

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64**  
**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.**  
**May 19, 2022**  
**Emerson School - MPR**  
**8101 Cumberland Ave, Niles, IL 60714**

Board President Pearl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Carol Sales, Phyllis Lubinski, Gareth Kennedy (via phone), Tom Sotos, Larry Ryles, and Dr. Nicole Woitowich. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin, CSBO Adam Paris, and Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi.

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 6:09 p.m. it was moved by board member Sotos and seconded by board member Woitowich to recess from the regular board meeting and adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the following: 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: Sales, Woitowich, Sotos, Pearl, Kennedy, Ryles, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING**

The Board adjourned from the closed meeting at 6:25 p.m. and took a break before resuming the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. In addition to those listed above, also present were: Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez, Director of Student Services Dr. Lea Anne Frost; Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden; Chief School Business Official Adam Parisi; Assistant Director of Facility Management Anthony Bersani; Communications Coordinator Nick Shepkowski; and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. Approximately 18 members of the public were present.

Hodges legal counsel Kerry Pipal replaced Tony Loizzi who left the meeting following the closed session. Board member Kennedy attended the regular meeting in person, after attending the closed meeting via phone.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **OPENING REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**

President Pearl noted that May was a busy month but an exciting one with the close of the school year approaching. She thanked everyone for their work.

### **STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Dr. Olson introduced Jefferson School principal Lisa Halverson who said she had the honor of presenting Levi Hanna, a young student at Jefferson School. Levi had been awarded the UCP/Inifinitec 2022 Outstanding Technology Award for using his technology device to communicate. Levi had a chance to demonstrate the use of his device that allows him to interact with others and show his social side.

### **WELCOME TO EMERSON SCHOOL**

Emerson School Dr. Samantha Alaimo introduced two eighth-grade students who spoke about the school receiving the National Horizon School to Watch for the fifth year in a row. They explained what the award was and what made Emerson unique.

### **COVID-19 & PREVENTION STRATEGIES UPDATE**

Dr. Olson said the district continued to monitor the metrics. The numbers had plateaued for about three weeks, then incurred a small jump, before leveling again. He stated he had no concerns with only two weeks of school left.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the district's website and in the board report; none were received electronically. Members of the public who were present in person were also invited to submit comments, they were received as follows:

- Carter Esterling: a D64 parent, urged the board to create a plan during summer for COVID-19 mitigations in anticipation of the 2022-23 school year; he reminded the members that they serve all students.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

The personnel report (appendix 6) was moved up right after appendix 3. Policy 2:230 would be pulled from the consent agenda for further revisions and brought back at a subsequent meeting.

### **RECOGNITION OF TENURED TEACHERS**

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Martin stated that tenure is attained after a four-year probationary period. Teachers are evaluated extensively during that time, before the district decides to make the long-term commitment. He noted that teachers being recognized this year did not have a normal probationary period due to the pandemic, and experienced anything but a typical teaching year. He said they

had risen to the challenge and the district was thrilled to bestow upon them the title of “tenured”. He read out the names of the teachers.

**APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT (this item was moved up in the agenda)**

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.

Alison Dusk - Employ as Special Education Teacher at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$56,677.

Gina Laricciui - Employ as Instructional Technology Coach at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 1 - \$65,190.

Larry Ohannes - Employ as Comptroller effective July 1, 2022 - \$81,000.

Cheryl McNally - Change of Assignment from .6 Psychologist to .8 Psychologist at Jefferson School effective April 25, 2022 for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

Ann Heneghan - Leave of Absence request, personal - Teacher Assistant at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 through January 31, 2023.

Sarah Beuhler - Resign as District Assistive Technology Specialist effective June 3, 2022.

Lynn Franz - Resign as Payroll Assistant effective August 4, 2022.

Nick Shepkowski - Resign as Communication Coordinator effective June 30, 2022.

Kimberly Bloom - Retire as Second Grade Teacher at Field School effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Alex Govis - Retire as Kindergarten Teacher at Washington School effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Regina Schmidt - Retire as FACS Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Pamela Zasky - Retire as Foreign Language Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

**ACTION ITEM 22-05-2**

It was moved by board member Kennedy and seconded by Board member Woitowich that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report dated May 19, 2022, 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: Woitowich, Kennedy, Sotos, Pearl, Lubinski, Sales, Ryles

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF SPANISH RESOURCE ADOPTION**

Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez introduced Senora Shannon Rodriguez, the world language curriculum specialist. Together they gave the board a presentation and summary of how the district chose the new Spanish language program. The district has a strict curriculum review schedule. A representative from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) had come out and worked with the curriculum team to select the program. The program was then piloted with student engagement. The selection of the program followed the ACTFL's six core practices. In addition, a learning team had been created and teachers were brought in from Emerson Middle School to assist with the piloting of the curriculum. Dr. Lopez and Ms. Rodriguez said the program had been selected for many reasons: alignment, ease of transition to District 207 that uses it as well, similarity with the French program resource, available differentiated lessons, student engagement, and a robust digital platform. Dr. Lopez shared a video sample from the program. She stressed the authentic cultural context the program afforded. Students who completed the program through district 64 would be able to take Spanish 2 once they transitioned to High School District 207. The recommendation was for the board to approve a six-year subscription, with a workbook for one year. The district would purchase the workbook per year or multi-year based on need and success after the first year. Board members had some questions about professional development and workshops for new teachers. Dr. Lopez stated that the district had extensive professional development and mentoring program for new teachers to get acquainted with the district's curriculum. She also explained that the current Spanish program would be retired at the end of this school year, and the publisher had not replaced it, so there was no cost comparison with the new one. She did stress that Encuentros would make for a smoother transition to high school because it was aligned with the program used there.

