

OCTOBER 23, 2023
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. Vice President Anne Hart called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes,

Members Absent: Erin Stone

Administrators Present: Kari Cremascoli, Corey Bultemeier, Tony DeMonte, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Cindy Anderson introduced Romona students who shared their alumni parents to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

The 7th and 8th Grade WJHS students from Paige Lunde's Drawing, Painting, and Printmaking classes were displayed month in the Board room. Students pick and choose techniques to apply to their own projects. Additionally, they made Avant-Garde poetry. Students worked with partners to find inspiring words and these words to create a sentence that expresses their art.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mrs. Poehling moved, seconded by Mrs. Paflas, to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 Board of Education Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes and the Minutes of the October 2, 2023 Special Meeting and Executive Session. The minutes were approved as submitted by **Roll Call Vote**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Development – Mrs. Kim

The Facility Development Committee met on October 16 as part of the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mike Bickler of Nicholas & Associates updated the Board on the progress made on summer 2023 A/C renovation projects. The cause of the delays has been long lead times for the chillers and electrical components. Two chillers have been set at Central and Romona schools. The chiller for Harper was expected to arrive last week and delivery of Highcrest's chiller is expected at the end of the month.

Joe Papanicholas reports the summer 2024 construction projects budget assessment is at 60% and anticipated costs of \$4.5M. Majority of work is roofing and mechanical work at WJHS. Refined 85% estimates will be conducted in the coming weeks. There will be six alternates built in to the project. The project will be presented for bidding on November 9 with the bid opening held on November 30. Nicholas has received the commitment letter for prepurchase of equipment and lead times are expected to be substantially improved for summer 2024.

Mr. Bultemeier reported last year at this time the District applied for and received a \$50,000 state maintenance grant from ISBE. ISBE has announced that a new year of grants are open for applications. D39 will be applying for the \$50,000 grant once again. This time the application will be attached to the summer 2024 work at WJHS. The application resolution will be presented for Board approval on this agenda.

School Finance – Mr. Cesaretti

The School Finance Committee also met as part of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Bultemeier reviewed the 2023 proposed tax levy estimate and the factors contributing to its calculation. A presentation will be shared later on this evening's agenda regarding the 2023 estimated tax levy, again including many of the factors that impact the tax levy calculation.

Strategy – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

The Strategy Committee also met as part of the October Committee of the Whole. The Board received several updates on the District's Strategic Plan efforts and progress toward accomplishment of this year's Action Steps. Kelly Jackson provided the Board with several updates, which included Goal 2 Action Steps, with a focus on SEL and Behavior/Foundations as well as a review of Goal 4 Action Steps, with a focus on transitions for 4th to 5th grade and 6th to 7th grade students and families. Mrs. Jackson then provided a review of the 2023 5Essentials Survey results. The Board discussed each of these updates.

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee (CRC) – Mrs. Poehling

The Community Review Committee held its first meeting of the year on October 10. New members observed two impactful presentations for topic options to research this year. One idea was the benefits and importance of play for all students including neurodiverse learning students. Another topic idea was teacher burn out and stress and thoughts to improve these conditions. CRC will meet November 14 to vote on the research topic for this year.

Educational Foundation – Mrs. Kim

Ed Foundation met on September 27 and discussed the planned fundraising events and Gripp Grant timeline. First fundraising event, Trivia Night, will be held on November 4.

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim/Mrs. Schneider-Fabes Group meeting will be held this Wednesday night.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – Mrs. Paflas

Registration for Joint Annual Conference being held November 17-19 is still open and the North Cook Division meeting will be held on October 30 if members wish to attend.

Legislative Update – no report

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication – Dr. Cremascoli

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board received written communication from Michael Gordon regarding salary increases for paraprofessionals; Alli Frazier regarding student placement in Accelerated Math Program; Ann-Marie Kogan regarding use of a new school climate survey, Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI), in lieu of the 5Essentials Survey.

B. Administrative Announcements – Dr. Cremascoli

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Dr. Cremascoli stated fall parent-teacher conferences will take place on November 16-17, immediately preceding Fall Break (Thanksgiving week).

Principal Recognition (Principals' Day October 20)

October is Principal Appreciation Month. Administration was proud to honor D39 building leaders. Being a school administrator is both rewarding and challenging. It is one of the toughest jobs in education and we thank them for their hard work, expertise, dedication, care, flexibility and perseverance.

Recognition of Schools

Romona Elementary School had been named a National Blue Ribbon school this past month. This marks the third time that Romona has earned this prestigious distinction and it was one of only 14 schools in the State of Illinois to be recognized as an "Exemplary High Performing School."

