

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.  
October 21, 2021  
Franklin School - Gym  
2401 Manor Lane, Park Ridge, IL**

Board President Pearl called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Phyllis Lubinski, Tom Sotos, Rebecca Little, Gareth Kennedy (joining via phone for the closed meeting, present in person for the regular meeting). Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson; Chief School Business Official Adam Parisi; and Board Legal Counsel Tony Loizzi. Board members Dr. Nicole Woitowich and Carol Sales joined later during the closed meeting.

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 6:17 p.m. it was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Little 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 [5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]; and the setting of a price for the sale of property owned by the District [5ILCS 120/2(c)(6)].

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

Ayes: Pearl, Little, Lubinski, Sotos, Kennedy

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Woitowich, Sales

The motion carried.

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

The Board adjourned from the closed meeting and resumed 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 Facility Management Anthony Bersani; Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden; Communications Coordinator Nick Shepkowski; and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. Approximately 5 members of the public were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**

Board president Pearl noted the Board just reached their six-month anniversary and commented on the progress they had made together.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM REGULAR MEETING & CONVENES TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE INTENTION TO ISSUE \$25,950,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S WORKING CASH FUND**

Dr. Pearl stated that the next agenda item for the Board of Education was a public hearing to receive public comments on the proposal to sell \$25,950,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District. All persons desiring to be heard would have the opportunity to present written or oral testimony. She explained that the money received from the bond issuance will be used to fund the construction at all elementary school buildings to house the new full-day kindergarten program, as well as the remodeling of Jefferson school for the purpose of relocating the District's main office.

Dr. Pearl asked members of the Board for additional comments at this time. Member Sotos asked for clarification on the Board's future ability to issue more bonds, if these were approved. Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Adam Parisi confirmed the Board would be able to issue a little over \$11M in bonds in 2023-24. After that, he could not state the exact length of time, but there would be a waiting period. He said the District was adhering to the fund balance policy in place. Members discussed the bonds and most felt comfortable with the financial picture. Board member Kennedy asked to confirm that the District was adhering to all legal requirements to issue the bonds and the process required. CSBO Parisi stated this was the case and that he had consulted with bond legal counsel throughout the process.

Dr. Pearl asked for any written testimony from the public; none was received.

Dr. Pearl asked the public for any oral testimony or public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Bonds; none was received.

Dr. Pearl stated that all individuals desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Bonds. She asked for a motion to adjourn the hearing.

At 7:24 p.m., it was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Voitowich to adjourn the public hearing on the issuance of bonds.

The votes to adjourn the hearing were cast as follows:

Ayes: Pearl, Little, Lubinski, Sales, Voitowich

Nays: Sotos, Kennedy

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

The Board came back to this public hearing adjournment a little later in the meeting to correct a statement made by Board president Pearl. This second vote can be found further below.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE INTENTION TO ISSUE \$25,950,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S WORKING CASH FUND & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING**

**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; comments were received as follows:

- Michael Hendricks: Park Ridge resident, addressed the Board on the issue of facilities maintenance and budgeting. He complimented the Board and administration on providing a proper podium for the public to submit comments and address the Board.

Board member Sales read the following public comments submitted via email:

- Benjamin Koucherik: D64 parent, inquired about possible solutions to the Beyond-the-Bell program and long waitlist due to staffing struggles.
- Elizabeth Juiris: D64 parent, addressed the Board on the issue of SHIELD testing, lunch at school, and masks for kids.

**WELCOME TO FRANKLIN SCHOOL**

Principal Kristin Williams and Assistant Principal Margaret Burke presented a review of current events at Franklin School and what they were focusing on this year. The school is working on collaboration, teaching cooperation, social-emotional learning, and being positive as a whole school. The principals thanked the Board for hiring the Math interventionist, they presented the new staff hires at the school, and showed a recorded video of staff and students.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Dr. Olson congratulated Lincoln Middle School on its Blue Ribbon award. He said he will travel to Washington D.C with Lincoln School principal David Szwed and a staff member to receive the award in

November. Assistant Principal Tim Gleason shared a few words about the school and its pride in receiving this award. He thanked the District, Board, and parents for their support that helped the school flourish. Dr. Olson stated this was also Principal Appreciation month and he wanted to thank all the school principals for their incredible work made more difficult during the pandemic and its added challenges.

### **RETURN TO THE VOTE TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS**

At this time, it was brought to the Board's attention that Dr. Pearl had misspoke when closing the public hearing on the issuance of bonds. Some perceived the vote was taken to issue the bonds, when the vote that took place was only to close the public hearing on the issuance of bonds. To avoid any possible misunderstanding, Dr. Pearl corrected her statement and the vote was retaken.

