

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.  
August 18, 2022  
Lincoln School - LRC  
200 S Lincoln Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068**

Board President Pearl called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Other board members in attendance were Carol Sales, Phyllis Lubinski, Larry Ryles, and Dr. Nicole Woitowich. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson, Director of Student Services Alicia Schmeisser, Chief School Business Official Adam Parisi (CSBO), and Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi. Board members Gareth Kennedy and Tom Sotos were absent from 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 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068.

**BOARD RECESSES & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING**

At 6:47 p.m. it was moved by board member Woitowich and seconded by board member Lubinski to recess from the regular board meeting and adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the following: 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, Woitowich, Ryles, Lubinski, Pearl

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Kennedy, Sotos

The motion carried.

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

The Board adjourned from the closed meeting and resumed the regular meeting at 7:05 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; Director of Facility Management Anthony Bersani; Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden; Assistant Director of Facility Management Noel Mendoza; Communications Specialist Christopher Lilly; and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. Approximately 25 members of the public were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board member Ryles led the pledge.

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

Board president Pearl said she had the opportunity to speak to the new teachers this past week; it was nice to see all the work happening in preparation for the start of school.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the district's website and in the board report. Comments received by email will be posted in the next meeting's packet. Members of the public who were present in person were also invited to submit comments; comments were received as follows:

- Alex Waters: addressed the board on the issue of School Resource Officers (SROs) and her opposition. She thought money would be better spent elsewhere and more input was needed from organizations.
- Rachel Georgakis: a district parent and educator in another district, expressed her concern over SROs, mentioned that per policy a parent/teacher advisory committee should weigh in on the issue.
- Carter Esterling: a district parent, said this was a huge distraction and a waste of the board's time, in addition to the potential cost. He also expressed concern for students with disabilities and reiterated the need for the parent/teacher advisory committee to weigh in.
- John Skudnig: a district parent, recalled being shot in 6th grade and recalled the trauma. He was in favor of SROs in school to protect the students, not for disciplinary reasons.
- Kristin Barnette-McCarthy: a Lincoln alumni does not recall shooting in Park Ridge schools when she was growing up, but said it was only a matter of when and social workers would not stop the person.
- Ginger Pennington: a district parent, said the research and data showed SROs did not work, intervention was needed to support mental health and address behavioral issues as the research showed most shootings were done by people already in the building.
- William Hallihan: a district parent, gave some data on how many people died in schools in 1970 and recalled his experience in Maine South with SROs. He stated his strong opposition to their presence and interaction with his students.
- Lauren Hall: a former district parent, said no data, no reason, no cost, had been provided by the board on why SROs were needed. She said a district-wide discipline policy and process was needed. She requested data and information from authorities knowledgeable in the matter.
- Sofia Bedestri-Hall: a Maine South student said SROs were not necessary in middle schools where students were still developing.
- David Sutherland: a member of an organization with the Northwest Coalition against racism, stated his opposition to SROs and spoke about how they impact minorities. He stressed that police officers know punishment and are not advocates for students.
- Kevin Tegethoff: a district parent, stated his opposition to SROs, expressed concern about their impact on minority students, students with disabilities. He called for more social workers.

- George Kouros: a Park Ridge resident, stated that while he appreciated the opportunity to address the board during public comments, an opportunity for actual dialogue was needed. He suggested that this could be accomplished through committees.
- Julianna Lopez de Philbrook: read a statement from the League of Women Voters stating their opposition to SROs.
- Kristen Olson: a Park Ridge resident said she liked the model currently used at Emerson where an officer is assigned and speaks to students. She does not support SROs in the school buildings without a clearly defined role.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

No changes were made to the meeting agenda.

### **APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH STUDENT 2022-23 (1)**

The matter was discussed by the board members in closed session prior to the open meeting.

#### ACTION ITEM 22-08-1

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, approve the settlement agreement with student 2022-2023 (1).

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Pearl, Sales, Waitowich, Ryles, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Kennedy, Sotos

The motion carried.

### **PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES**

Dr. Olson said the new guidelines had been publicized prior to the meeting. The guidelines were much different this year with only a couple of mandatory items, all were mainly recommendations with decisions left to the families. Recommendations may change depending on the infection level, but the board would have the opportunity to review and approve any changes before they were made.

