

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7 p.m.  
March 16, 2023  
Jefferson School - Hendee Rooms  
8200 Greendale 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, Tom Sotos, Gareth Kennedy, and Demetri Touzios. Board member Larry Ryles was absent from the meeting. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson, Director of Student Services Alicia Schmeisser; and Hodges legal counsels Jessica Nguyen and Tony Loizzi. Ms. Nguyen was only present for the closed session.

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's Office at 8182 W Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714.

**BOARD RECESSES & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING**

At 6:02 p.m. it was moved by board member Kennedy and seconded by board member Lubinski to recess from the regular board meeting and adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the following: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]; 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: Sales, Pearl, Lubinski, Kennedy, Sotos, Touzios

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Ryles

The motion carried.

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

The Board adjourned the closed meeting and resumed the regular meeting at 7:07 p.m. Also joining the meeting were: Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Dr. Adam Parisi; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Director of Facility Management Anthony Bersani; Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden; Communications Specialist Christopher Lilly; and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. Approximately 20 members of the public were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Dr. Pearl noted that the Elementary Learning Foundation (ELF) had recently dissolved after years of contributing to the District, and she wanted to thank them for their past numerous and generous contributions.

**STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Dr. Olson stated this was the first time he had the opportunity to attend the St. Baldrick's fundraiser and was humbled by the staggering amount of money raised by the community, which is the most in the world for this particular fundraiser. He said it had been a unique and special experience.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON CARPENTER SCHOOL**

Principal Balduf presented and gave the Board an overview of this year's events and theme, which is "engaged". Carpenter School is the smallest in the district with 437 students. He spoke about "community building" with a focus on systems to achieve that: MTSS, "temperature checks" to gauge how students are doing, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) check-ins, positive referrals to the office for book rewards from the book vending machine provided by the PTO. He talked about the "Cougar Dens", 39 groups of students assigned to a staff member and with grades mixed. Principal Bladuf stated they wanted to ensure "School was a fun place to be".

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the district's website and in the board report; no public comments were received via email. Members of the public who were present in person were also invited to submit comments; comments were received as follows:

- Tom Fisher: D64 parent, spoke about the previous special education audit and the remaining items still left to be addressed; he noted the individual building reports were never made public; and he asked the district to continue to focus on special education.
- Rachel Georgakis: D64 parent and board election candidate, spoke about the current superintendent search and the need to include staff and election candidates in the process. She asked the board to wait until the new board is seated to select the new superintendent.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Member Kennedy requested a policy update or a policy explanation be put on each regular meeting agenda, to address any policies that might be confusing to parents. Member Sotos also inquired about the progress on the drafting of a policy to address gender issues. The Board will discuss these at the April regular meeting. Member Sotos also requested a review of the curriculum.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER**

Board president Pearl administered the oath of office to newly appointed member Demetri Touzios.

### **DISCUSSION OF LINCOLN SCHOOL LRC WALL**

Hodges legal counsel James Levi joined the meeting virtually to discuss a potential claim for the recurring moisture issues; the discussion had started at the March 6 regular meeting. The Board had asked to follow up with legal counsel to see if there was a possibility of filing a claim against the architect that had worked on the project. Mr. Levi said he had discussed the issue with both Dr. Olson and Dr. Parisi. The work in question had been completed in 2017 and the statute of limitations for construction is usually four years; architect and contractor agreements sometimes shorten that statute time as well. There would be a need for an evaluation by a third party to confirm any possibility of negligence and culpability before legal counsel could proceed with an analysis of the potential for a suit. Third-party evaluations are costly, between 10K-30K. Based on further conversations with Mr. Bersani and Dr. Parisi, Mr. Levi stated that they did not seem convinced there was negligence to support a claim, rather that this was a standard problem that often occurs in such designs. The Board decided to proceed with the work for now and reserve the right to seek reimbursement at a later time if it was deemed necessary and justified.

