

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
November 18, 2021
Roosevelt School - South Gym
1001 S Fairview Ave, Park Ridge, IL**

Board President Pearl called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Carol Sales, Phyllis Lubinski, Tom Sotos, Rebecca Little, Gareth Kennedy, and Dr. Nicole Woitowich. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; Chief School Business Official Adam Parisi; and Hodges Loizzi Legal Counsel James Levi.

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 6:34 p.m. it was moved by Board member Kennedy and seconded by Board member Little to recess from the regular Board meeting and adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the following: 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: Sotos, Kennedy, Lubinski, Pearl, Woitowich, Little, Sales

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

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 30 members of the public were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dr. Pearl reserved her remarks for later in the meeting, as member Tom Sotos had stepped away for a phone call.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM REGULAR MEETING & CONVENES TO A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ON E-LEARNING PROGRAM

It was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Voitowich to adjourn from the regular meeting and convene to a public hearing on the e-learning program. There were no comments from the administration or the Board members. Public comments were invited and received as follows:

- Bryan Mercado: a District parent, questioned the efficacy of the e-learning platform.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ON E-LEARNING PROGRAM & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING

With no further discussion or comments, at 7:05 pm it was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Lubinski to adjourn the public hearing.

The votes to adjourn were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Sotos

The motion carried.

At 7:06 pm, Board member Sotos rejoined the 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, they were received as follows:

- Colette Angarone: addressed the Board on the issue of vaccines and removal of COVID prevention protocols in place
- Elizabeth Juiris: addressed the Board on the need to remove mitigation measures in place for students after vaccines
- Lucas Fuksa: addressed the Board on the issue of vaccines, masks, and lunch at school
- Kisondra Prieto: addressed the Board on the issue of masks, mitigation protocols, and lunch
- Jeffrey Bond: addressed the Board on the issue of gun safety and resolution 15, governance, as well as the current mitigation protocols in place

Board members Sales and Lubinski read the public comments received via email, as follows:

- Peter Gayford: wrote to the Board about IASB resolution 15, asking them to reconsider their position and vote at the assembly during the upcoming Triple I conference
- Jan Starzek: wrote to the Board asking them to reconsider their position and vote on Resolution 15 at the assembly during the Triple I conference
- Ursula Walendzewicz: wrote to the Board on the issue of testing, unvaccinated students, and the need to remove masks
- The League of Women Voters of Park Ridge: wrote to the Board asking them to reconsider their position and vote on Resolution 15 at the assembly during the Triple I conference

WELCOME TO ROOSEVELT SCHOOL

Dr. Kevin Dwyer, principal of Roosevelt, welcomed everyone and introduced Library Information Specialist Taryn Handlon who gave a presentation on Roosevelt's technology lab. A group of fifth-grade students demonstrated for the Board members their tech skills and some of the projects they were working on. Roosevelt's technology lab was created in 2015 thanks to funding provided by the PTO and is available to all students.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Erica Faulhaber, the Curriculum Specialist for instrumental music, introduced this year's musicians who earned the honor of participating in the Illinois Music Educators Association Festival sponsored by the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA). Students spent months preparing their virtual auditions for submission. More than 1,000 of the finest band and orchestra students from more than 50 junior high schools in the North Suburban area auditioned for a position in these all-star groups. This year's participants from District 64 were:

Emerson: Emma Erickson, bass; Edward Kotty, trombone; Paxton Miller, tuba; Isaac Potempa, jazz guitar.

Lincoln: Reed Maurer, alto saxophone; Oliver Poole, french horn; Simon Zwierczyk, bass.

The students were presented with a certificate and congratulated by the Board.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Dr. Olson noted that November 15 was Board appreciation day and thanked each member for their service, reminding everyone that this is a volunteer position. He said he was grateful for their guidance and leadership and appreciated how well the members worked together.

Before the next item on the agenda, Board president Pearl gave her remarks. She stated that the Board members had answered a survey recently to gauge their progress and work as a group. She explained the Board would discuss this survey in more detail at the December meeting, but she would like to introduce a

more structured process to the Board's communication during meetings starting tonight. The Board would let the presenters finish their presentations, then every member would get a chance to ask a question.

