

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.  
April 21, 2022  
Washington School - MPR  
1500 Stewart Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068**

Board President Pearl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Carol Sales, Phyllis Lubinski, Tom Sotos, and Larry Ryles. Board member Gareth Kennedy attended via phone; Dr. Nicole Woitowich was absent from the meeting. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson and Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) field representatives Dee Molinare and Patrick Allan.

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 IASB WORKSHOP**

Members attended a training session led by two field representatives from IASB.

**BOARD RESUMES REGULAR MEETING**

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. In addition to those listed above, also present were: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Chief School Business Official Adam Parisi; Director of Student Services Dr. Lea Anne Frost; Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden; Director of Facility Management Anthony Bersani; Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi; Communications Coordinator Nick Shepkowski; and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. Approximately 40 members of the public were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board member Larry Ryles led the pledge.

**OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**

President Pearl noted the presence of students tonight for the young authors' award and said it was great to see so many young talented students. She congratulated members Kennedy, Lubinski, and Woitowich on their one-year anniversary of joining the board.

**STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Director of Facility Management Tony Bersani recognized the maintenance staff and custodians who did a tremendous job over the challenging winter months. He stated it was the best crew he had ever worked with

and that they had gone above and beyond; he also recognized his assistant, Noel Mendoza. Megan Keefer, curriculum specialist for English Language Art and the Young Authors contest organizer, handed out certificates and yard signs to the winners. One winner was selected per grade, or in some cases two co-authors. Ms. Keefer noted that there had been 418 submissions this year.

### **WELCOME TO WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

Principal Angie Brito and assistant principal Janet Van Arsdale welcomed everyone to Washington and gave an overview of the school and its current programs and activities. Mrs. Brito introduced Kirsten Sinkewich to talk about the Student Learning Center (SLC) special education classroom housed at Washington School; it currently serves six special education students. This year, the school provided more inclusion opportunities and focused on “being a family”. Mrs. Brito also thanked the PTO for their partnership in many initiatives in the school.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISIONS TO D64 HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES**

Dr. Olson said he had watched the numbers climb since the return from spring break, but said it was not a cause for concern yet. The district will continue to monitor the metrics. He recommended removing social distancing but thought it would be better to leave the other measures in place for now. He reminded everyone that the Governor’s executive order was in place until April 30. Some board members expressed the desire to remove the proof of negative test for unvaccinated parents volunteering in school buildings, feeling it was a form of discrimination. The motion was amended accordingly before the vote.

### **ACTION ITEM 22-04-1**

It was moved by board member Lubinski and seconded by board member Ryles that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the removal of social distancing and the requirement for unvaccinated adults to show proof of a negative test before volunteering in schools from the District 64 Health & Safety Guidelines effective Monday, April 25.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Sotos, Lubinski, Ryles, Kennedy

Nays: Pearl

Present: None

Absent: Woitowich

The motion carried.

### **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:

- Megan Roberts-Esterling: a parent in district 64 and teacher in another district, addressed the board on data gathering and use; the new math curriculum and its enforcement; and the need to provide support for kids with anxiety.
- Rachel Georgakis: a parent in the district and school counselor in another district, addressed the board on COVID mitigations and the need for a tiered-layer plan, as well as clear communication to the community.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

No changes were made to the agenda.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Dr. Olson said the district had posted a dashboard on the website to track the progress made on the goals established in the strategic plan. He showed the board a sample of the new dashboard and mentioned that tonight's adoption of the new math curriculum was part of the strategic plan.

Board member Sotos left the meeting at 7:44 p.m. and resumed attending via phone a half hour later.

### **APPROVAL OF K-5 MATH CURRICULUM**

Dr. Lopez introduced a team of teachers who had been a part of the curriculum research and selection process: Dana Bailey, Kara Forrest, Sandy Blethen, and Tracie Thomas. Dr. Lopez explained that the new math curriculum was linked to several initiatives happening in the district, one being the strategic plan, the other the curriculum review process which is a cycle of continuous improvement. She stated the selection process had been a collaborative one with 25-30 people pulled together. Three programs had been identified and the committee met for a week last summer to dive deeply into each. Standards, best-practices, and rubrics were identified to help with the selection; the team had subsequently done practice lessons with real students. The program selected was a new version of a program currently used in many other districts. Dr. Lopez then spoke about why the team had selected this particular program: wordless videos from the program; hands-on activities incorporated in the program, among others. Some of the teachers present spoke up about the choice as well. Mrs Bailey stated that kids were engaged and excited when exposed to the program, there seemed to be a conceptual understanding. Dr. Lopez explained that the program would be funded in part through ESSER III funds and one Wednesday per month would be allocated to professional development for teachers to learn the program. Middle schools will review and consider this program next year. Dr. Lopez then responded to board member questions, explaining that this program provides activities that allow teachers to observe and assess students math skills and levels. Responding to member Ryles, she said that Eureka provides a clear description of what students should be able to do, and support strategies for performance-based assessments. The program would be paced out for full-day kindergarten this coming school year. Board president Pearl asked how parents would be educated about the shift in the curriculum and Dr. Lopez said this would happen in various ways: podcasts made available on the website, informational sheets sent home, a parent university night, topic overviews with ways to engage with students at home. Responding to member Ryles, she said the program's modules will help for teaching in

special education and there will be professional development opportunities for special education teachers. Dr. Olson stated that as a former head of curriculum he was very excited about this program. Member Kennedy asked if there was any plan to supplement this program and whether it had been the clear winner. Dr. Lopez responded that no supplement was planned for this and consensus was that this program was a better fit than the other programs for many reasons.

