

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
February 11, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19
Alternate Remote Attendance at Field School (North Gym)**

Board President Rick Biagi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members in attendance via remote participation were Tom Sotos, Carol Sales, Dr. Denise Pearl, Rebecca Little, Larry Ryles, and Fred Sanchez. Superintendent Eric Olson attended in-person at Field School. Also attending remotely were: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden; and Board Legal Counsel Tony Loizzi.

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 6:31 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)]; and collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees [5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)].

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

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Sotos

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING

Board Member Sotos joined the closed meeting. The Board adjourned from the closed meeting and resumed the regular meeting at 7:02 p.m.

In addition to those listed above, also attending remotely were: Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad; Director of Student Services Dr. Lea Anne Frost; Interim Director of Facility Management Jason Borst; Public Information Coordinator Peter Gill (attending but not participating); and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. No member of the public was physically present at the alternate remote location, and approximately 20 people attended virtually.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Ryles led the pledge.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM REGULAR MEETING TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO TRANSFER \$2,000,000 FROM THE EDUCATION FUND TO THE OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND OF THE DISTRICT

The Board adjourned from the regular meeting to conduct a public hearing on the interfund transfer.

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Sotos to adjourn from the regular meeting.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

It was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Sanchez to convene a public hearing on the interfund transfer.

The votes to conduct a public hearing were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Board President Biagi convened the public hearing on the resolution to authorize a permanent interfund transfer as part of the process required by the School Code for such transfers. The District sought to transfer \$2 million from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund and then to the Capital Projects Fund. President Biagi invited comments from the administration and the Board; none were received. He invited public comments; none were received.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM PUBLIC HEARING & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn from the public hearing and resume the regular meeting was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Pearl.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Board president Biagi had no comments for tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the District's website and in the Board report. Public comments were also welcomed at the alternate remote location. Public comments were received on non-agenda items via the posted email address as follows:

- Ralph Schelovitzky & Margarita Mora: District 64 parents, expressed concern over substitute teachers qualifications and training; shared thoughts on the search for the next Franklin School principal

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the meeting agenda.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Roosevelt School principal Dr. Kevin Dwyer and Lincoln School assistant principal Tim Gleason spoke about the generous staff donations to the Park Ridge Community Fund over the holiday drive. They noted the donations exceeded \$12,000 and thanked the staff for their generosity in the face of the pandemic and lack of any incentive this year. They stressed people truly "donated from the heart" this year.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Superintendent Olson said staff had received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and would get the second dose next week. 78% of staff had received the vaccine, those who declined were either quarantining, declined based on medical advice, had received the vaccine elsewhere, or had personal reasons. Dr. Olson noted that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) had announced that vaccinated people no longer would need to quarantine if exposed, however, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) had not followed suit yet and the District would still follow the guidelines currently in place. Dr. Olson stressed that guidelines still recommended a fourteen-day quarantine when traveling outside of Illinois or the country. He said the district would not take an adaptive pause after spring break as the metrics were very different now than in December when the District did so after the winter break. He insisted that if IDPH waives the

quarantine requirement to follow CDC's recommendations, this would be a major game-changer in terms of staff absences and substitute challenges. Dr. Olson explained that the District was looking at options to bring the students back full-time and how this could be accomplished, possibly by reducing the 6-foot distancing currently in place to allow for more desks and students in classrooms. He noted that the Pandemic Advisory Committee had met recently and unanimously advocated against the reduction of the distancing. Dr. Olson then discussed the return to school in the fall and whether the District would offer a remote learning option, something he believes should be available to parents. He clarified that separate teachers would be assigned to the students who chose remote learning, but noted that this would have a financial impact on other areas of the District. Finally, he stated that the District was also considering the possibility of mixing cohorts more than the current conservative approach allows

A public comment was submitted via the published email address, as follows:

- Craig Murray: District 64 parent, inquired about the plan for a full return to school in-person following staff vaccinations.

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT FY20

President Biagi noted that the Board is only presented with the audit report and does not vote on the issue to approve or disapprove. Director of Business Services, Valerie Varhalla, presented the annual audit report for the 2019-20 school year. The report was performed by an independent external auditor, Wipfli LLP. For the ninth consecutive year, District 64's audit showed no internal control weaknesses or deficiencies being reported to the State of Illinois. The District will also receive Financial Recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education for the 12th straight year.

RESOLUTION #1264 DIRECTING THE TRANSFER OF \$2,000,000 FROM THE EDUCATION FUND TO THE OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FUND & THEN TO THE CAPITAL PROJECT FUND OF THE DISTRICT

Chief School Business Official (CBSO) Luann Kolstad explained these funds were being moved to pay for construction costs, including the recently completed Washington School addition project; more funds will be moved later to help pay for the upcoming work at Carpenter School.