Additionally, all four of D39 elementary schools were named Apple Distinguished Schools for 2023-2026 earlier this month. This award recognizes those schools for using Apple technology in innovative ways that inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical teaching and learning among its learning community. The schools went through a detailed and thorough application process and are proud of how technology is used to engage, empower, and inspire students. Highcrest and Wilmette Junior High School received this honor last year, making District 39 one of the few school districts in the country to have all of its schools recognized by Apple.

Author Grace Lin Visit

In recent years, elementary PTA's have financially supported an author to visit the schools. During the week of the author's visit, elementary librarians engage in a variety of activities using the author's books. This year's author is Grace Lin. On Monday, November 6, the Wilmette Public Library will host "An Evening with Grace Lin" at Wilmette Junior High School.

Annual Local Education Agency (LEA) Determination Review for Special Education Programming in Illinois School Districts

Annually, public schools and districts are evaluated by the State of Illinois on their ability to meet all required obligations of the provision of special education services and programming. The annual Local Education Agency (LEA) Determination review of Illinois school districts reports on progress and/or accomplishments toward these rigorous requirements and goals. District 39 has earned the highest rating possible in each measure. These ratings represent a significant amount of work accomplished by teachers, administrators, and related services personnel. While compliance oriented, these accomplishments reflect a significant commitment to meeting and exceeding the expectations of special education programming and services.

Fiscal Year 2024 Maintenance Grant Application

District 39 will be applying for a state maintenance grant for a total of \$50,000. The application is related to the work at WJHS in the summer of 2024. District 39 applied for the same grant last year at this time and was awarded \$50,000 towards the summer 2023 projects. The application process requires the D39 Board to approve the application.

Board Self-Evaluation and Board Development with Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)

The Board of Education met on Monday, October 2 for its annual Board Self-Evaluation and Development session led by a representative from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

League of Women Voters Event: State of the Village

The League of Women Voters hosted their State of the Village Event on Wednesday, October 11. This event provided leadership and administration from each local governmental agency in Wilmette to discuss and provide updates to their strategic priorities and key issues of focus.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The District received FOIA requests from:

- Janine Asmus of Burr Ridge requesting identification and emails for every district employee who is certified as a school librarian currently working in that capacity in D39 libraries/media centers this school year
- Sheri Reid of SmartProcure submitted a commercial FOIA requesting all purchasing records from June 21, 2023 to September 14, 2023
- Jodi Cohen and Jennifer Smith Richards of ProPublica requested all records detailing programs and services offered by Shrub Oak including education and residential services; the negotiated per diem rate for tuition, room and board or other services; communication including but not limited to email communication between WPSD 39 and ISBE related to student placement at Shrub Oak; communication including but not limited to email communication between district employees and employees of Shrub Oak; all placement agreements or contracts with Shrub Oak International School; all records showing approval of requests for emergency placement at the facility including proof of need for placement provided by the district to ISBE.
- Jodi Cohen and Jennifer Smith Richards of ProPublica requested records that sufficiently detail invoice/billing amounts from and records of payments to residential schools and programs where D39 students were placed during years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 to date; records of student placements in residential schools and programs from 2020-2021 school year to present. Records should include student race, gender, grade level, IEP status, Section 504 status, the school year placed in the setting, name of school and length of placement.
- Frank Zawrazky requesting documents identifying schools using seclusion rooms during 2022-2023 school year along with the quantity of seclusions, length of seclusions, number of seclusions per school, time spent in seclusion per student and total number of students secluded in 2022-2023.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. Spring 2023 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) Preliminary Data

Ms. Katie Lee presented the IAR assessment results from spring of 2023 which is reflective of the 2022-2023 school year. These assessment results are deemed preliminary and embargoed by the Illinois State Board of Education until October 30, 2023. When Illinois State Board of Education publicly releases the data, it will be published on myIRC website with all other school/district report card data.

2. Fall 2023 NWEA MAP and aimswebPlus Assessment Data

Ms. Katie Lee and Dr. Kristin Swanson presented the 2023 NWEA MAP and aimswebPlus Assessment Data to the members of the Board for review and discussion. These data provide a baseline of achievement for the school year as well as a historical review.

Discussion ensued regarding all of the assessment data provided.

3. Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Update

The Key Performance Indicators for Goals 2, 3, and 4 were presented. In June 2023, most of the KPIs were updated as the data was available for the goals. However, some data was not accessible until this fall. Heather Glowacki, Tony DeMonte, Kelly Jackson and Katie Lee presented this report.

