

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
June 3, 2021
Emerson School - Multipurpose Room
8101 N Cumberland Ave, Niles, IL

Board President Pearl called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members in attendance were Carol Sales, Phyllis Lubinski, Rebecca Little, Dr. Nicole Woitowich, Tom Sotos, and Gareth Kennedy. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson and Assistant Superintendent for 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 & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING

At 6:31 p.m. it was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Kennedy 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.

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

Ayes: Sotos, Woitowich, Pearl, Kennedy, Sales, Little, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES SPECIAL MEETING

The Board adjourned from the closed meeting and resumed the regular meeting at 7:03 p.m.

In addition to those listed above, also present were: Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad; Interim Director of Facility Management Jason Borst; and Public Information Coordinator Peter Gill. 3 members of the public were present. Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi joined the meeting remotely at 7:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Lubinski led the pledge.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dr. Pearl noted that it was good to be back in person.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the District's website and in the Board report. Members of the public who were present in person were also invited to submit comments. No public comments were received.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN DISCUSSION

Superintendent Olson noted that this was the first of several discussions about full-day kindergarten. He noted this topic had been a long-time discussion in the District and he was happy to finally be able to present the Board with some options. The Board will have options between keeping the program as is, offering full-day kindergarten at all the schools, or offering full-day kindergarten at one central location. He stressed that per Illinois requirements the District will still have to offer a ½ day option even if full-day kindergarten becomes available. He stated that a committee had been formed about a year ago and extensive work had gone into exploring all the options presented tonight. Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez said that a survey had gone out to the community that saw 1352 participants respond. Dr. Lopez noted that the majority was in favor of full-day kindergarten in some format. She then talked about the benefits and challenges of full-day kindergarten. She noted that the compulsory school age in Illinois is 6 years old and kindergarten attendance is not required, but 71% of students across the state attend kindergarten. Research showed that students who attended full-day kindergarten performed better academically until 3rd grade only. Those students did exhibit better school attendance, but there seemed to be no significant difference in special education referrals. Full-day kindergarten did show an advantage in gaining self-regulatory skills and may have implications for students not yet known. Other considerations should be given to such things as support for working parents, less transition for students during the day, added home value if offered in the District, and potential construction costs. In conclusion, Dr. Lopez noted that the research gave no clear guidance. She stressed that when full-day kindergarten was first offered, it was mainly for at-risk students and the research has been primarily focused on that demographic. She said that both half and full-day kindergarten provided a solid foundation. Dr. Olson explained that when considering the financial costs and options, other things had come into consideration. Jefferson School was in need of repairs, and the Educational Service Center (ESC) was also in need of repair due to flooding issues, not being ADA compliant, and overcrowding of District staff housed in the building. He explained that the four options presented tonight included these considerations and were as follows: to stay with ½ day

kindergarten and upgrade Jefferson School; to saty with ½ day kindergarten, relocate ESC to Jefferson, and upgrade Jefferson; to upgrade Jefferson School, relocate ESC to Jefferson, and convert Jefferson to a full-day kindergarten center; and finally to upgrade Jefferson, relocate ESC to Jefferson, and offer full-day kindergarten at all schools. Dr. Olson then introduced Studio GC Architects to present the architectural sketches fitting all the options mentioned. Mr. Rick Petricek of Studio GC noted that his team had spend a year and a half working on the project and distributed packets to the Board members. For safety reasons, plans of the schools are not made public. The plans shown to the Board members showed the various options and estimated costs for each. The highest-cost option would come to approximately \$25M. Mr. Petricek stated that his team had spoken to teachers when evaluating the best locations for kindergarten classrooms at the schools. Mr. Petricek stated that the length of construction would be approximately 16 months, but reminded the Board that the District would be dealing with both Niles and Park Ridge municipalities, with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District also involved in the engineering process. He thought only one school year should be impacted by the construction, but it would all depend on proper timing for starting construction. If the Board approved plans by this summer, the engineering process would ensue, construction could begin in spring of 2022, and everything could be completed by the start of the 2022-23 school year. The Board and administration discussed possible options for ESC. The building was appraised a few years ago and options had been to lease, sell, or remodel, but housing of staff was an issue. Adding kindergarten classrooms to the middle schools was briefly discussed, as well as a different grade-level format. Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Luann Kolstad introduced Elzabeth Hennessy from Raymond James to present financing options to the Board. Mrs. Hennessy discussed the possibility of issuing bonds, and the current state of the bond market and historically low interest rates. She noted that all options presented to the Board tonight were non-referendum options. She talked about two options for Debt Certificates, and using Working Cash. She explained that the options presented were very conservative to leave room for other needs and to avoid tying the hands of future Boards. She explained that all options affect taxpayers in some way and clarified the impact would amount to approximately \$111 in additional real estate taxes on a home of \$350K value. She stressed the importance of timing and taking advantage of the low interest rates. CSBO Kolstad noted that additional staff costs were unavoidable if the Board chose to implement full-day kindergarten due to added classes. She estimated the cost of furniture at approximately \$200K. Dr. Olson said that the Board will need to decide whether the District would charge tuition, and how much; he noted that very few surrounding districts charge tuition for full-day kindergarten. CSBO Kolstad said that a couple of districts have centralized full-day kindergartens at one location, mainly for cost-saving reasons. The Board entertained the possibility of going through a referendum, but it was noted that this would prolong the timeline, even if the referendum was only an advisory one. The completion date under a referendum could be pushed back to 2024. Dr. Olson said the administration would bring more information on this at the next meeting, including a look at changing the grade-level format to K-4, and 5-8 grades. The Board considered the possibility of building to allow for future second-floor additions if enrollment went up. Dr. Olson noted that the prior enrollment study had projected a decrease in enrollment, and he did not think full-day kindergarten would drive enrollment up. Board president Pearl thanked the administration, architects, Mrs. Hennessy, and the Kindergarten Exploration Committee for their work and noted the conversation would continue at the next regular meeting on June 24.