COVID-19 & PREVENTION STRATEGIES UPDATE

Dr. Olson said the District was hosting a vaccine clinic for students on November 20 and December 11. So far, just under 450 families have signed up. He said that although metrics indicated a rise in numbers in the area, this was not happening in the schools. Parents would be given an opportunity to change their testing options before the Thanksgiving break and once again after the winter break. Dr. Olson expected a drop in the number of students being tested weekly once the vaccine was fully administered. He said the District would be switching from SHIELD to Exam Lab Corp for their weekly testing. He mentioned that he had met a few days ago with the Medical Advisory Board comprised of administrators, the District head nurse, and doctors. He had asked the doctors if they expected the guidelines to change this school year, but they did not think so. He told the Board that outside groups (speakers, clubs, etc.) would be allowed back into the buildings after the break, with required proof of vaccination. Board member Sotos asked for consideration for unvaccinated students and for them to be treated the same as vaccinated students so that they don't feel singled out. Board member Kennedy said he had attended the Pandemic Advisory Committee meeting this past week and felt the committee was not transparent enough; he also urged for an "exit plan" to be created and approved by the Board. Board member Lubinski stated she had been on the Pandemic Advisory Committee since its creation and felt the feedback and conversations were very valuable. Dr. Olson stressed that this was only an advisory committee with no decision-making power. Board member Voitowich stated that the District was and should continue to follow State and County guidelines as per the governor's executive order. While it was important to engage the stakeholders in a dialogue, they should not dictate policy. The Board discussed the committee's purpose. Dr. Olson stressed once again that it was important to hear from all groups, engage in conversations to understand our each operated, and receive feedback before making decisions. The Board discussed the current lunch procedure and kids eating lunches on the floor on towels due to lack of space in some buildings. Members asked if this could be remedied by providing folding tables. Dr. Olson explained that the situation was different at each building based on available space; it would require additional personnel to set up and take down tables, the cost of the tables would be an issue to consider, and some buildings would not have the space to accommodate the additional tables.

PT3 BOARD UPDATE

Dr. Frost presented an update of the Parent and Teacher Talking Together (PT3) group's work thus far this year. The group had met three times this school year and worked on a progress report from the 2018 audit, state indicator data, student achievement data, and parent IEP feedback data. The group had then identified specific activities to work on this year and decided to focus on disability awareness activities. Dr. Frost then read statements from staff representative Colin Baer and parent representative Andrea Yanella. Dr. Frost confirmed that the group will be involved with the new audit and provide feedback. Board member Sales inquired about participation during group meetings, Dr. Frost said that the meetings were virtual and participation had declined. The members were not the same members that had joined in 2018, the group had evolved.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AUDIT

Dr. Frost noted that two audits had previously been conducted in 2017-2018 and the time seemed right to go through another audit to gauge the progress made. She said a request for proposal had been prepared and released, two firms responded, both responses were carefully considered and reviewed, and the administration was making a recommendation to award the contract to Atlantic Research Partners. Dr. Frost noted that there was a significant cost difference between this audit and the previous ones, but this one was much more comprehensive. This audit would include longer on-site visits to all buildings, conversations with parents, and additional steps. Dr. Frost said that while she was retiring at the end of this school year, she wanted to leave the District with a path to continue the growth and build on the progress made.

ACTION ITEM 21-11-1

It was moved by Board member Lubinski and seconded by Board member Sales that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, award a contract to Atlantic Research Partners to conduct a special education audit at a cost of \$100,000.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #1274 FOR E-LEARNING PROGRAM IN LIEU OF EMERGENCY DAYS COMMENCING SCHOOL YEAR 2021-22

Dr. Olson said that districts were required to have a plan in place approved by the Board. He stated that the administration had worked in connection with the union and based the plan on the union's recommendations, with only minor subsequent changes. A cap on the number of days used for e-learning is not part of the plan, however, the school calendar allows for five built-in emergency days. Some members expressed concern over the lack of the cap, and some wanted to preserve the traditional "snow day" for students.