ACTION ITEM 22-04-2

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 ESSER III-funded adoption of *Eureka Math*<sup>2</sup> and *Bridges Intervention* as recommended by the K-5 Math Review Committee at the total cost of \$573,416.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Woitowich

The motion carried.

**BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE & FIRST READING OF CHANGES TO CERTAIN POLICIES**

Committee member Lubinski noted the committee had met on March 15 and April 14 to review certain policies and make revisions, as included in tonight's packet. The revised policies are as follows: 2:140 *Communications To and From the Board*; 2:230 *Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings & Petitions to the Board*; 4:140 *Waivers of Student Fees*; and 4:20 *Fund Balances*. Following the members' review, the revised policies will be adopted at the May 19 regular meeting.

**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.

Rebecca Fooden - Employ as Special Education Resource Teacher at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - BA+12, Step 1 - \$58,792.

Christina Mihalopoulos - Employ as Level IV Human Resources Secretary effective April 4, 2022 - \$18.65 hourly.

Joseph Monaco - Employ as Grounds/Maintenance Worker for the District effective April 6, 2022 - \$25.00 hourly.

Charles Patrick - Employ as Level IV Business Services Associate effective March 30, 2022 - \$19.02 hourly.

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

Matthew Csongradi - Change of Assignment from Night Custodian at Jefferson School to Grounds/Maintenance Worker for the District effective March 28, 2022 - \$25.00 hourly.  
Joshua Hammond - Resign as Math Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective April 5, 2022.  
Brian Kulaga - Resign as Special Education Teacher at Roosevelt School effective June 3, 2022.  
Zara Radkov - Resign as Teaching Assistant at Emerson Middle School effective April 22, 2022.  
Carolyn (Kelly) Craig - Retire as Level IV Technology Secretary effective September 1, 2022.  
David Franz - Retire as Night Custodian at Roosevelt School effective September 1, 2022.  
Luke Vandenbranden - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.

ACTION ITEM 22-04-3

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 Personnel Report dated April 21, 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: Sales, Ryles, Kennedy, Pearl, Sotos, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Voitowich

The motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 1,469,518.49
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 408,732.57
30 - Debt Services	\$ 30,996.05
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 411,510.69
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 1,788,144.95
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 3,892.50
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$ 4,112,795.25</u>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$46,353,734.08
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 4,911,898.85
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$ 2,466,760.10
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 3,739,423.09
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 778,347.63
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 932,138.19
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$ 4,023,779.01
61 - Cap Projects Fund - 2017 Debt Certs	\$ 0.00
70 - Working Cash Fund	\$ 0.00
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 574,476.25
	<u>Total: \$63,780,557.20</u>

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 February 28, 2022
- Second Reading & Approval of Policies from PRESS 108
- Approval of 2022-23 Parent-Student Handbook
- Approval of the Consolidated District Plan
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

ACTION ITEM 22-04-4

It was moved by board member Ryles and seconded by board member Pearl that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for April 21, 2022, which includes: Bills, Payroll, and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending February 28, 2022; Second Reading & Approval of Policies from PRESS 108; Approval of 2022-23 Parent-Student Handbook; Approval of the Consolidated District Plan; and Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none).

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Waitowich

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION ITEM 22-04-5

It was moved by board member Pearl and seconded by board member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Closed Meeting on March 17, 2022; and the Regular Meeting on March 17, 2022.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Woitowich

The motion carried.

### **OTHER DISCUSSION & ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Dr. Olson said that next year's schedule of regular board meetings was included here for the members' review before adoption at the next regular meeting. Members discussed the need for a board workshop meeting and its timing; a new date will be selected for the workshop, preferably in June of 2023. Board member Sales inquired about a FOIA request pertaining to communication between members and why the members had not been asked to provide texts and emails for the FOIA response. The request was discussed in further details and the inquiry was answered.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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

At 8:50 p.m. it was moved by board member Ryles and seconded by board member Lubinski 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 setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)]; and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)].

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

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Woitowich

The motion carried.

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

At 9:58 p.m. members returned to the regular open meeting.

**APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH STUDENT 2021-22 (1)**

ACTION ITEM 22-04-6

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, approve the settlement agreement with the parents of student 2021-22 (1).

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

Ayes: Pearl, Sotos, Sales, Kennedy, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: Ryles

Absent: Woitowich

The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:03 p.m., it was moved by board member Ryles and seconded by board member Sales to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by a 5-1 voice vote.

Signed Date: May 19, 2022.

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President

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Secretary