

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7 p.m.
May 18, 2023
Jefferson School - Hendee Rooms
8200 Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714

Board president Pearl called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Monica Milligan, Matthew Doubleday, Phyllis Lubinski, Rachel Georgakis, and Gareth Kennedy. Board member Demetri Touzios was absent from the closed and open meetings. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin, 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's Office at 8182 W Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714.

BOARD RECESSES & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING

At 6 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 student disciplinary cases [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9)].

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

Ayes: Georgakis, Doubleday, Lubinski, Milligan, Kennedy, Pearl

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Touzios

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING

The Board adjourned the closed meeting and resumed the regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. Also joining the meeting were: Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Dr. Adam Parisi; Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Director of Student Services Alicia Schmeisser; Director of Facility Management Anthony Bersani; Assistant Director of Facility Management Noel Mendoza; Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden; Communications Specialist Christopher Lilly; and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. Also present at the meeting was incoming superintendent Dr. Ben Collins. Approximately 100 members of the public were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Georgakis led the pledge.

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Board president Pearl noted it had been nice to recognize the staff of District 64 during teacher appreciation the week prior.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Meghan Keefer and Dr. Lori Lopez recognized this year's Young Authors. All K-8 students were invited to submit an original story of up to 20 pages, with some students collaborating in pairs. Over 375 submissions were received, with one manuscript selected per grade. The Board also recognized this year's Special Olympics participants. Dr. Olson recognized the Hendee family, and a video was played of the Hendee professional rooms' dedication to Dr. Hendee as a recognition of his 20-year service to the district as superintendent from 1970 to 1990. Dr. Hendee's widow, kids, and other family members were present for the recognition.

SPOTLIGHT ON EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Samantha Alaimo brought students from Emerson School to the podium with their own prepared statements. The students highlighted activities that take place outside the classroom, and spoke about why they liked participating in them: St. Bladrick's fundraiser; Student Government Association; 6th Grade Olympics; Best Buddies; Future Leaders, Team Leisure Clubs; Advisory; Spring Musical; Athletics; and Soaring Eagles.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Alla Bagryanskya: a D64 parent, addressed the Board on the issue of a special teacher from Jefferson School that was transferred to another school.
- Michael Toch: a community resident, spoke on the issue of radon gas poisoning, and advised the Board to test school buildings for its levels.
- Jillian Campanella: a D64 parent, addressed the Board on the issue of a special teacher from Jefferson School that was transferred to another school.
- Maria (no last name given): addressed the Board on the issue of a special teacher from Jefferson School that was transferred to another school.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

RECOGNITION OF TENURED TEACHERS

Dr. Martin explained that the tenure process is a four-year probationary period, during which teachers are evaluated thoroughly to make sure that the district is willing to commit to keeping them. At the end of the four years, the teachers are recognized, and receive a certificate and the "tenured" status. He read the names of this year's teachers who will attain tenure at the beginning of the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

After a rigorous interview process, Dr. Olson said Ms. Elisa Leporini had been selected as the new assistant director of student services. Ms. Leporini is currently a special education coordinator in the District.

ACTION ITEM 23-05-9

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 appointment of Elisa Leporini as the new assistant director of student services effective July 1, 2023, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent and not upon the Board's direct knowledge regarding the individual selected for appointment.

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

Ayes: Milligan, Lubinski, Kennedy, Georgakis, Doubleday, Pearl

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Touzios

The motion carried.