The votes to adjourn the public hearing on the issuance of bonds were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

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

Dr. Olson said the Test-to-Stay program would begin on October 25. Concerns with the SHIELD program were continuing and the District was hoping that Exam Lab Corp will be a much better provider. Dr. Olson stated the District was planning to host a clinic once a vaccine was available to children. He noted that a couple of breaks were coming up with a lot of travel, but schools will remain open although the impact of travel was unknown at this time. He mentioned the current metrics at the schools, stressing that while numbers might look higher at one school, the total student body should be taken into consideration when comparing cases and quarantines. Emerson Middle School is the largest in the District, and students in middle school travel from class to class, as opposed to elementary schools with lower student populations and no traveling. The percentage of vaccinated students might also be a factor. Board member Little wanted to clarify that once students were vaccinated, they would not need to go through the Test-to-Stay program to remain in school, which Dr. Olson confirmed. He also confirmed for member Sotos that weekly testing was required to also be able to participate in the Test-to-Stay program. Test-to-Stay could not be used during lunch when students are unmasked and less than six feet apart, or during bus transportation. A test performed at school is also the only acceptable one. Dr. Olson said that multiple opt-in opportunities would be forthcoming, the next one in early November once the program was rolled out. Board member Kennedy inquired about the spit test and the swab one. Dr. Olson noted that Exam Lab Corp provided the option of the swab if students could not produce enough saliva, and the company would do the same if they took over the weekly testing from SHIELD. The members wanted the public to be aware of the frequently changing guidelines imposed by Cook County and the Illinois Department of Health. Board member Dr. Woitowich stressed that the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test is the gold standard for clinicians at the moment.

The Board inquired about plans for lunch during winter and Dr. Olson said he would share that information tomorrow, once principals had communicated the plans to parents in their weekly newsletters. Board member Kennedy inquired about the governor's current executive order and Board legal counsel stated it had been renewed through mid-November. He stressed that the order gave the decision-making power to the Cook County Health Department, not the school districts.

**APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO EXTEND THE SSC/BOARD COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR 1 YEAR**

The Board inquired about the timing of the extension and legal counsel Tony Loizzi gave multiple reasons including the pandemic, the fact that all collective bargaining agreements were up for renewal this year and this would help put them on a different cycle. He mentioned that the union had approached the administration with this request. Board member Sotos inquired about the increase in salary and how it compared to the last one. Mr. Loizzi said it was similar, tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with an additional incentive for those with an "excellent" rating on their evaluation. The additional incentive would come out of stipend funds. Dr. Olson confirmed that not all employees receive an excellent review. Mr. Loizzi noted that this was the smallest group of the three unions, with 79 employees currently.

21-10-1

It was moved by Board member Sales and seconded by Board member Kennedy that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the Memorandum of Understanding to extend the collective bargaining agreement between the Support Staff Council (SSC) and the Board of Education for one year through the 2021-22 school year.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**REVIEW OF 2021 PROPOSED TAX LEVY & RESOLUTION #1273 TO APPROVE THE 2021 PROPOSED TAX LEVY & ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING**

CSBO Parisi explained the tax levy process and the real estate tax cycle. He mentioned that Cook County reassessed property values every 3 years, with the spring tax bill at 55% of the previous year's tax amount, and the remaining 45% billed in the fall. He noted the equalizer was a little higher this year. He also explained that the amount allowed to be levied by the District is tied to the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which was currently at 1.4%, but could change. He explained that the District had to target higher in order to capture the tax levied on new construction, always a guessing game. The District cannot go back later to ask for more, so the amount is higher to ensure the capture of any new construction based on past averages. Mr. Parisi stated that the District was asking for a tax levy of 4.72%.

ACTION ITEM 21-10-2

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 2021 Tax Levy Estimate, the establishment of the Date and Time of the Truth-in-Taxation hearing for December 16, 2021, at 6:45 p.m., and Publication of Notice of Truth-in-Taxation hearing.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN CONSTRUCTION PLANNING & DISCUSSION OF FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN FEES**

Dr. Olson provided a summary of all the steps thus far that lead the Board to approve the full-day kindergarten program. The Board held discussions over multiple Board meetings since March of this year, and were presented with several options by the administration, that they debated over the meetings. CSBO Parisi presented an overview of the plans for each elementary school where construction would occur to house full-day kindergarteners. The Board was given more detailed plans than were presented for public view, to ensure safety of buildings and students. Mr. Parisi reviewed the plans for each building, noting that the plans were not yet finalized. The administration worked in collaboration with each school's principals to gauge the best option for each building and its future young students. The Board inquired about what was absolutely necessary and what was being done in addition to the full-day kindergarten. Dr. Olson noted that there were a couple of buildings where more was being done based on needs. Jefferson School would see the most construction work because the District office would be relocated there. The Board inquired about space and square footage being allocated, Dr. Olson and Mr. Parisi noted that the administration had done its due diligence to ensure what was required for storage space, with digital options not yet available or possible for all the files and documents. Dr. Olson explained that the administration will share the plans with parents and staff once the plans were finalized. It would not be an option for input, but more so of sharing. Board member Sales inquired about sustainability and how the plans tied into the goals set forth in the strategic plan. Board member Sotos asked for consideration of surrounding neighbors during construction. Dr. Olson stated that the construction conversation will continue at future meetings. The Board was due to tour the school buildings in early November, and Dr. Olson encouraged the members to send questions his way after tonight's meeting. CSBO Parisi said that contract approvals for mechanical purchases would be brought to the Board in November or December, the design team was continuing its work, and conversation were taking place with the planning and zoning departments. The bidding process would begin in January and administration was planning for a special board meeting in February to approve bids. The Board asked to schedule special meetings as necessary to discuss the progress, and for the Board to provide input and