### **ACTION ITEM 22-05-1**

It was moved by board member Woitowich and seconded by board member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge - Niles, Illinois, approve the adoption of *Encuentros* as recommended by the District 64 World Language Team at the total cost of \$91,930.66.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

### **PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AUDIT**

Director of Student Services Dr. Lea Anne Frost introduced Todd Zoellick from Atlantic Research Partners (ARP), the firm that conducted the audit. Mr. Zoellick stressed that it was important to remember that an audit was a "snapshot in time". He said the District had made major progress since the 2018 audit. This

audit picked up where the other one had left off. He noted that the progress made was good to see. He said building administrators had been welcoming, and teachers and staff very helpful. He pointed out the district's strengths: excellent staff, opportunities for students other districts would envy, technology resources, and specialists available. He emphasized that this was a resource-rich district. He then shared some observations. While the district had a good framework in place for the continuum of services, ARP suggested making it more robust. The firm recommended adopting an inclusion classroom and co-teaching as district standards; the current model in place needed expansion. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) was in place but not happening in every classroom; it was not found to be fully operational or universal, and further development was recommended. ARP also recommended developing a district-wide data strategy, with additional training to ensure universal implementation at all buildings. Mr. Zoellick said staffing needs should also be revisited. While caseloads were comparable to other districts, the workload needed to be reevaluated. He said additional professional development and training were needed, and teachers and teachers' assistants in particular, were not taking advantage of the training offered because it was often outside of school hours. Making the training mandatory could help. ARP recommended having a psychologist in each building. Student services coordinators were also spread thin and ARP recommended hiring one for each building. The student behavior system should be revisited. While the district was fortunate to have a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) who was excellent and highly regarded, ARP recommended adding another one if possible. Mr. Zoellick said the student services department needed to improve the roll-out of its initiatives at the building level. He said the staff needed to know the "why" and the "how" of what was being implemented. Carving out time to visit buildings and have in-person time with the director and assistant director of student services would be helpful. The firm had also recommended reviewing Medicaid claims to ensure no money was left on the table. Mr. Zoellick said he found the PT3 group to be wonderful, allowing the parents to have a voice; he recommended expanding the group. Finally, the firm recommended reevaluating specialized educational offerings. An expansion of the Student Learning Center (SLC) classroom at Washington School would be a good place to start. The preschool program at Jefferson School could also be expanded. Mr. Zoellick then took questions from the board members. Member Ryles asked how to make the staff attend training, and how parents were chosen for the survey performed ahead of the site visits. Mr. Zoellick said providing training during the school day would help; the survey invite had been sent to all sped parents and there had been a good representation across the district. Member Sotos asked if the kids and teachers in the district were getting what they needed. Mr. Zoellick said yes but the system needed to be more cohesive. The teachers were offered a lot, but the training was not always implemented in the classrooms. Mr. Sotos asked if there were any complaints about the board, and Mr. Zoellick said no. Mr. Sotos wondered if the parents were happy; Mr. Zoellick said the parents had numerous opportunities to interact with the staff, and the district was providing excellent resources. Mr. Sotos asked if there had been any evaluation of the superintendent; Mr. Zoellick said no, but he had met with Dr. Olson numerous times. He observed that Dr. Olson was well-respected among the staff and the teachers. Dr. Olson had provided a clear framework and vision, and worked closely with Dr. Frost. Responding to another question from Mr. Sotos, Mr. Zoellick said the district would rate a 3 on a scale of 1 to 5 on the progress made. Member Woitowich asked if maybe the staff was over-inundated with resources; Mr. Zoellick said no, but the district needed to make sure what to do with the resources available. He told