4. Letter of Agreement with the Wilmette Education Association (WEA)

Previous and the current WEA contract indicates that teachers who take an extended leave of absence (work less than 90 days in a school year) should receive a raise of CPI. Teacher raises in

some years have been CPI plus a negotiated percent above CPI. This language for teachers returning from an extended leave was intended to reflect a raise of just CPI, but likely not as much of a raise as those teachers who were not on an extended leave. This language has been in place for several contracts and has not been an issue. However, with CPI being quite high and without a ceiling on this provision, it is possible that teachers returning from leave could receive a higher raise than the rest of the faculty. This is not the intent. The proposed language addition should cap all raises at the specified ceiling.

D. Annual Business

1. Fall Enrollment Report

Mr. Tony DeMonte presented the fall enrollment report. Annually, District 39 provides a Fall Enrollment report that captures the number of students attending District 39's schools as of enrollment on October 1st. This year, there are 3,261 students educated in D39 schools. In addition, the number of students District 39 has a responsibility to educate is reported. This number is higher as it includes early childhood students receiving itinerant speech at the district office, students outplaced at therapeutic settings, and students receiving special education services at the local parochial or private schools. District 39 Fall Enrollment total is 3,310 students. The Long-Term Enrollment Projections report will be presented at the November Board meeting.

2. Review of Tax Year 2023 Estimate of Levy

As part of the annual tax levy approval process, the District is required to estimate the tax levy at a public Board Meeting. A presentation will be shared on the 2023 estimated tax levy including many of the factors that impact the tax levy calculation. Also, the Board must set the date of a public hearing on the 2023 tax levy which is scheduled to take place at the November 13, 2023 Board Meeting.

E. Board Policy Review

1. First Reading of Board of Education Policies

Section 5 policies impact employees and may impact contracts, therefore, proposed changes were reviewed with union leaders before bringing to a first reading with the Board. Most of the proposed changes are reflective of updates to the law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Poehling moved, seconded by Mrs. Paflas, to approve the Personnel Report dated October 23, 2023, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Sarah De Galicia**, effective October 23, 2023; **Cecilia Gobdel**, effective October 10, 2023; **Joseph King**, effective September 26, 2023; **Ann Meyer**, effective September 26, 2023; **Cesar Rueda**, effective October 16, 2023; temporary employment of **Kelly Isom**, effective October 9, 2023; educational support personnel resignation of **Donna Eckert**, effective October 31, 2023; **Avianna Walker**, effective September 21, 2023; release of a probationary employee **Ezekiel Givens**, effective September 20, 2023; educational support personnel dismissal of **Anthony Brown**, effective October 16, 2023; educational support personnel retirement of **Linda Gluth**, effective September 30, 2024; adjust the administrator and exempt employee 2023-2024 contractual salary increase indexed to Consumer Price Index (CPI), to an aggregate merit raise of 5.0%; approve the Tax Year 2023 Estimate of Levy as per "Exhibit A" dated October 23, 2023; approve a Public Hearing on the Proposed Levy scheduled to immediately precede

the regular November 13, 2023 meeting of the Board of Education: approve the Fiscal Year 2024 School Maintenance Project Grant Application: to approve as first reading of Board of Education Policies 5:80 *Court Duty*; 5:125 *Acceptable Use of Technology*; 5:170 *Copyright*; 5:180 *Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity*; 5:185 *Family Medical Leave Act*; and 5:270 *Employment at Will*: approve to maintain as confidential the executive session minutes of March 14, 2023; March 20, 2023; April 17, 2023; April 24, 2023; May 15, 2023; June 5, 2023; June 12, 2023; August 14, 2023: approve to dispose of executive session audio recordings pursuant to District policy for May 10, 2021; May 24, 2021; June 7, 2021; June 14, 2021; August 23, 2021; September 27, 2021: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between September 19, 2023 – October 23, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$616,493.21; O&M Fund \$113,852.42; Transportation \$248,144.31; Capital Projects \$551,240.00; total all funds: \$1,529,729.94: to approve the manual checks issued between September 19, 2023 – October 23, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$1,025,121.39; O&M Fund \$91,057.00; Transportation \$173.22; Capital Projects \$216,520.63; total all funds: \$1,332,872.24.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; voting “nay” – none; absent –Erin Stone: **Motions Carried.**

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Vice President Hart noted Highcrest Freaky Friday was a blast. She thanked everyone involved with the event noting there were bounce houses, a photo booth and a disc jockey. Student participation was high and the event was a great success.

Mrs. Poehling moved, seconded by Mrs. Paflas, to adjourn to executive session to discuss Collective Negotiations, Specific Personnel and Special Education/Individual Student Matters.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes; voting “nay” – none; absent – Erin Stone: **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:44 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:43 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Poehling moved, seconded by Mrs. Paflas, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 9:44 p.m. by **Roll Call Vote.**

President

Secretary