

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 6:30 p.m.
May 11, 2023
Jefferson School - Hendee Rooms
8200 W Greendale Ave, Niles, IL

Board President Pearl called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members in attendance were Carol Sales, Phyllis Lubinski, Gareth Kennedy, Tom Sotos, Demetri Touzios, and Larry Ryles. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Chief School Business Official Dr. Adam Parisi; Director of Student Services Alicia Schmeisser; Director of Facility Management Anthony Bersani; Hodges Loizzi Legal Counsel Steven Richart; Communications Specialist Chris Lilly; and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. Approximately 2 members of the public were in attendance.

Also present in the room were incoming board members Matthew Doubleday, Monica Milligan, and Rachel Georgakis; incoming new superintendent Dr. Ben Collins was also present during the meeting.

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 District Office, 8182 W Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Ryles led the pledge for the last time.

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

President Pearl stated she had no remarks as this was the last meeting of the current board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

ACCEPTANCE OF CANVASS OF VOTES FOR ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR APRIL 4, 2023

The elections were uncontested. The canvassing of the votes reflected a 13.81% voter turnout. Dr. Denise Pearl received 59.81% of the votes for the two-year term race. The members running for the four-year term positions received the following percentages of votes: Rachel Georgakis 20.64%; Monica Milligan 20.53%; Matthew Doubleday 20.11%.

ACTION ITEM 23-05-3

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, accept the results of the canvass for the election on April 4, 2023 of Board Members from the Cook County Clerk in the form provided to the Board of Education, and that the canvassing results be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION ITEM 23-05-4

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 minutes from the closed meeting on April 18, 2023; the closed meeting on April 19, 2023; the closed meeting on April 20, 2023; the regular meeting on April 20 2023; and the special meeting on May 3, 2023.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

President Pearl thanked the outgoing members for their service, noting members Ryles and Sotos had served two terms. Member Sales congratulated the newly elected members, thanked the teachers, staff, administrators, stressing it was Teacher Appreciation week. She thanked the district for the plaque she received tonight and wished the new board members all the best. Member Ryles welcomed the new board members, thanked the great staff of District 64, and asked the new board to do a better job than the current board had. He said there had been contentious meetings that should have been handled better, the policies in place for decorum and behavior should have been enforced. He regretted that the board had allowed Dr. Olson to be attacked by the public while members "sat on their hands". He stressed this should not happen again. He called for addressing the safety and security of the students in the school buildings, and doing a security audit if necessary. He stated that decisions should always be made so that "the children must always win". Member Sotos thanked everyone as well for the eight amazing years he spent serving on the board, stated he had learned a lot and grown as a person. He echoed member Ryles' sentiment and said kids should come first. He wished Dr. Ben Collins good luck as the new superintendent. He pleaded with the community not to come to board meetings and lose control of their emotions and let things turn negative. He stressed that every board member serves to help their community, not for a personal agenda. He hoped the new board would continue in the spirit of unity that was displayed recently, especially during the new superintendent search. He implored the board to start fresh, and wished Dr. Olson the best. He thanked his family for letting him serve on the board. Member Kennedy thanked all three outgoing board members for their service; member Lubinski said it had been a pleasure and an honor to serve with them, she congratulated the new board members and looked forward to working with them. Member Touzios said there was no better human than member Ryles, stated member Sales had been a perfect professional and he had learned a lot from them.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

At 6:55 p.m., it was moved by board member Sotos and seconded by board member Ryles to adjourn sine die.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Signed Date: May 18, 2023.

President

Secretary