

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
February 25, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19
Alternate Remote Attendance at Jefferson School (MPR)**

Board President Rick Biagi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All participants attended via remote participation unless otherwise noted. Board members in attendance via remote participation were Tom Sotos, Dr. Denise Pearl, Carol Sales, Fred Sanchez, and Rebecca Little. Board member Ryles was absent. Superintendent Eric Olson attended in person at Jefferson School. Also attending remotely were: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; and Board Legal Counsel Tony Loizzi. No member of the public was physically present at the alternate remote location and none attended 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 6:02 p.m. it was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Sanchez 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 [5 ILCS 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 [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)].

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

Ayes: Biagi, Little, Sales, Pearl, Sanchez

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Ryles, Sotos

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES SPECIAL MEETING

At 7:01 p.m. the Board returned from the closed meeting and resumed the special meeting. In addition to those listed above, also attending via remote participation were: Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad; Director of Facility Management Jason Borst; Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden; 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 18 people attended virtually. Board counsel Tony Loizzi was not present for the open session of the special meeting. Board member Tom Sotos joined the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Biagi led the pledge.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

President Biagi had no remarks for tonight's meeting and yielded time to Superintendent Olson. Dr. Olson noted that communication would be going out to parents on Monday with regards to spring break, travel guidance, and other updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the District website and in the Board report; none were received. No member of the public was present at Jefferson School to submit comments.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PROJECT AT CARPENTER SCHOOL

Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Kolstad stated that this work would be performed in connection with the HVAC work being done at Carpenter School to replace two zones of the heating and cooling system. The work was planned during spring break when no students and staff are in the building. This timing also saves the District money, as the cost is higher during the summer. CSBO Kolstad noted that the District had received eight bids for the work and the lowest responsible bidder came in at \$100,600. While two bids were for the same dollar amount, they differed in the number of man-hours included in the bid. Mrs. Kolstad stressed that the architect had vetted the bid as well to ensure the District was selecting the best one.

ACTION ITEM 21-02-7

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 Carpenter Asbestos Abatement work to M&O Environmental in the amount of \$100,600.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Little, Pearl, Sanchez, Biagi

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Ryles, Sotos

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CHROMEBOOK PURCHASE FOR 1:1 DIGITAL LEARNING PROGRAM
2021-22**

Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden explained that due to the 1:1 expansion approved last year, the District was looking to purchase Chromebooks for incoming second-graders and sixth graders. Students in second grade will maintain the devices through fifth grade. She said her department had selected a specific device after analyzing three different models and had selected the Lenovo model. The District already has this model so an existing supply line for repairs will be readily available. She stressed that she had obtained four quotes from vendors to select the lowest bid; prompt delivery was ensured by August. President Biagi asked if this was a vendor the District had worked with before and Mrs. Warden confirmed that it was. Member Pearl inquired about the 1:1 expansion continuing regardless of the pandemic, and Mrs. Warden stated that each student would continue to have a device to be ready for any future pandemic or another disaster. She also confirmed that there had been fewer claims of damage this past year but not marginally less. She noted that although the students had not traveled as much to and from school with the devices, due to the remote learning environment, most accidents tend to happen at home.

ACTION ITEM 21-02-8

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 purchase of Chromebook devices from TRA for the annual implementation of the 1:1 Digital Learning Program in the amount of \$388,800.00.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Ryles

The motion carried.

SECOND PRESENTATION OF DISTRICT 64 STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Olson resumed the presentation that had begun at the previous February 11 regular meeting. He spoke once again about the Strategic Planning Committee’s retreat in October and how the process had felt a little “flat” at that time. Subsequently, the senior administrative team had met weekly for a couple of months to put a cohesive plan together, while retaining the original goals and ideas gathered by the committee. He said that he and Dr. Lopez had then met with 7th and 8th graders to get their input and when the committee met

again in January, the session ended with a positive outlook. Dr. Lopez explained how the middle schoolers had contributed during the focus group, added feedback, ideas and shared their opinions on what goals they rated as more or less important. She said they had added a lot to the process. Dr. Olson invited committee members to share their experiences. The Board heard from teacher Sara Kwak, parent Kelly Lawrence, Emerson principal Dr. Alaimo, and community member Jackie McNeilly. Dr. Olson then stated that he had added several term definitions to his presentation to provide a better understanding of certain terms included in the plan. He noted that he had received questions from the community recently and wanted to clarify certain ideas. He explained that “culturally inclusive” was not meant to exclude caucasian students, make them feel guilty in any way, or set them aside. He said the District’s intent is to be inclusive of all students. He also stressed the importance of different points of view and allowing for those to be expressed. Member Sales stated that the Board received a draft of the proposed strategic plan from October 24, 2020, some slide presentations, and a chart describing goals. She asked if the Board received the final proposed version of the strategic plan. Dr. Olson stated that a final form was in the works after this meeting and questions from the Board. She asked what preparation the committee members had gone through, whether they had received any documents prior to their first retreat. Dr. Olson stated that he had done a presentation on the current state of the District at that first meeting but no other preparation took place. Board member Biagi asked Dr. Olson what the Board was being asked to vote on if we don’t have the final document. Is it the concepts that will be memorialized? Dr. Olson said “yes:” none of the contents will change. It needs to be written out so people can track it better. Board Member sales asked if the 5-year facilities plan will be an exhibit. Dr. Olson said later next year we would just bring the 5-year plan forward at that time and then track progress. Biagi asked Dr. Olson how long it would take him to create the final document. Dr. Olson said within a couple of weeks.

Board Member Sales had questions about the six-page document called draft goals. The financial goal was very broad; was Dr. Olson envisioning a 5-year financial plan? Dr. Olson said it’s a pretty standard item in strategic plans. While the District might be in good financial circumstances now, we need to maintain that. Some of these goals like that one is just an ongoing goal that’s always happening. There will still be checkpoints along the way; it gives us the place to be able to explore depending on what comes up. Sales had a question about the “checkpoints.” The column entitled “How will the objective be evaluated for success?” in many instances described the means for implementing the goals instead of the metrics for evaluation. For the special education goal, the evaluation method was unclear. The majority of the board was in favor of a follow up audit, which should be inserted into the plan. Dr. Olson said we don’t want to get too detailed. That column was just a “brainstorming version.” It is like asking him to lay out how we’re going to create the strategic plan before it happens. He knows the framework but doesn’t know how it’s going to go. The idea is that we are setting all of these goals and marks; if something is in 2026 it’s not going to get a big focus right now. If there are building blocks, he wants the Board to know the ideas and objectives. The Board will learn about it when he’s showing the Board what happened.

The Board discussed whether they would like to wait until the final document is prepared or vote on the plan tonight. Some members wanted more clarification on what they were voting for tonight, while others

were ready to vote on the goals and ideas as presented. The Board reached consensus to wait until the final document was drafted and vote on the plan at the March 11 regular meeting, if the document was ready then, but no later than the April 1 special meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m. it was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Little to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Ryles

The motion carried.

Signed Date: March 11, 2021

President

Secretary