Before the Board voted on the plan, Board member Kennedy moved to table the subject, the motion was seconded by Board member Sotos.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Kennedy, Woitowich

Nays: Little, Pearl, Sotos, Lubinski

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion failed.

ACTION ITEM 21-11-2

It was moved by Board member Sales and seconded by Board member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve Resolution #1274 to adopt an e-learning program in lieu of the District's scheduled emergency days or because a school is selected to be a polling place. This program is to be implemented for a period of three (3) years (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24) prior to renewal.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Little, Pearl, Sales

Nays: Sotos, Woitowich, Lubinski, Kennedy

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion failed.

Board legal counsel noted that should the administration choose to bring back a plan to the Board for another vote, the entire process would need to start again, including the public hearing and all required steps.

RATIFICATION OF PREA/BOARD AGREEMENT

Board members stated they were thankful for the negotiations process and the achievement of a five-year agreement.

ACTION ITEM 21-11-3

It was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Sales that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, ratify the five-year contract between the Park Ridge Education Association (PREA) and the Board of Education on November 18, 2021.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

This item was moved up on the agenda, as some Board members considered this update and discussion necessary before the vote on the bonds resolution. Dr. Olson said that the administration had researched the issue of charging tuition and found that the arguments went both ways. He concluded that this should be an

individual district decision. The Board was not voting on that issue tonight. He stated that more information would be provided to the Board on staffing costs at the December meeting. Board member Kennedy mentioned that the members had toured all the elementary buildings the previous week and noticed that some construction was not kindergarten-related. He requested a breakdown of the costs highlighting the full-day kindergarten portion and the other non-related items. Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Adam Parisi explained to the Board some buildings would require the use of modular classrooms during the full-day kindergarten construction. Field and Washington Schools were landlocked and parts of the buildings would need demolishing to allow for construction and rebuilding. While Washington was able to relocate classrooms within the existing building, Field would require the lease of two modular classroom units. Jefferson was ongoing a complete renovation and would require four modular classrooms units. CSBO Parisi went over lease costs: \$1690 per month for the 2-classroom unit, \$3380 per month for the 4-classroom unit. In addition, both units will incur \$80K per unit for delivery, access setup to water, heating, electrical, etc. These costs were not included in the original construction estimate and would be paid out of the fund balance; no furniture purchases were needed. CSBO Parisi stressed that this was a temporary solution. Dr. Olson confirmed that the District would host evening events for parents at each elementary building to share the plans for each school.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #1275 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$25,950,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX SCHOOL BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT’S WORKING CASH FUND, PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS, AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC., IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED SALE OF SAID BONDS

CSBO Parisi noted this was the third and final stage in the process for the full-day kindergarten construction funding this spring and summer. Attorneys from both Chapman and Cutler and Raymond James confirmed that they had worked with CSBO Parisi throughout the entire process and followed through with all the statutory requirements. They confirmed that the District was legally authorized to issue the bonds.

ACTION ITEM 21-11-4

It was moved by Board member Lubinski and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve Resolution #1275 providing for the issue of not to exceed \$25,950,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District’s Working Cash Fund, providing for the levy of the a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement with Raymond James & Associates, Inc in connection with the proposed sale of said bonds.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Woitowich, Pearl, Lubinski, Sales, Little

Nays: Sotos, Kennedy

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

APPROVE THE AWARDING OF CONTRACT TO PURCHASE MECHANICAL UNITS - JEFFERSON SUMMER 2022 RENOVATION PROJECT

CSBO Parisi stressed that current supply chain issues would make it more difficult to get materials in a timely manner or at reasonable costs. He recommended that the Board approve these purchases to ensure timely delivery and avoid price-gouging.