Mrs. Woitowich that he was impressed with the Human Resources department, and Dr. Martin in particular, including the metrics Dr. Martin used to gauge staffing needs. Member Lubinski inquired about improving the framework; Mr. Zoellick said there was a need for a collaborative endeavor, starting at the administration level down to the building level. Member Lubinski inquired about inclusion classrooms and Mr. Zoellick responded that they looked different in various buildings. Some buildings had textbook inclusion classrooms while others didn't know how to implement them. To her inquiry about MTSS, he said the training was happening, but teachers were not necessarily understanding what MTSS was. The concept of MTSS was often foreign to veteran teachers. Mrs. Lubinski inquired about the parent-teacher relationship, and Mr. Zoellick stated it was a "mixed bag". Some parents had developed good relationships while others experienced a lack of communication with teachers. Member Sales asked if ARP could help with being an accountability partner. Mr. Zoellick responded that his firm had done that for other districts and would be willing to perform that role. Mrs. Sales asked how the findings of the audit would be communicated to administrative teams at the building level. Mr. Zoellick said the communication could flow from the administration to the teams through the sped coordinators. Mrs. Sales then inquired about a building report for each building in the district. She believed this had been part of the agreement the board had entered into with ARP. Mr. Zoellick said that while it had been part of the request for proposal, it had been declined by the administration; only about half of districts usually request this as part of an audit. He stated that in District 64, the building-specific reports would mirror the district's final report and not yield major differences. The board also requested to see the parent survey results, but Mr. Zoellick reminded members that parents had been told the survey would remain anonymous. He would not want to betray the process and would look into a way to redact names. Member Ryles asked if there were issues in the transition process from elementary to middle school; Mr. Zoellick said there was a very specific process in place, and he had not seen any issues. He stressed that there was no suggestion of changes to the curriculum. He also clarified that data collection was happening and progress was being monitored; the recommendation was for an expansion and further use of data collection.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Policy 2:230 was pulled from the consent agenda prior to voting. This policy will incur further revisions and is also part of PRESS 109 that the policy committee will review at a later date. It will be brought back after that review for the first and second readings again.

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

### Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 398,030.21
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 181,484.37
30 - Debt Services	\$ 18,163.05
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 688,469.99
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 4,801,029.93

61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$	-
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$	-
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$	312.50
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,087,490.05</b>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$51,736,576.97
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,535,743.42
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$ 2,497,756.15
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 4,151,727.68
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 855,745.89
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 1,035,857.26
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$ 5,811,923.96
61 - Cap Projects Fund - 2017 Debt Certs	\$ 0.00
70 - Working Cash Fund	\$ 0.00
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 575,138.75
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$72,200,470.08</b>

The Accounts Payable detailed list can be viewed on the District 64 website's business services page at [www.d64.org](http://www.d64.org).

- Bills, Payroll & Benefits
- Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending March 31, 2022
- Approval of 2022-23 Regular Board Meeting Dates
- Second Reading & Approval of Changes to Policies 2:140, ~~2:230~~, 4:140, & 4:20
- Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Vision/O&M Services
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

ACTION ITEM 22-05-3

It was moved by board member Ryles and seconded by board member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for May 19, 2022, which includes: Bills, Payroll, and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending March 31, 2022; Approval of 2022-23 Regular Board Meeting Dates; Second Reading & Approval of Changes to Policies 2:140, ~~2:230~~, 4:140, & 4:20; Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Vision/O&M Services; Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none).

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Pearl, Ryles, Voitowich, Lubinski, Kennedy, Sotos

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Sales asked for a revision to the regular minutes for April 21 before the vote and approval. She requested the addition of a discussion and inquiry about a particular FOIA request under appendix 9.

### **ACTION ITEM 22-05-4**

It was moved by board member Lubinski and seconded by board member Pearl that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Closed Meeting on April 21, 2022; and the Regular Meeting on April 21, 2022, with the requested revision.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Ryles, Sotos, Kennedy, Lubinski, Pearl

Nays: None

Present: Woitowich

Absent: None

The motion carried.

### **OTHER DISCUSSIONS & ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Dr. Olson noted the upcoming June 23 meeting and agenda. A couple of members said they would not be able to attend due to work commitments or other conflicts. Board president Pearl stated they would reschedule.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Member Kennedy requested a monthly update on construction progress through September, or until the construction is completed for full-day kindergarten. Dr. Olson agreed and said this item would be added to upcoming agendas. Member Woitowich said the members should reevaluate COVID strategies for the fall and flu season and have a plan in place. Members also expressed the desire to do building visits and introduce themselves to administrators, possibly partnering up for the visits to avoid repeated disruptions..

### **BOARD RECESSES & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING**

At 10:33 p.m. it was moved by board member Kennedy and seconded by board member Sales to recess from the regular board meeting and adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the following: the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)].

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

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.



**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING**

At 11:09 p.m. members returned to the regular meeting.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 1290 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY**

No further discussion occurred on this item and members proceeded to vote on the resolution.

**ACTION ITEM 22-05-5**

It was moved by board member Kennedy and seconded by board member Sales that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, adopt Resolution #1290 authorizing the sale of real property with a minimum sale price of \$1.6 M and earnest money of \$80,000.

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

Ayes: Pearl, Sales, Lubinski, Ryles, Voitowich, Kennedy

Nays: None

Present: Sotos

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Following the vote, the members discussed rescheduling the June 23 regular meeting. The timing was an issue due to the required newspaper publication related to the approved resolution. Board president Pearl will send out a doodle poll to the members and a date will be set the following day for the June regular meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:16 p.m., it was moved by board member Kennedy and seconded by board member Voitowich to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: June 16, 2022.

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President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary