

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.  
September 15, 2022  
Emerson School - MPR  
8101 Cumberland Ave, Niles, IL 60714**

Board President Pearl called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Carol Sales, Larry Ryles, Dr. Nicole Weitowich, and Gareth Kennedy (via phone). Board member Phyllis Lubinski was absent from the meeting. Board member Sotos joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Director of Student Services Alicia Schmeisser, Chief School Business Official Adam Parisi (CSBO); Director of Facility Management Anthony Bersani; Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden; Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi; Communications Specialist Christopher Lilly; and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. Three members of the public were present.

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.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board member Ryles led the pledge.

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

President Pearl stated this was the first meeting since the start of school; opening day had been full of activities, welcoming, and focused on inclusion. She noted that board members Sales and Ryles had attended the Farmers' market with Dr. Olson a couple of weekends ago.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM REGULAR MEETING & CONVENES TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022-23 BUDGET**

At 7:09 p.m. Dr. Parisi asked for a motion to adjourn from the regular meeting and convene to a public hearing on the budget. Board member Pearl made the motion and member Weitowich seconded. The motion was approved by all present. Dr. Parisi summarized the steps necessary to get to tonight's budget approval and asked for comments from the administration; none were received. Dr. Parisi then asked for comments from the board; none were received. He then asked for comments from the public; none were received.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022-23 BUDGET & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING**

At 7:10 p.m. Dr. Parisi asked for a motion to adjourn the public hearing and resume the regular meeting. Board member Kennedy made the motion, member Voitowich seconded the motion; the motion was approved by unanimous voice votes by all present.

### **RECOGNITION OF SUBSTITUTES**

Dr. Martin stated that substitutes were often overlooked but played a very important part during the pandemic, both in person and remote. District 64 used 241 different individuals as substitute teachers last year, 27 of whom worked more than 100 days in the District. He stressed that they played a vital role and should be thanked and recognized for their work. He mentioned the administration would be discussing their rate with the board at the next regular meeting. Member Ryles commented that many teachers who retired from the district came back to substitute and how positive this was due to their knowledge of the district and its students.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the district's website and in the board report; none were received. Members of the public who were present in person were also invited to submit comments; comments were received as follows:

- Marty Piot: a parent in District 64 addressed the board on the issue of full-day kindergarten tuition and the need to stay below market cost; he also said the district should not impose late fees.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Board president Pearl said the intergovernmental agreement with the Park Ridge Park District will be pulled from the consent agenda and not approved tonight; the agreement will be brought back in October.

### **JEFFERSON & ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Dr. Parisi stated that construction meetings were now every other week as opposed to weekly meetings. He and Mr. Bersani still met frequently with Dr. Olson to keep him updated. The site work was continuing at all elementary schools and, weather permitting, should be completed by late October. The district office move to Jefferson would be complete tomorrow. Mr. Bersani said he was happy the schools had opened on time, the parking lot had been completed at Jefferson, and he was working through a handicap parking signage issue. Dr. Olson noted that it had been seven-day workweeks for a long time for those involved in the construction process. He thanked Mr. Bersani and Dr. Parisi for all their work. Member Ryles said it might be a good idea to provide a construction update on the site work to the PTO/A presidents to disseminate to parents and avoid emails and questions. Member Voitowich expressed her gratitude for all the work and accomplishments. Member Kennedy expressed his gratitude as well and asked for a list of change orders, as well as the total amount spent on the project. He inquired about playground equipment that had been stored away and when it might be brought back. Mr. Bersani said the equipment had been taken down to preserve it during construction and would be returned once the site work was completed. Dr. Parisi confirmed that the project was still within the allocated budget. Dr. Olson said the board would receive a list of change orders before the October meeting.

**ADOPTION OF DISTRICT BUDGET FOR 2022-23**

Dr. Parisi said he hoped this would be the last time he discussed the pandemic’s impact on the budget. He reviewed the budget steps and calendar. He reminded everyone that the strategic plan was the driving force behind the budget.

ACTION ITEM 22-09-1

It was moved by board member Waitowich and seconded by board member Ryles that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, adopt the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, as presented.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Waitowich, Sotos, Pearl, Ryles

Nays: Kennedy

Present: None

Absent: Lubinski

The motion carried.

Member Kennedy said he thought the district should move faster to eliminate the 900K deficit, and therefore he chose to vote “no” on approving the budget.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION #1297 APPROVING TRS SUPPLEMENTAL SAVINGS PLAN EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

This program had been available to employees in the district but a new legislation made it now required across the state. All districts were therefore required to adopt this resolution by the September 30 deadline set by the state. Member Kennedy inquired about the cost to the district, Dr. Parisi stated there was none. TRS had also selected a vendor and there was no risk to the district.