### **PRESENTATION OF STUDENT SERVICES ACTION PLAN**

Director of Student Services Alicia Schmeisser presented the Board with a summary of the work done thus far this year by the department. Mainly, a committee was formed at the beginning of the school year to identify goals for the student services work. The committee involved stakeholders from all areas with 30 members and met twice in October. The

committee completed a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) and discussed goals for the future work of the department. The committee met again in January to finalize the Action Plan. Dr. Olson and Mrs. Schmeisser met with middle school students as well to get their feedback and insight. The goals were narrowed down to four: clarify and expand the continuum of services; seek to improve consistency and methods for greater student growth; expand learning opportunities for staff and community; and foster a culture of trust through relationships. Karen Hess, special education teacher at Emerson, joined Mrs. Schmeisser to give her input on the committee’s work and the process. She has been a teacher in the district for over 20 years and shared her enthusiasm for this plan. She noted it was the first time the District had worked on a plan that would be in place no matter what happened with leadership. Mrs. Schmeisser stated that the next steps would be focused on implementing and measuring the goals identified, and she expressed gratitude for all who had worked on the committee and the plan. Member Sales had been on the committee and thanked everyone for their work. Mrs. Schmeisser, responding to a question from member Kennedy, noted that there would be a dashboard on the District’s website to track the progress of the action plan. Members were encouraged and thankful for the presentation.

**FIRST READING OF POLICIES FROM PRESS 110 & UPDATE FROM THE BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

Member Lubinski explained the policy committee had met on March 3 and reviewed policies included in PRESS issue 110. A few policies required further follow-up with legal counsel on some questions. The policies will be brought back for a second reading and adoption at the April 20 regular meeting. Member Sales attended the March 3 meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 1,210,337.12
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 332,662.66
30 - Debt Services	\$ 11,328.48
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 355,812.69
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 623,717.24
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 575.00
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,534,433.19</u></b>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 4,320,471.72
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 223,202.48
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 1,554.64
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 76,421.26
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 109,026.48
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$ 4,740,676.58</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 January 31, 2023
- Approval of Semi-Annual Review of Closed Minutes

- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

ACTION ITEM 23-03-13

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 Consent Agenda for March 16, 2023, which includes: Bills, Payroll & Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending January 31, 2023; and Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Pearl, Sotos, Sales, Lubinski, Kennedy

Nays: None

Present: Touzios

Absent: Ryles

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION ITEM 23-03-14

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 minutes from the Closed Meeting on March 6, 2023; and the Regular Meeting on March 6, 2023.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Kennedy, Sales, Sotos, Pearl, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: Touzios

Absent: Ryles

The motion carried.

**OTHER DISCUSSIONS & ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Dr. Olson noted the next regular meeting would be on April 20, and a draft of the agenda was included in the report. Dr. Pearl stated that the Board had received a summary of FOIA requests for the past few years and 2022 saw the highest amount of requests with 64. She noted that, while transparency was important, the time and money spent were increasing.

At 9 p.m. the Board took a five-minute break during which legal counsel Tony Loizzi left the meeting.

**BOARD AUTHORIZES 2023-2024 STAFFING PLAN**

Dr. Martin stated that, as noted at the March 6 regular meeting, enrollment was projected to be down 129 students this coming year by using a simple rollover method. Due to retirements and other resignations, the District did not expect to cut any full-time employees. Enrollment would be verified once the process was further along and the Board would be updated should anything change. Dr. Martin stated that a new demographic study would be useful sometime in the near future, but the District needed to gauge the proper timing for it. He and Dr. Parisi planned to reach out to some demographers to ask what their opinion was on the timing of the new study. He did not see any pattern in the number of students leaving the District. He confirmed there were no changes to the Channel of Challenges staffing and program. The District once again asked the Board to retain the 4.5 math interventionists hired after the pandemic, and while they would now be paid out of the budget rather than ESSER funds, any opportunities for grants would be pursued if available.