MOTION TO SUSPEND POLICY 2:240 BOARD POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Prior to voting on the policies listed next on the agenda, Board member Kennedy made a motion to suspend policy 2:240 to allow for a vote; the motion was seconded by Board member Sotos.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Waitowich, Pearl, Lubinski, Sotos, Little, Kennedy, Sales

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY 2:230 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS AND PETITIONS TO THE BOARD

Dr. Olson said that tonight's discussion would have two parts: to change the statement preceding public comments at board meetings, as well as a discussion to determine if the Board would continue to allow public comments via email. The Board could either vote to suspend the public comments via email or amend the existing policy to allow this to continue. The Board decided to let the Board policy committee craft a policy that would allow the public comments via email, with proper guidelines in place. The Board had previously discussed the revisions to the public comments statement and agreed on the proposed changes, the vote took place.

ACTION ITEM 21-06-1

It was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Waitowich that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the revisions to Board policy 2:230 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board as presented and attached.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Little, Sales, Waitowich, Lubinski, Pearl, Kennedy, Sotos

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY 4:180 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS; MANAGEMENT; AND RECOVERY

Dr. Waitowich requested clarification on the last amended sentence in the presented revised policy. She asked if the Board could overrule the Superintendent when the Superintendent is following guidelines set forth by the Department of Health during a pandemic. Dr. Olson noted that the Board has the power to

overrule the Superintendent at any time. Board member Kennedy stressed that the idea behind amending the policy was to show support for the Superintendent and take responsibility for decisions as a Board.

ACTION ITEM 21-06-2

It was moved by Board member Kennedy and seconded by Board member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the revisions to Board policy 4:180 *Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery* as presented and attached.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Woitowich, Lubinski, Sotos, Little, Sales, Kennedy

Nays: Pearl

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.

Dr. Martin stated that the personnel report is unusually long due to staff hiring for summer school.

Sarah Beuhler - Employ as ESY Summer School Assistive Technology Specialist effective June 15, 2021 - \$55.66 hourly.

Paula Coleman - Employ as ESY Summer School Nurse at Jefferson School effective June 15, 2021 - \$4,071.31.

Lynn Condon - Employ as ESY Summer School Physical Therapist effective June 15, 2021 - \$50.40 hourly.

Chearee Hardt - Employ as ESY Summer School Social Worker effective June 15, 2021 - \$3,500.00.

Elizabeth Hertzog - Employ as ESY Summer School Speech Language Pathologist effective June 15, 2021 - \$3,500.00.

Pamela Lemperis - Employ as ESY Summer School Occupational Therapist effective June 15, 2021 - \$3,931.00.

Meghan Schassler - Employ as .5 ESY Summer School Speech Language Pathologist effective June 15, 2021 - \$1,750.00.

Nicolette Solano - Employ as ESY Summer School Behavior Interventionist effective June 15, 2021 - \$46.47.

Georgette Demarinis - Employ as ESY Summer School Teacher at Jefferson School effective June 15, 2021 - \$3,500.00.

Jennifer Coffin, Tracy Caronia, Miranda Conley, Justin Gustafson, Eun Sun Park-Simpson - Employ as ESY Summer School Teachers at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$3,500.00.

Olivia Gembis, Rocio Seda, Kirsten Sinkewich - Employ as ESY Summer School Teacher at Washington School effective June 15, 2021 - \$3,500.00.

Carol Duffy, Mary Ann Murray, Danica Stassen - Employ as ESY Summer School Teacher Assistant at Jefferson School effective June 15, 2021 - \$1,504.00.

Snezana Cenich, Hallie Leach, Valerie Halston, James Kapolnek - Employ as ESY Summer School Teacher Assistant at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$1,504.00.

Danielle Bogolub, Julie Cullotta, Nicolette Fabiano, Zara Radkov, Adam Tsikretsis - Employ as ESY Summer School Teacher Assistant at Washington School effective June 15, 2021 - \$1,504.00.