ACTION ITEM 22-09-02

It was moved by board member Waitowich and seconded by board member Ryles that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, adopt Resolution #1297 to approve the TRS SSP Employer Participation Agreement.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Lubinski

The motion carried.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE**

Dr. Lori Lopez said she would share data from two standardized assessments: the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP). She reminded everyone that these assessments were only one way to measure student achievement. She talked about the continued impact of the pandemic, stating that the 2021-2022 school year, while mostly in person, had been disrupted by quarantines and remote learning. The target was set on three-year prior data. Spring data showed solid gains in math; students seemed to be making progress even though the pandemic impact could still be felt, mainly on older students. Reading remained at a higher achievement level than math throughout the pandemic. Students seemed to need more support with non-fiction, in grades 6-8 mainly. K-5 ELA coaches sunset at the end of this school year and are focusing on non-fiction to remediate this. Current math data showed tremendous growth from fall to spring, with reading showing most growth in second, third, and fifth grades. Early math showed no concerns. Dr. Lopez said the focus going forward would be on growth. The district had put numerous resources and people in place to support students: math interventionists, ELA coaches, phonics materials. She said there was room to grow but definitely a lot to celebrate. Answering a question about member Ryles about more books being ordered during the pandemic, Dr. Lopez said that parents got a view of the classroom like they never did before and this was a good thing. Mr. Ryles also inquired about senior volunteers reading to the students, Dr. Lopez stated that this was no longer a formalized program but senior volunteers were always welcome in the schools. President Pearl inquired about an accelerated ELA program, but Dr. Lopez said there was only a Channel of Challenge. Member Woitowich asked if Dr. Lopez had access to other districts' data, she stated she could only access the IAR data, not MAP. She said the rate of growth seemed lower in other districts. Member Sotos stated he had previously questioned the process to determine placement in accelerated programs, but had in fact witnessed the accuracy with this own kids. Dr. Lopez stated that fall MAP results were formative to determine how to sort the students. She would present IAR data again later this fall.

## **OPENING ENROLLMENT & STAFFING REPORT**

Dr. Martin said the last two years had been anything but normal due to the impact of the pandemic. The District chose to follow a straight rollover method when estimating this year's enrollment back in February to avoid overstaffing. Enrollment was a slow process this year and did not pick up until late in the summer. Five bubbles popped in the summer, an unusually late time for the district. Dr. Martin stated that the principals had done a wonderful job adjusting to the late enrollment and changes. The total enrollment was at 4510 at the beginning of the year, up 66 students from last year. At the middle schools, 7th and 8th grades had been at status quo, but 6th grade saw a tremendous increase. The increase had been predicted for Emerson School, but not Lincoln School which saw an unexpected influx from parochial schools and Chicago Public Schools. All that being said, staffing predictions had been to add 2.5 full time positions, but only 1.78 were added. This was due to the elimination of the Extended Day Kindergarten program that saw those teachers converted to full-time kindergarten positions. Member Sotos inquired about space at each building. Dr. Martin noted that space was good at each building, with Franklin School being the tightest due to a bubble that had popped at the last minute and the need to make accommodations before the start of school. Member Sotos expressed concern over available space for growth at each building and stated he

would rather see empty classrooms than see teachers having to share spaces or “art on the cart”. Member Ryles asked about bubbles popping in 5th grade, which Dr. Martin agreed was unusual and unexpected this year. Member Ryles said he had concerns about the increase of multi-unit housing in the city and was a proponent of impact fees. Member Sotos wondered if the full-day kindergarten program had also drawn some families with older children as well. Member Ryles asked if there had been an increase of special education students in full-day kindergarten and director Schmeisser stated that they had all come from Jefferson School, not from outside.

### **PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT GOALS**

Dr. Olson reminded the board that his yearly goals were split into two sections: the built-in goals for his position that were part of his standard yearly evaluation; and the goals that were a special personal focus for the year. These goals were: the return to typical student achievement results; the development of a systemic plan for behavior and discipline; and the development of an updated crisis and safety plan. This last one had been a part of Dr. Olson’s goals in the past but had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. He noted that he had sent out a participation survey for four new committees he was forming this year, and the safety committee had received the most interest.