feel comfortable with the decisions. Dr. Olson then presented the Board with tuition options for full-day kindergarten. He explained the construction costs, future staffing costs and salaries, and informed the Board of what neighboring districts were doing and whether they were charging tuition. The majority of surrounding school districts never charged or no longer charged tuition for full-day kindergarten. The Board members discussed the issue and how it impacts the District's finances. Most members were not in favor of charging tuition.

### **2021 IASB RESOLUTIONS & 2021 IASB ASSEMBLY DELEGATE**

Board member Sales, who had attended as a delegate at the last conference, explained the process. Board member Lubinski agreed to be this year's delegate to the assembly and represent the Board during the voting process. The members reviewed the resolutions and discussed how the delegate should vote. Members agreed with IASB's recommendations with the exception of resolutions 2 and 9.

### **ACTION ITEM 21-10-3**

It was moved by Board member Sales and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the Board's recommendations for the votes on the proposed resolutions at the 2021 IASB Assembly, as discussed at tonight's meeting and agreed upon.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

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. Olson took a moment to introduce the new Assistant Director of Facility Management, Noel Mendoza, who was present at the meeting.

Ivanka Ananieva - Employ as Preschool Teacher Assistant at Jefferson School effective October 1, 2021 - \$17.33 hourly.

Alyssa Debartolo - Employ as Special Education Teacher Assistant at Lincoln Middle School effective September 20, 2021 - \$17.04 hourly.

Timothy Hanusiak - Employ as Night Custodian at Field School effective October 12, 2021 - \$17.03 hourly.

Noel Mendoza - Employ as Assistant Director of Facilities Management effective October 25, 2021 - \$77,500 (prorated based on start date).

Erin Paluch - Employ as Preschool Teacher Assistant at Jefferson School effective September 27, 2021 - \$17.04 hourly.

Jennifer Steurer - Employ as Level IV Secretary at Roosevelt School effective October 21, 2021 - \$19.19 hourly.

Kathleen Meenan Walsh - Employ as .5 Intervention Teacher at Washington School effective September 21, 2021 - MA, Step 1 - \$30,575.61 (prorated based on start date).

Mary Oberg - Reassign as 1.0 EL Teacher at Franklin and Washington Schools effective September 24, 2021 - BA+12, Step 1 - \$55,150 (prorated based on start date).

Anthony Ackerman - Resign as Night Custodian at Field School effective October 6, 2021.

Kimberly Clarkson - Resign as Instructional Technology Coach at Roosevelt School effective October 29, 2021.

Robert Cowin - Resign as Certified Nurse at Emerson Middle School effective October 6, 2021.

Danna Karkazis - Resign as Level IV Secretary at Emerson Middle School effective October 29, 2021.

Melissa O'Connor - Resign as Teacher Assistant at Roosevelt School effective October 22, 2021.

**ACTION ITEM 21-10-4**

It was moved by Board member Kennedy and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report dated October 21, 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: Lubinski, Pearl, Woitowich, Sales, Little, Sotos, Kennedy

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 524,486.64
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 159,946.90
30 - Debt Services	\$ 12,859.05
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 635,177.05
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 412,189.10
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -

80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ - 350.00
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,745,008.74</u></b>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$12,889,194.53
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,744,506.09
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$ 40,327.15
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 537,743.85
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 235,529.54
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 249,028.59
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$ 961,586.32
61 - Cap Projects Fund - 2017 Debt Certs	\$ 0.00
70 - Working Cash Fund	\$ 0.00
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 536,356.75
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$17,194,272.82</u></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 August 31, 2021
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

**ACTION ITEM 21-10-5**

It was moved by Board member Woitowich and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for October 21, 2021, which includes: Bills, Payroll, and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending August 31, 2021; Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none).

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION ITEM 21-10-6**

It was moved by Board member Kennedy and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Closed Meeting on September 23, 2021; and the Regular Meeting on September 23, 2021.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: Sotos

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**OTHER DISCUSSION & ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Dr. Olson noted the next regular meeting will be in the gym of Roosevelt School on November 18. He said any need for a special meeting would be talked about in the near future.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Pearl stated that along with Dr. Olson, three Board members would attend the Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) Triple I conference this year. Dr. Pearl also encouraged members to attend a PT3 meeting this year. Board member Kennedy requested to attend the next Pandemic Advisory Committee meeting. Noting that this was the Board’s six-month anniversary, president Pearl said a survey would be conducted to gauge how the members view the Board’s work together and progress thus far and what they could possibly improve.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:30 pm. it was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Kennedy to adjourn. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: November 18, 2021.

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President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary