were aligned with District 207. The only change was the labeling of Columbus Day, now changed to “Indigenous Peoples’ Day”. The Board should reach out to Dr. Olson with

any concerns or questions between now and December 10, when the calendar will be brought back for adoption.

APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH STUDENT 2020-21 (1)

For student privacy, confidentiality and legal issues, the discussion took place in a closed meeting.

ACTION ITEM 20-11-4

It was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Little that Board the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the settlement agreement with the parents of student 2020-21 (1).

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sotos, Little, Pearl, Sanchez, Sales

Nays: Ryles, Biagi

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

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.

Anthony Ackerman - Employ as Night Custodian at Field School and ESC effective October 5, 2020 - \$17.03 hourly.

Karl Cash - Employ as Night Custodian at Roosevelt School effective October 5, 2020 - \$17.03 hourly.

Snezana Cenich - Employ as Health Assistant at Field and Franklin Schools effective October 13, 2020 - \$16.66 hourly.

Christopher Csongradi - Employ as Night Custodian at Washington School effective October 13, 2020 - \$17.03 hourly.

Susan Fleita - Employ as Health Assistant at Emerson and Jefferson Schools effective October 13, 2020 - \$16.66 hourly.

Brandon Kirincich - Employ as Night Custodian at Emerson School effective October 5, 2020 - \$17.03 hourly.

Randy Lubash - Employ as Floater Night Custodian for the District effective November 9, 2020 - \$17.03 hourly.

Meghaen Mleczek - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Emerson School effective November 2, 2020 - \$16.66 hourly.

Joanne Nadler - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Roosevelt School effective November 2, 2020 - \$16.66 hourly.

John Samp - Employ as Night Custodian at Lincoln School effective October 6, 2020 - \$17.03 hourly.

Sarah Smith - Employ as 1st Grade Teacher at Field School effective October 7, 2020 - BA, Step 1 - \$44,257.38.

Colleen Story - Employ as .69 Teaching Assistant at Lincoln School effective November 2, 2020 - \$16.66 hourly.

ACTION ITEM 20-11-5

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 November 12, 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, Sales, Little, Sanchez, Pearl, Biagi, Sotos

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Bills, Payroll and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 1,759,159.81
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 351,009.31
30 - Debt Services	\$ 12,859.05
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 137,549.35
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 9,480.42
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ -
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$ 2,270,057.94</u>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$17,623,292.78
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,111,932.82
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$ 53,510.49

40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 11,391.27
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 298,997.58
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 322,551.51
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$ 3,174,179.85
61 - Cap Projects Fund - 2017 Debt Certs	\$ 0.00
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 500,361.50
	<u>Total: \$24,096,217.80</u>

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 September 30, 2020
- Second Reading and Approval of Policies from PRESS 105
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

ACTION ITEM 20-11-6

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for November 12, 2020, which includes: Bills, Payroll and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending September 30, 2020; Second Reading and Approval of Policies from PRESS 105; and the Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none).

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION ITEM 20-11-7

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Pearl that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Closed Meeting on October 8, 2020; and the Regular Meeting on October 8, 2020.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

2020 IASB RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT & ASSEMBLY

This year, for the first time, the Board will send a delegate to the assembly to vote on this year's proposed resolutions. Board member Carol Sales will be the designated representative, and the Board would discuss the resolutions tonight and go through each one of them to come to a consensus on how Mrs. Sales will vote at the assembly. The members then discussed the following resolutions and statements:

NEW RESOLUTIONS

1. Loan Program
2. Gun Storage
3. School Report Card
4. Pre-K Teacher Licensure
5. Teacher Shortage
6. E-Learning on Election Day
7. Local Control Pandemic
8. Local Control Pandemic

REAFFIRMATION OF EXISTING POSITIONS

9. Position Statement 1.16 Charter Schools – Renewal of Charters
10. Position Statement 1.17 Charter Schools – At-Risk Students
11. Position Statement 2.27 State Authorized Charter School Funding

NEW BELIEF STATEMENTS

12. Equity

The Board members reached consensus to follow IASB's positions with the exceptions of items 2, 10 and 11.

ACTION ITEM 20-11-8

It was moved by Board member Sales and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Board's recommendations for the votes on the proposed resolutions at the 2020 IASB Assembly, as discussed at tonight's meeting and agreed upon.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

OTHER DISCUSSION AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Olson noted that he had attended IASB’s North Cook meeting with Board members Pearl and Sales recently, and gave a quick summary of the meeting. The speakers focused primarily on the handling of the pandemic and its impact on the educational system. Some talked about how stressful it all was, while others focused on the future. Board members Sales and Pearl also gave their impressions.

The Board then discussed the issue of Board communication, as President Biagi was concerned that some Board members had recently replied to emails received by Board members. A parent posted about receiving the email response in a Facebook group. President Biagi wanted to review the Board policy on responding to emails and members responding individually. He believed that people would consider his failure to respond as negligence on his part. He noted that mainly, this made some members look more attentive than others. Board member Sanchez also expressed his frustration that board members responded to an email. The Board discussed Board Policy 2:140, which states that individual board members “will not reply to an email on behalf of the entire Board.” The Board policy committee will review the policy at an upcoming meeting to decide whether it needed some revisions or was sufficient as drafted.

A public comment was received via email from “nnp mom”: clarification was requested regarding Board member participation on Facebook. President Biagi stated that he believed Board members should not participate in closed or private groups on Facebook, as members of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board will review Dr. Olson’s mid-year evaluation in January or February, possibly in a special meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:49 p.m. it was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Sotos to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Signed Date: December 10, 2020.

President

Secretary