### **ACTION ITEM 22-09-3**

It was moved by board member Voitowich and seconded by board member Ryles that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the Superintendent Goals as presented tonight and agreed upon.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Lubinski

The motion carried.

### **FIRST READING OF POLICIES FROM PRESS 109 & UPDATE FROM BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

Board member and committee member Kennedy said the committee had accepted all the amendments as presented in PRESS issue 109, with the exception of one policy pertaining to “witness duty”. He stated that policy 2:150 would be discussed at the next policy committee meeting. Member Sales noted that a number of policies that were customized previously no longer would be if the board were to adopt the PRESS changes as proposed. She recommended that the district subscribe to PRESS Plus service to be able to better track and retain customized policies. Member Kennedy said the policies would be further reviewed before the second reading and approval; he also agreed that PRESS Plus service would be a good choice. Dr. Olson will discuss this further with board members.

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

Dr. Martin stated this was the last of the largest personnel reports until March. He noted that retired Emerson assistant principal Mr. Tim Benka was now back as a teacher's assistant, to the delight of many.

ACTION ITEM 22-09-4

It was moved by board member Woitowich and seconded by Board member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report dated September 15, 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.

Daniela Arcan - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Roosevelt School effective September 12, 2022 - \$17.04 hourly.

Sonya Arcuri - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Washington School effective August 23, 2022 - \$17.20 hourly.

Tim Benka - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Franklin School effective August 22, 2022 - \$17.03 hourly.

Kayla Bennett - Employ as 3rd Grade Teacher at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$56,677.

Colleen Biere - Employ as 5th Grade Teacher at Franklin School effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$56,677.

Natalie Bifareti - Employ as Level IV 12-Month Secretary at Lincoln School effective September 12, 2022 - \$19.02 hourly.

Kailee Breslin - Employ as 2nd Grade Teacher at Carpenter School effective August 22, 2022 - \$58,792.

Jose Calderon - Employ as Night Custodian at Emerson Middle School effective September 2, 2022 - \$17.03 hourly.

Julian Douglass - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Emerson Middle School effective August 22, 2022 - \$17.33 hourly.

Isabel Garcia - Employ as Night Custodian at Roosevelt School effective September 1, 2022- \$17.03 hourly.

Caitlinn Hastings - Employ as Kindergarten Teacher at Franklin School effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 1 - \$65,190.

Sam Helfrich - Employ as Night Custodian at Washington School effective September 6, 2022 - \$17.03 hourly.

Sophee Karkazis - Employ as Kindergarten Teacher at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$56,677.

Alejandra Lakomek - Employ as Level IV Technology Secretary effective August 29, 2022 - \$19.02 hourly.

Jordyn Levitt - Employ as Foreign Language Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 1 - \$65,190.

Caroline Mahon - Employ as 1st Grade Teacher at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 1 - \$65,190.

Maria Munos - Employ as District Night Custodian effective August 24, 2022 - \$17.03 hourly.

Thomas Neal - Employ as Social Studies Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective August 22, 2022 - \$56,677.

Tim O'Brien - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Roosevelt School effective September 12, 2022 - \$17.04 hourly.

Mia O'Connell - Employ as Science/Social Studies Teacher at Lincoln Middle School effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$56,677.

Christina Rojas - Employ as District Night Custodian effective September 6, 2022 - \$17.03 hourly.

Rocco Pascente - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - \$17.04 hourly.

Sylvia Sagat - Employ as Teaching Assistant at Emerson Middle School effective August 29, 2022 - \$17.04 hourly.

Mikaela Senycia - Employ as 4th Grade Teacher at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$56,677.

Cloey Sernel - Employ as Kindergarten Teacher at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$56,677.

Joseph Tsikretsis - Employ as Level IV Transportation Secretary effective August 24, 2022 - \$18.65 hourly.

Connor Yoon - Employ as .67 Instrumental and General Music Teacher for the District effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$37,973.59.

Colleen Hogan - Reassign from Level IV 12-month Building Secretary to Level IV 10-month Office Associate at Lincoln Middle School effective September 12, 2022.

Noreen Bucher - Reassign from .54 to .6 Art Teacher at Roosevelt School August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 1 - \$39,114.

Aimee Bergeron - Rehire as .5 Foreign Language Teacher at Carpenter School effective August 22, 2022 - MA+48, Step 4 - \$42,869.50.

Helen Gossel Pasley - Rehire as .5 Channels of Challenge Curriculum Specialist - MA, Step 4 - \$34,398.50.

Kendra Hutchinson - Rehire as District Channels of Challenge Curriculum Specialist/Teacher effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 6 - \$71,355.

Joshua Kriss - Rehire as .9 Physical Education Teacher at Lincoln School effective August 22, 2022 - BA+24, Step 3 - \$56,742.30.

Erin Paluch - Rehire as Teaching Assistant at Jefferson School effective August 22, 2022 - \$17.20 hourly.

Laura Papageorgiou - Rehire as .62 Physical Education Teacher at Franklin School effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 3 - \$41,745.84.

Kathy Pellegrini - Rehire as .5 Teaching Assistant at Jefferson School effective August 23, 2022 - \$17.20 hourly.

Molly Petray - Rehire as .9 English Language Teacher at Emerson School effective August 22, 2022 - BA+12, Step 2 - \$54,840.60.

Jennifer Volpe - Rehire as .5 District Special Education Facilitator effective August 22, 2022 - MA+12, Step 2 - \$34,715.

Karen Whiteside - Rehire as a .61 Art Teacher at Emerson Middle School effective August 22, 2022 - MA+36, Step 2 - \$46,875.45.

Juan Ibarra - Resign as Night Custodian at Emerson Middle School effective September 16, 2022.

Anum Mustafa - Resign as 1st Grade Teacher at Franklin School effective August 11, 2022.

Sean Powers - Resign as Night Custodian at Roosevelt School effective August 26, 2022.

Eun Sun Park Simpson - Resign at Teaching Assistant at Washington School effective August 12, 2022.

Luis Rubio Ortega - Terminate as Bridge Custodian at Washington School effective August 26, 2022.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Lubinski

The motion carried.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Prior to voting on the consent agenda, the IGA with the Park Ridge Park District was pulled from consent.

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

#### Bills

| <u>Fund</u>                                  | <u>Fund Total</u>      |
|--|------------------------|
| 10 - Education Fund                          | \$ 835,230.74          |
| 20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund         | \$ 329,507.76          |
| 30 - Debt Services                           | \$ 18,163.05           |
| 40 - Transportation Fund                     | \$ 106,527.00          |
| 50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)           | \$ -                   |
| 60 - Capital Projects                        | \$ 6,057,558.80        |
| 61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates | \$ -                   |
| 80 - Tort Immunity Fund                      | \$ 25,708.00           |
| 90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund         | \$ -                   |
| <b>Total:</b>                                | <b>\$ 7,372,695.35</b> |

#### Payroll & Benefits

| <u>Fund</u>                          | <u>Fund Total</u>      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10 - Education Fund                  | \$ 2,743,202.15        |
| 20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund | \$ 256,960.58          |
| 40 - Transportation Fund             | \$ 1,317.34            |
| 50 - IMRF/FICA Fund                  | \$ 57,379.48           |
| 51 - SS/Medicare                     | \$ 76,676.60           |
| 80 - Tort Immunity Fund              | \$ -                   |
| <b>Total:</b>                        | <b>\$ 3,135,536.15</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 July 31, 2022
- Approval of Maine Township School Treasurer Depositories
- ~~Adoption of Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park Ridge Park District for Facilities Use & Operation of a Before & After School Recreational Program~~ (removed from consent agenda)
- Approval of Semi Annual Review of Closed Minutes
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

#### ACTION ITEM 22-09-5

It was moved by board member Waitowich and seconded by board member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for September 15, 2022, which includes: Bills, Payroll & Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending July 31, 2022; Approval of Maine Township School Treasurer Depositories; Adoption of Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park Ridge Park District for Facilities Use & Operation of a Before & After School Recreational Program; Approval of Semi Annual Review of Closed Minutes; Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Lubinski

The motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### ACTION ITEM 22-09-6

It was moved by board member Sotos and seconded by board member Kennedy that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Closed Meeting on August 18, 2022; and the Regular Meeting on August 18, 2022.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Pearl, Ryles, Waitowich, Kennedy

Nays: None

Present: Sotos

Absent: Lubinski

The motion carried.

#### **OTHER DISCUSSIONS & ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Dr. Olson noted the start of the year had been very successful, the new teacher orientation was full of positivity. Dr. Pearl had attended Institute Day and shared a positive message as well. Everyone had been in a good mood for the start of school.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Member Sotos applauded director of technology, Mary Jane Warden, remarking that the Chromebook he had been given 8 years ago still looked like new.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:27 p.m., it was moved by board member Sotos and seconded by board member Waitowich to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote by those members present.

Signed Date: October 20, 2022.

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President

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Secretary