

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Special Meeting  
at 6:00 p.m. on November 29, 2018  
Jefferson School - Multipurpose Room  
8200 Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714**

Board President Borrelli called the meeting to order at approximately 6:09 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Fred Sanchez, Larry Ryles, Tom Sotos, and Rick Biagi; Board member Mark Eggemann arrived at approximately 6:30 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Heinz, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm, Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi, and approximately 15 members of the public.

The agenda and reports for this meeting are available on the website at <http://www.d64.org> or through the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Board member Ryles led the Pledge.

**Public Comments**

Board President Borrelli invited public comments on items not on the agenda, which were received as follows:

- Former Board member Eastman Tiu reiterated that his resignation was due to personal time constraints and thanked the Board and community for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

**Discussion Regarding Applications for Board of Education Vacancy and Appointment Process Next Steps**

Board President Borrelli thanked former member Tiu for his contributions to the Board during his short tenure. He noted that per Board Policy 2:70, the Board had registered the vacancy with the regional superintendent, and had publicly announced the vacancy and issued a call for candidates to the community. He confirmed that the Board is required to appoint a replacement to serve until the new Board is seated following the April 2, 2019 municipal election. The appointment must be made within a 45-day window, as specified in the policy. He noted that the community would now also be electing a Board member to fill the unexpired, two-year term at the April 2 election. He reported that the consensus of the Board was to not accept applications from individuals who intended to run for election in April.

Board President Borrelli noted that the call for candidates was publicly communicated by various means, including direct email; the District's eNews newsletter and website; District social media accounts; and local news media. He reported that the deadline for applications was noon today, and that the eligibility requirements were provided publicly with the call for applicants. He noted that the call for candidates had also included the Board's intention of appointing the replacement to be confirmed at the December 10, 2018 regular meeting.

Board President Borrelli then announced that applications had been received from former Board member Bob Johnson who served from 2014-17; former Board member Russ Gentile, who served from 2009-10; and parent Debbie Lovett. Board members discussed the next steps to review these applicants and the timeline. Board legal counsel Mr. Loizzi confirmed that according to the Board's policy, it is completely lawful for the Board to discuss applicants in closed or open session, but that any discussion of process and an actual vote must be done in open session. He also noted that one philosophy he has seen other districts adopt is that given the short period of time the individual will serve between December and the election, the Board might consider viewing applicants through the lens of what would be least disruptive to the Board in conducting its business during this time period. Following further discussion, the Board reached consensus to conduct the vetting of the candidates in open session. The Board then considered how the vetting should proceed. Given that each candidate had already submitted an application letter and resume, which had been shared publicly, the Board agreed by consensus to conduct a seven-minute question period for each applicant in the order in which they were received, and with the other candidates not present for the questioning. The Board also identified that the upcoming bond issuance, facility projects, special education, and staffing and enrollment for the coming year are major topics that will be coming to the Board in the intervening months before the election.

The Board then conducted interviews with Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gentile and Ms. Lovett individually in turn, asking them to respond to questions posed by the Board members concerning their familiarity with financial issues facing the Board; knowledge of pending facility projects at the schools; who they would be representing as an appointed Board member rather than an elected one; how they monitor current Board meetings and news; their ability to devote the time required during this period; and what contribution or accomplishment they would hope to make in the short term of this appointment. All three candidates then returned to the meeting, and were again heartily thanked by Board President Borrelli on behalf of the Board for volunteering their time and expertise to serve the community.

Board members then each offered their perspectives on which candidate should be selected to best meet the parameters of the current vacancy. The consensus of the Board was to select Bob

Johnson to fill the vacancy, particularly noting his most recent experience on the Board when the facility master plan and financing framework were established coupled with his understanding of the workload and topics the Board is expected to handle in the next several months. Board members expressed confidence that Mr. Johnson would make a smooth transition in returning to the Board table. Board President Borrelli asked Mr. Johnson if he would accept the appointment; Mr. Johnson so reaffirmed.

Board President Borrelli invited further public comments; none were received.

Board President Borrelli confirmed that the Board would officially appoint Mr. Johnson to the vacant Board seat at the December 10, 2018 regular meeting and that he would be immediately sworn into office after the vote. He again warmly thanked all three candidates for stepping forward, and encouraged the two who were not selected to continue their interest in D64 and to consider running for election to the Board in April or in future years.

**Adjournment**

At 7:47 p.m., it was moved by Board President Borrelli and seconded by Board member Ryles to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sotos, Ryles, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion carried.

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President

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Secretary

Date: December 10, 2018