PRESENTATION & ADOPTION OF 6-8 MATH CURRICULUM

Dr. Lori Lopez presented, along with Math department chair Jess Caplis, and teachers Christie Thielen and Jackie Behof. She noted the adoption of this new curriculum was linked to the strategic plan priorities. She stated it was the work of seven middle school math teachers. She explained the committee's review process and said they had analyzed four programs, focused on reviewing standards, piloted the units and lessons, and selected Carnegie Math. After the selection, Dr. Lopez reached out to two districts in the area that currently used the program to gain feedback. In addition to Carnegie, the team wants to couple it with Demos Math. The teachers gave examples of the lessons and activities, and spoke about the Math Stream Experience that is part of the program and how it can help students and parents with support at home. Demos Math is a core extension of the program and inquiry-based learning to build a runway for the transition to High School. It provides additional support to middle school students who need it the most. This is a tech-based program at the cost of \$325,056 that includes a five-year subscription, and one free year of Math Stream (the online support), with an option to purchase at the end of it. Professional learning with Carnegie will be offered to teachers through a grant. Dr. Lopez thanked the committee for their work and took questions from the Board. A couple of Board members stated they had contacted Dr. Lopez ahead of the meeting and gotten answers, and thanked her for the thoughtful approach to this selection. Member Kennedy asked how the program tied with elementary and high school. Dr. Lopez explained that both Carnegie and Demos build on the foundation for math number sense established by Eureka Math in elementary school. The transition flows well with explicit structures in Carnegie that can easily help those who may be still struggling once out of the elementary level.

ACTION ITEM 23-05-10

It was moved by Board member Lubinski and seconded by Board member Georgakis that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the adoption of Carnegie Middle School Math Solution and Desmos Math Core Extension as recommended by the 6-8 Math Review Committee at the total cost of \$325,056.

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

Ayes: Georgakis, Kennedy, Doubleday, Lubinski, Milligan, Pearl

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Touzios

The motion carried.

PRESENTATION & ADOPTION OF ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

Dr. Lopez presented along with curriculum specialist Dina Pappas, and social studies teacher Tony Belmonte. She said this committee had been launched in 2019 and had to take a pause during COVID, then again as Math became the priority. This committee also emerged from the goals set in place in the strategic plan. Dr. Lopez stated that selecting a core curriculum involved multiple steps: The team took a deep dive into standards, did a rigorous review of potential programs, sampled them, looked at the resource selection, and had ongoing reflections. They ultimately identified two resources and the committee was now recommending the selection of TCI Social Studies Alive for grades 2-5. Dr. Lopez noted that TCI was standards-aligned, had a hands-on engagement, and offered ELA integration. She talked about social studies grade-level content for each of the grades. The total cost of the program would be \$224,325 for six years, including a subscription. This offered online access, printed journals for students every year, and printed teacher editions as well. Subcommittees will be created this summer to develop grade-level pacing guides and common assessments. A professional learning session will be hosted by TCI in August. With regard to kindergarten and first grade, Dr. Lopez stressed that it was difficult to develop an age-appropriate curriculum, some curriculum writing will be done by department chairs to supplement the expanded pilot of the Inquiry Journeys program. The committee for K-1 will make recommendations to the Board before April 2024. Dr. Lopez took questions. Member Kennedy asked what "culturally-inclusive" instruction meant. Dr. Lopez stated it would be a more balanced representation of all perspectives,

rather than a European-focused approach as in older textbooks. TCI takes into account women's perspectives, Native Americans, and various other perspectives.

ACTION ITEM 23-05-11

It was moved by Board member Milligan and seconded by Board member Georgakis that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the purchase of TCI Social Studies Alive! for grades 2-5.

Member Kennedy made a friendly amendment to the motion to include the total cost of the program of \$224,325

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

Ayes: Kennedy, Doubleday, Georgakis, Milligan, Pearl, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Touzios

The motion carried.

The Board took a five-minute break and resumed the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

DISCUSSION & REVIEW OF FIVE-YEAR MASTER FACILITY PLAN

Dr. Parisi stated that the District had recently selected a new architectural firm to work with, Wight & Co., and subsequently wanted to revisit the five-year plan last presented. He explained that tonight would be part one, with a little history, information, and a Q&A session for the Board afterward. The administration was looking to determine the next steps in terms of construction and improvements. He stressed that the strategic plan was the driving force behind the projects. Wight & Co. representatives said they had toured some of the buildings already, reviewed the old plan, and were in the process of updating it. Their goal was to highlight the highest priorities for each building. They would like to also identify the value of the projects moving forward, and what made the most sense cost-wise. The Board members had numerous questions and discussed what had been addressed during full-day kindergarten construction, and what areas were still lacking. They expressed a desire to recycle in order to save money and repurpose as much as possible with a focus on factoring in sustainability as well. They wanted a prioritized list for the June regular meeting with a clear financial picture; this should also include implications for deferred maintenance and projects. The Board requested another financial update since the last five-year projection had been done before full-day kindergarten construction. The members inquired about the need for a safety audit and whether that could be done before June. According to Dr. Parisi, the focus in June would be on summer 2024 projects, but with a look at future larger projects.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT

Elisa Leporini - Employ as Assistant Director of Student Services effective July 1, 2023 - \$106,000.