Brenda Aiello - Employ as WOW Summer School Secretary at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$74.82 daily.

Kim Conradi - Employ as WOW Summer School Secretary at Washington School effective June 21, 2021 - \$1,796.

Laura Daehler - Employ as WOW Summer School Nurse at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$2,035.65.

Queta Karstens - Employ as WOW Summer School Nurse at Lincoln Middle School effective July 6, 2021 - \$2,035.65.

Sherilyn Lavelle - Employ as WOW Summer School Nurse at Washington School effective July 6, 2021 - \$2,035.65.

Susan Sirvinkas - Employ as WOW Summer School Secretary at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$74.82 daily.

Denise Tully - Employ as WOW Summer School Nurse at Washington School effective June 15, 2021 - \$2,035.65.

Teresa Broeker, Terrence Calkins, Shannon Fuller, Sarah Gleason, Kelly Golbeck, Lauren Gryzik Cathy Kenyeri-Guay, Brandon Melnychuk, Adam Parker, Shirlee Pater, Renee Polinski, Shannon Riccio, Carla Sebo - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$3,101.00.

Aaron Schauer - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$2,325.75.

Marieclaire Apuli, Elizabeth Ballinger, Caileen Bazarek, David Hutter, Michael Naughton, Alex Teater - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$1,550.50.

Chris Lopresti - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Lincoln Middle and Washington Schools effective June 15, 2021 - \$1,550.50.

Jessica Radek - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Lincoln Middle and Washington Schools effective July 6, 2021 - \$1,550.50.

Franny Keyes - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher Assistant at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$1504.00.

Alyssa LaTragna - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$775.25.

Aubrey Hulsebosch - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective July 6, 2021 - \$775.25.

Chris Lopresti - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher Assistant at Lincoln Middle School effective June 15, 2021 - \$752.00.

Timothy Benka - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher Assistant at Lincoln Middle School effective July 6, 2021 - \$752.00.

Nathalie Baranyk, Belinda Bednarz, Zachary Beyer, Jennifer Ciupinski, Joe Demme, Andrea Hetzke, Elizabeth Ishoo, Alison Khachaturian, Alexa Lombardi, Amy Lynch, Amanda Matocha Patricia Mayer, Lindsey McDill, Kirsten Munn, Brittney O'Grady, Laura Papageorgiou, Molly Petray, Lauren Pusateri, Jason Quint, Carrie Ryan, Alexis Schumacher, Sophie Schwartz, Nikki Vaggelatos, Andrea Wurtz - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Washington School effective June 15, 2021 - \$3,101.00.

Kim Dumars, Katie Kirykwicz, Kelly Nowak, Christina Vaggelatos-Bridich - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Washington School effective June 15, 2021 - \$1,550.50.

Erin Roche - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Washington School effective June 15, 2021 - \$775.25.

Alyssa Reno - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher at Washington School effective July 6, 2021 - \$775.25.

Kristin Bekiares, Michael Ciupinski, Charlotte Graham, Demetra Koupas, Samantha Mayer, Mike Nelson, Phoebe Slocum, Camille Wesselkamper - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher Assistant at Washington School effective June 15, 2021 - \$1504.00.

Erin Roche, Christina Vaggelatos-Bridich - Employ as WOW Summer School Teacher Assistant at Washington School effective July 6, 2021 - \$376.00.

Josh Hammond - Leave of absence request, personal - 6th Grade Math Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective August 17, 2021 - June 3, 2022.

Helene Zukas - Leave of absence request, personal - English Language Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective August 17, 2021 - June 3, 2022.

Kristin Kadolph - Resign as Special Education Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective June 11, 2021.

Randy Lubash - Resign as Floater Custodian for the District effective May 28, 2021.

Lindsey Sakolari - Resign as 1st Grade Teacher at Washington School effective June 11, 2021.

Kenneth Bidne - Retire as Night Custodian at Emerson Middle School effective September 1, 2021.

ACTION ITEM 21-06-3

It was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Kennedy that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report dated June 3, 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: Sales, Little, Pearl, Kennedy, Woitowich, Sotos, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Board member Little stated that the Niles Public Library was making cuts that could potentially affect our Niles students. The District 62 Board of Education had spoken publicly about the issue and Board member Little wanted to know if District 64 would take a stand. Dr. Olson responded that he would give the matter consideration. The Board discussed when the Board policy committee would meet, no date was set. The Board also asked for tonight's Raymond James presentation to be added to the public report posted on the website.

BOARD RECESSES & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING

At 9:52 p.m. it was moved by Board member Kennedy 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)]; 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: Little, Woitowich, Sotos, Pearl, Sales, Lubinski, Kennedy

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:09 p.m. it was moved by Board member _____ and seconded by Board member _____ to adjourn.

The votes to adjourn were cast as follows:

Ayes:

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Signed Date: June 24, 2021.

President

Secretary