

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:30 p.m.  
February 4, 2021  
VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19  
Alternate Remote Attendance at Jefferson School (MPR)**

Board President Rick Biagi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members in attendance via remote participation were Carol Sales, Dr. Denise Pearl, Rebecca Little, Fred Sanchez, and Larry Ryles. Board member Toms Sotos was absent. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Dr. Joel T. Martin attended in-person at Jefferson School. Also attending remotely were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson; 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 collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees [SILCS 120/2(c)(2)].

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

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Sotos

The motion carried.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

At 7:32 p.m. the Board returned from the closed meeting and resumed the committee of the whole meeting. In addition to those listed above, also attending via remote participation were: Director of Student Services, Dr. Lea Anne Frost; 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 30 attended virtually.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board member Ryles led the pledge.

## **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. No comments were received on non-agenda items.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Dr. Frost stated she was pleased to present this update to the Board on how the department had evolved in the past three years. Her presentation focused on the following key areas: department background information; Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) data review; the parents and teachers talking together group known as PT3; parent Individualized Education Program (IEP) feedback; the extended school year program (ESY); and future plans. Dr. Frost talked about the strengths of the department noting positive relationships between students, parents, and teachers; an engaging learning environment; involved parents; and an abundance of resources. With regards to data, Dr. Frost stated that the District saw an increase in students with IEPs in the last couple of years and exceeds the national average of 14%. District 64 is monitored on 9 of the 14 indicators identified by ISBE, and the data showed that the District is in line with State targets for both ELA and Math. The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) data, which is new to special education this year, shows students tracking similarly to the general education population. Dr. Frost said the department was waiting to see if they would take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) test this year. She also noted that interventionists had helped students to be ready for testing. Data for suspensions and expulsions showed no discrepancy for students with IEPs by race or ethnicity. Dr. Frost then mentioned that every student had education placement identified in their IEP, this is the setting in which a student receives special education services. The District is committed to providing the least restrictive environment (LRE) possible, Dr. Frost provided backup data. She stated that the District had gone through two audits (internal and independent) back in 2018 and summarized the accomplishments in the last three years that addressed the findings in the audits. She went on to talk about the work of the PT3 group formed in September of 2018 and comprised of 43 members representing all schools and stakeholders. The group continues to meet monthly and two subgroups are currently working on parent education and stakeholder communication. She listed their accomplishments in the past three years. She stressed the importance of the creation of the Student Learning Center (SLC) housed at Washington School. The SLC currently serves seven students, kindergarten through third grade, and aside from an adaptive pause in November-December, students have been attending in-person this year during the pandemic. Dr. Frost then explained that the District had recently conducted a parent IEP feedback survey to gather responses about IEP meetings and parents' satisfaction. She noted that IEP meetings were held remotely this year due to the pandemic, and the District wanted to ensure communication was not lost. She stated the department would continue to address any issues raised by parents in the survey. The next topic covered ESY, which is offered to eligible sped students and follows the regular summer school schedule offered by

the District. Dr. Frost noted that there had been no decrease in attendance last year when it had been offered in a remote setting. She hoped this year would be in-person. She asked the Board members if they had any questions. Member Ryles asked if it was time to conduct another audit. Dr. Frost mentioned that the department was still working on issues raised in previous audits. Member Ryles stated that an audit might reflect that the District was on track and might be needed since it had been three years. He also insisted on the need for inclusion and doing more to promote understanding between the general education students and those in special education. Superintendent Olson confirmed that an audit would make sense at this time. Member Sanchez thanked parents who had previously voiced concerns to highlight the need for improvement of the department. He then asked Dr. Frost what big items she thought were still left to address. Dr. Frost mentioned that a teacher assistant's handbook was necessary, the MTSS manual was still being perfected, and more work was needed for inclusion. She stressed that the implementation of the MTSS manual had to be done right to be an effective tool and help with important data collection. Board member Sales confirmed the need for a new audit, inquired about available screenings at Jefferson Preschool and how information is communicated to incoming parents, and inquired about challenges related to COVID. Dr. Frost mentioned that due to the pandemic the situation is not ideal, screenings are difficult when conducted virtually, but this is something that the department is working on. She stated that the District had services in place for students with dyslexia and reading problems. Board member Sales stated that the Board should be informed when issues about the District's potential liability arise and inquired about how the District is using the attorneys to address audit issues. Dr. Frost stated that she is in regular contact with attorneys to address due-process issues or discuss new implementations such as the new student records process. Dr. Olson said he would look into the process of informing Board members about student issues and will report back. Board member Little asked about how the District will address students' unmet goals, such as remote occupational therapy. Dr. Frost stated that she hasn't heard about unmet occupational therapy goals or that students are not progressing on their goals. Dr. Olson said that even if students are meeting their goals, we might need to look at it. Board member Pearl wanted to know what the PT3's role was in the SLC. Dr. Frost said we're close to state targets for outplaced students and it's better to service them in-house. We need to be in person to develop the next program to have hands-on coaching and training. She also hopes to provide training during the summer to staff. Dr. Olson said a goal of the SLC at Washington is to train all of the staff.

Public comments were received via the posted email address as follows:

- Tom Fisher: District 64 parent, inquired about outstanding items from the audit conducted in 2018 and what another audit would show.
- Lorena Fisher: District 64 parent, inquired about IEP meetings, a specialized plan for autism and its implementation, the MTSS process, meeting the State's 3.9% target, and data on the continuum of services.
- Miki Tesija: District 64 parent, inquired about sped students' time with the gen ed population, availability of the new curriculum map, maintaining the Emerson program next year, time for instructional teachers, specialized teachers, and regular teachers to meet and interact.

- Julie Beardsley : District 64 parent, inquired about 504 plan accommodations during remote learning
- Lara Liss: District 64 parent, inquired about data for spelling and writing, reading and math scores beyond averages, suspension and expulsion rate of students with IEPs vs students without IEPs, and expressed support for a new audit
- Noreen O’Connor: District 64 parent, advocated for the title of “diversity and inclusion” instead of “disability awareness”

Biagi asked Dr. Olson if he had any comments about “redoing” the special education audit. Dr. Olson stated that he’s in favor of doing another audit to see what the gains or “not gains” have occurred since the last audit. He’s sitting on the fence about whether next year will be the year to conduct it or if we should wait another year. Some of that will depend on how the next six months plays out.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:50 p.m. it was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Ryles to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Sotos

The motion carried.

Signed Date: March 11, 2021.

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President

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Secretary