Tricia Len - Request Leave of Absence, personal - Special Education Teacher at Emerson Middle School for the 2023-24 school year.

Ashley Hardiman - Resign as Building Technologist at Carpenter School effective May 19, 2023.

Sophee Karkazis - Resign as Kindergarten Teacher at Roosevelt School effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Julie Powell - Resign as Instructional Technology Coach at Lincoln Middle School effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Priscilla Puentes - Resign as Night Custodian at Emerson Middle School effective May 9, 2023.

Lynn Condon - Retire as Physical Therapist for the District effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Linda Damianides - Retire as C of C Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Camille Derwin - Retire as Intervention Teacher at Carpenter School effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Michele Larson - Retire as 1st Grade Teacher at Washington School effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Catherine Murges - Retire as 8th Grade Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Ourania Prokos - Retire as 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Mark Schalke - Retire as 7th Grade Math Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

ACTION ITEM 23-05-12

It was moved by Board member Lubinski and seconded by Board member Doubleday that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report dated May 18, 2023, 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: Milligan, Doubleday, Pearl, Kennedy, Georgakis, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Touzios

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Lubinski requested policy 6:60 *Curriculum* be pulled from the consent agenda and brought back to the policy committee for additional discussion and review. Member Milligan requested clarification on the change in policy for kindergarten admission in the student-parent handbook. Dr. Lopez, Mrs. Schmeisser, Mrs. Warden, and Mr. Lilly confirmed that that change had been communicated to parents ahead of registration, was clearly identified in the online registration process, and was also addressed by the secretaries at the building levels.

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 867,995.58
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 184,378.62
30 - Debt Services	\$ 14,899.65
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 460,489.40
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 535,739.60
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 1,664.11
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
Total:	<u>\$ 2,065,166.96</u>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 4,418,470.41
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 203,859.74
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 4,980.10
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 85,255.87
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 113,574.51
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ -

Total: \$ 4,826,140.63

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 March 31, 2023
- Approval of 2023-2024 Student/Parent Handbook (policies & specific sections)
- Second Reading & Approval of Policies 4:165 *Awareness & Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse & Grooming Behaviors*, and ~~6:60 Curriculum Content~~
- Approval of Consolidated District Plan
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

ACTION ITEM 23-05-13

It was moved by Board member Doubleday 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 May 18, 2023, which includes: bills, payroll & benefits; approval of financial update for the period ending March 31, 2023; approval of 2023-2024 student/parent handbook (policies & specific sections); second reading & approval of policies 4:165 *Awareness & Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse & Grooming Behaviors*; approval of consolidated district plan; and destruction of audio closed recordings (none).

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Doubleday, Georgakis, Milligan, Lubinski, Kennedy, Pearl

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Touzios

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Legal counsel explained that members could approve meeting minutes for a meeting they had not participated in, as long as they were present in the room, or indicated that they had viewed the video for said meeting.

ACTION ITEM 23-05-14

It was moved by Board member Milligan and seconded by Board member Georgakis that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the special meeting on May 11, 2023; and the organizational meeting on May 11, 2023.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Lubinski, Doubleday, Kennedy, Georgakis, Milligan, Pearl

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Touzios

The motion carried.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS & ITEMS OF INFORMATION

The draft agenda for the June regular meeting was in the packet.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Lubinski requested the policy committee meet soon. Dr. Pearl noted some members might arrange a tour of the facilities. She also informed everyone that former Board member Sotos would attend the Emerson Middle School promotion ceremony; member Georgakis would attend the Lincoln School ceremony. She said the June 15 regular

meeting will be the last one for Dr. Olson, Dr. Lopez, and Mrs. Warden. Member Lubinski wished member Kennedy a Happy Birthday (tomorrow). Dr. Pearl thanked the Board for a positive meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:17 p.m., it was moved by Board member Georgakis and seconded by Board member Kennedy to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: June 15, 2023.

President

Secretary