ACTION ITEM 21-11-5

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 awarding of the contract for the mechanical units to be used in Jefferson School not to exceed \$593,000.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT CALENDAR FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Olson presented the draft of the 2022-2023 calendar that had previously gone through the calendar committee. School would start a little later, on August 24, 2022, to allow for summer construction. The District proposed to use an Institute Day for the consolidated primary elections on February 28, 2023 and an e-learning day for the consolidated general elections on April 4, 2023. The last day of school for students would be June 8, 2023. Dr. Olson confirmed that the breaks were aligned with District 207. Board members requested that “Columbus Day” be added to the October holiday labeled “Indigenous Peoples’ Day”. Board member Kennedy did not believe the February 28 election day was necessary and inquired about moving the Institute Day to April 4, which would eliminate the use of an e-learning day. The administration will bring back the calendar for approval at the December meeting, following revisions.

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.

Nina Bennett - Employ as Special Education Teacher Assistant at Roosevelt School effective October 25, 2021 - \$17.04 hourly.

Gloriane Bork - Employ as Extended Day Kindergarten Teacher Assistant at Jefferson School effective November 8, 2021 - \$17.04 hourly.

Nicole Gurgone - Employ as Special Education Teacher Assistant at Roosevelt School effective October 25, 2021 - \$17.04 hourly.

Rico Perez - Resign as Night Custodian at Jefferson School effective August 27, 2021.

Natalie Blachut - Retire as Business Services Associate effective January 3, 2022.

Rita Downing - Retire as Special Education Teacher Assistant at Emerson Middle School effective October 29, 2021.

Danna Karkazis - Correction: Resign as Level IV Secretary at Emerson Middle School effective November 5, 2021.

ACTION ITEM 21-11-6

It was moved by Board member Lubinski 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 November 18, 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: Sotos, Little, Kennedy, Woitowich, Lubinski, Pearl, Sales

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board took a quick break to consult with legal counsel on the possible need for a closed session to discuss the intergovernmental agreement in the consent agenda. The agreement was pulled from the consent agenda and set aside.

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 381,916.34
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 216,721.09
30 - Debt Services	\$ 12,859.05
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 320,155.36
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 230,990.83
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -

80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ - 312.50
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
Total:	<u>\$ 1,162,955.17</u>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$17,940,042.50
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,163,471.27
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$ 53,186.20
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 1,174,952.18
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 320,996.26
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 348,935.51
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$ 1,373,775.42
61 - Cap Projects Fund - 2017 Debt Certs	\$ 0.00
70 - Working Cash Fund	\$ 0.00
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 536,706.75
Total:	<u>\$23,912,066.09</u>

The Accounts Payable detailed list can be viewed on the District 64 website's business services page at www.d64.org.

- Bills, Payroll & Benefits
- Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending September 30, 2021
- Approval of Resolution #1276 Authorizing and Directing the Permanent Transfer of Money from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Debt Service Fund for Debt Certificates
- Approval of Resolution #1277 Authorizing and Directing the Permanent Transfer of Money from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund for Copier Leases
- ~~Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Facilities Use & Operation of a Before and After School Recreational Program~~ (removed from consent agenda prior to the vote)
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

ACTION ITEM 21-11-7

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, approve the Consent Agenda for November 18, 2021, which includes: Bills, Payroll and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending September 30, 2021; Approval of Resolution #1276 Authorizing and Directing the Permanent Transfer of Money from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Debt Service Fund for Debt Certificates; Approval of Resolution #1277 Authorizing and Directing the Permanent Transfer of Money from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund for Copier Leases; and Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (None).

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION ITEM 21-11-8

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 minutes from the Closed Meeting on October 21, 2021; and the Regular Meeting on October 21, 2021.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

OTHER DISCUSSION & ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Dr. Olson noted the next regular meeting would be on December 16, 2021. He said he and three Board members were attending the Triple I conference for the next couple of days. Board member Lubinski was attending the Resolutions Assembly as the Board's delegate and will vote on the resolutions. The Board members did not wish to change their votes as they were discussed and approved at the October 21 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:58 p.m. it was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Sotos to adjourn.

The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: December 16, 2021.

President

Secretary