ACTION ITEM 21-02-1

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 Resolution #1264 directing the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the Education Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund and into the Capital Projects Fund of the District.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR & DISCUSSION OF 2021-22 STAFFING

CSBO Kolstad noted it was difficult to project enrollment for the upcoming school year due to the uncertainties brought on by the pandemic. She relied on projections previously compiled by Mr. McKibben in a report prepared for the District in 2018. The projections put the come-back rate at 80%. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Dr. Joel T. Martin, predicted a decrease of 108 students in the coming 2021-22 school year. His projection is based on current enrollment during the pandemic. He stressed a straight roll-over number was used at this time, as this was the safest option given the uncertainty. The reduction is due to large eighth-grade classes exiting and smaller kindergarten classes starting with no additional students entering at other grade levels. These numbers are very conservative, once the administration has a clearer picture of what the opening of school in the fall of 2021 will look like, the projections will be updated. Dr. Martin stressed that he would ask the Board at the March regular meeting to roll over the K-5 differentiation coaches hired last year. He explained that they had to adapt to a different role during the pandemic and had filled many substitute positions when needed, but their role would be critical in the fall for small-group focus. Board member Ryles inquired about students possibly coming back from parochial schools once the District schools reopened full-time, CSBO Kolstad confirmed that the District knew the numbers and was keeping an eye on them. Board member Pearl asked if there would be a need for differentiation coaches at the middle school level, Dr. Martin stated the District would have a better idea once the enrollment numbers were known.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF QUEST FOOD MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWAL

CSBO Kolstad noted this agreement was for one year, and Quest was not raising its administrative fees. She noted that the company had stepped up during the pandemic, providing pre-packaged meals, helping distribute meals at the high school for underprivileged students during the summer, and generally being helpful and accommodating to the circumstances. She said prior raised issues had been fixed and the lunch program ran like a “well-oiled machine”. She explained that any cost increases in groceries would be passed on to parents. The District continues to provide a fee-waiver as part of the national school lunch program. Responding to a question from president Biagi, Mrs. Kolstad noted that the Board sets the lunch cost and had previously voted on \$4.40; the cost of milk was based on a bid process so the District gets the best price; Quest is required to stay within the set price when purchasing food.

ACTION ITEM 21-02-2

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 extension of the Quest Food Services Contract for the 2021-22 school year.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sotos

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR ALL DISTRICT FACILITIES

CSBO Kolstad explained that the District is looking to enter into a one-year to a four-year contract with an electrical company to provide services to all buildings. She explained that the District is currently in a swing agreement and therefore was not penalized when back in March of 2020 all buildings were shut down during the lockdown brought on by the pandemic. She stressed this would be the same kind of agreement. After some discussion, the Board agreed to approve the contract with the lowest responsible bidder for electrical service at a not to exceed price of \$0.065 per kWh at all District buildings for a period of not less than thirty-six months. The Board favored a longer contract to get the best rate; the action item below was amended to reflect this.

ACTION ITEM 21-02-3

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 contract with the lowest responsible bidder on Friday, February 12, 2021, for electrical service at a not to exceed price of \$0.065 per kWh at all District buildings for a period of no less than 36 months.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF DISTRICT 64 STRATEGIC PLAN

Superintendent Olson presented an overview of the proposed five-year Strategic Plan. He explained this would be a two-part process, with a second presentation at the next Board meeting on February 25, and a possible vote by the Board. Members of the District 64 Strategic Plan Committee will also offer a more in-depth look at the plan and answer Board questions at that meeting. Dr. Olson explained the process, the formation of the committee, which was comprised of administrators, parents, community, and staff members; the fall and winter committee retreats; subsequent work by the senior administrative team; and presented the outcome of the process. He summarized the new vision statement, motto, five established goals, and timelines to complete them. The Board will review the information and follow up with questions. President Biagi stressed that he wanted this current Board to vote before April when the new Board is seated. Board member Pearl noted that she and member Little had participated in the committee and she thanked the committee members for their work.

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.

Sara Odland-Beyna - Employ as .5 Assistant Director of Communications effective January 27, 2021 - \$22,500.

Ann Marie Bartee - Retire as Teaching Assistant at Franklin School effective June 11, 2021.

Diane Lohens - Retire as Teaching Assistant at Carpenter School effective June 11, 2021.

Dr. Olson took a moment to introduce Mrs. Sara Odland-Beyna, who would be in charge of highlighting the District’s positive stories.

ACTION ITEM 21-02-4

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 February 11, 2021, 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: Biagi, Sanchez, Sales, Sotos, Pearl, Ryles, Little

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 | \$ 164,931.90 |
| 20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund | \$ 248,152.03 |
| 30 - Debt Services | \$ 12,859.05 |
| 40 - Transportation Fund | \$ 225,705.25 |
| 50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE) | \$ - |
| 60 - Capital Projects | \$ 226,866.47 |
| 61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates | \$ - |
| 80 - Tort Immunity Fund | \$ 200.00 |

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 January 14, 2021; and the Regular Meeting on January 14, 2021.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PRESENT: Sotos

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

OTHER DISCUSSION AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Olson noted the next special meeting on February 25 and the regular meeting on March 11. He also stated that the Kindergarten Exploration Committee had its first meeting and will continue to meet regularly with the objective to make a recommendation to the Board by June of 2021. There were three options to consider: stay as is, a full-day kindergarten option at all schools, or a centralized full-day kindergarten location. He stressed that in Illinois even if a school district offers full-day kindergarten, it is still required to provide a half-day option. He said the committee would discuss financial considerations at the next meeting and will be joined by CSBO Kolstad and architect Rick Petricek. He confirmed for president Biagi that the move of the District's central office to Jefferson School was part of the financial consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Board member Sales stated that the Board policy committee would meet on February 23 to review the procurement policy and any related policies. She stressed that this would most likely be a much larger undertaking with the possibility of the creation of a special board committee to review purchases and contracts for single-source items.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 p.m. it was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Little to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

Signed Date: March 11, 2021.

President

Secretary