ACTION ITEM 23-03-11

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 recommended 2023-24 Staffing Plan presented and discussed at the March 6, 2023, regular Board of Education meeting.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Ryles

The motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT**

Dr. Martin explained this was the time of year for dismissals as the law required employees to be notified 75 days prior to the end of the school year. He stated some individuals would be hired back depending on the District's needs and the enrollment numbers.

Dara Moux - Employ as Kindergarten Teacher at Roosevelt School effective March 6, 2023 - BA, Step 1 - \$19,607.18 (prorated).

Kathie Walsh - Employ as Special Education Teaching Assistant at Emerson Middle School effective March 16, 2023 - \$19.83 hourly.

Paul Ahern - Resign as Special Education Teacher at Roosevelt School effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Sofia Garcia - Resign as Instructional Technology Coach at Franklin School effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Molly Petray - Resign as English Learners Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Cindy Sanchez - Resign as Kindergarten Teacher at Field School effective and the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Samantha Williams - Resign as Intervention Teacher at Franklin School effective and the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Julie Majeski - Retire as 3rd Grade Teacher at Franklin School effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Carmen Ahern - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Elisabeth Ballinger - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Kim Becker-Less - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Kristin Bekiares - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Aimee Bergeron - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Sarah Beuhler - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Noreen Bucher - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Corey Davis - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Emma Doyle - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Kristin Eiken - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Theresa Gamble - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Helen Gossel Pasley - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Grace Halfman - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Aubrey Hulsebosch - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Josh Kriss - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Laura Lane - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

James McDunn - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Cheryl McNally - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Madeline Mitchell - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Dara Moux - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Christina Munro - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.

Samantha Neumer - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.  
Natalie Nuzzo - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.  
Laura Papageorgiou - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.  
Bobbie Stavrides - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.  
Lisa Trunek - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.  
Kristin Welke - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.  
Karen Whiteside - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.  
Connor Yoon - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of Teachers.  
Sonya Arcuri - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Tim Benka - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Kelly Burlingame - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Julian Douglass - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Allison Jones - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Linda Merczak - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Tim O'Brien - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Rocco Pascente - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Elmin Pittges - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Kathie Walsh - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Sylvia Sagat - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Grace Chan - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Non-reemployment of Part-time Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Dagmara Cooke - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Non-reemployment of Part-time Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Laura Daehler - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Non-reemployment of Part-time Educational Support Personnel Employees.  
Joe Demme - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of First, Second, and Third Year Probationary Teachers for Reasons Other Than Reduction in Force.  
Karissa Forcone - Approval of Formal Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of First, Second, and Third Year Probationary Teachers for Reasons Other Than Reduction in Force.

ACTION ITEM 23-03-12

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 Personnel Report dated March 16, 2023, including Resolution Resolution 1308 Honorable Dismissal of Teachers; Resolution 1309 Dismissal of First-, Second-, & Third-Year Probationary Teachers for Reasons other than Reduction-in-Force; Resolution 1310 Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees; Resolution 1311 Non-Reemployment of Part-Time Educational Support Personnel Employees; 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: Kennedy, Sotos, Lubinski, Sales, Pearl, Touzios

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Ryles

The motion carried.

### **SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE**

Mr. Mark Friedman, from BWP & Associates, updated the Board on the current status of the search. He discussed possible interview dates for the 5 or 6 candidates the firm would narrow down out of the 20 or so applicants, to bring to the Board. Members agreed to meet on April 11, 12, and 13 to receive the superintendent profile, discuss interview questions, and begin the first round of interviews; and then again on April 18 and 19 for the second round of interviews with the finalists. Members discussed involving the administrative staff and board election candidates in the interview process. Candidates would sit in as observers in the first round, and give feedback and impressions in the second round.

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

At 10 p.m. it was moved by board member Kennedy and seconded by board member Sotos to recess from the regular board meeting and adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the following: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)].

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

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Ryles

The motion carried.

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

The Board returned from closed session at 11:26 p.m., no further business was conducted.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:27 p.m., it was moved by board member Kennedy and seconded by board member Sales to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: April 20, 2023.

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President

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Secretary