#### ACTION ITEM 22-08-2

It was moved by board member Sales and seconded by board member Waitowich that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois approve the new District 64 COVID-19 Guidelines for 2022 - 2023, as presented at the August 18, 2022 regular meeting and attached hereto.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Pearl, Ryles, Voitowich, Sales, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Kennedy, Sotos

The motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #1296 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS DIRECTING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY**

As part of the process, the district discovered that title to the ESC property located at 164 South Prospect Avenue in Park Ridge, was held by the Township. The resolution was needed to release title and clear it for closing.

ACTION ITEM 22-08-3

It was moved by board member Voitowich and seconded by board member Sales that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, adopt Resolution 1296 directing the sale of real property.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Voitowich, Ryles, Lubinski, Pearl, Sales

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Kennedy, Sotos

The motion carried.

**JEFFERSON & ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Dr. Parisi said it had been a busy summer with construction. This week the staff came in and saw the new spaces. He said he, Mr. Bersani, and Dr. Olson were visiting the buildings regularly. He also complimented Mrs. Warden and the technology department for their efforts and work in installing all the required technology in time for the opening of schools. Mr. Bersani noted they were still a couple of challenges, especially with parkings at some of the buildings. The work was still within budget and no big surprises were expected at this point in the project.

**DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SROs)**

Dr. Olson said the police chiefs had been invited but stated they needed more information before they would come to answer questions. Member Ryles stated we lived in a world where a security officer was needed in the schools. He proceeded to read the questions he would have asked the chiefs if they had come to the meeting and said he would still like the police chiefs to attend a meeting. President Pearl said maybe committees would be a way to approach the matter. The strategic planning committee had been a group of different individuals who had helped guide the process successfully. She stressed that MTSS, social

emotional learning, all those items were on the strategic plan, as well as a review of the district's crisis plan. She thought it should all be a process. Member Lubinski said she had done some research but still needed more information. She was disappointed the police chiefs had not attended the meeting. She was in support of SROs for safety but did not think they should be involved in the discipline of students. She thought a lot more conversations were needed. Member Sales pointed to the policy in place and stressed the need to appoint members to the parent/teacher advisory committee, and the behavior intervention committee, both listed under policy 2:150. Legal counsel stated the board president should appoint the committee members. Superintendent Olson said he needed time to plan, review all available data, and meet with staff. Member Ryles stated he would now vote no on SROs but wanted to have security officers present in the middle schools; he stated the public was right. Members Pearl and Voitowich stressed that it would be inequitable to do so without the same officers present in all other buildings. Member Voitowich said they were other priorities on the board's agenda and this was not a productive use of time. Member Lubinski said she was not done discussing the topic. Superintendent Olson said it was necessary to clarify what the discussion was before proceeding further and bringing this up again at a meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF 2022-25 SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

Dr. Olson thanked the board for his raise and contract extension and said he was happy to be in District 64.

#### **ACTION ITEM 22-08-4**

It was moved by board member Lubinski and seconded by board member Voitowich that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the 2022-25 Superintendent's employment contract for Dr. Eric Olson.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Pearl, Sales, Voitowich, Ryles, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Kennedy, Sotos

The motion carried.

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

Dr. Martin noted this was a busy hiring period and the next couple of personnel reports would be large ones. The district will be fully staffed with certified personnel for the start of school.

Kristin Bekiares - Employ as .5 Math Intervention Teacher at Lincoln School effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 1 - \$32,595.

Michelle Betthausen - Employ as Level IV 10.5 Month Secretary at Emerson Middle School effective August 8, 2022 - \$18.65 hourly.

Sarah Beuhler - Employ as .6 District Speech Language Pathologist effective August 22, 2022 - MA+36, Step 4 - \$47,633.

Toni Binz - Employ as Special Education Coordinator at Lincoln and Washington Schools effective August 1, 2022 - \$84,460.

Noreen Bucher - Employ as .54 Art Teacher at Roosevelt School effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 1 - \$35,202.

Grace Chan - Employ as .5 Registered Nurse at Carpenter School effective August 22, 2022 - \$34 hourly.

Rita DiGiacinto - Employ as 3rd grade Teacher at Washington School effective August 22, 2022 - BA, Step 1 - \$56,677.

Aubrey Hulsebosch - Employ as .5 District School Psychologist effective August 22, 2022 - MA+36, Step 4 - \$39,694.50.

Laura Lane - Employ as .5 Channels of Challenge Teacher at Emerson School effective August 22, 2022 - MA+12, Step 1 - \$34,184.

Zachary Popp - Employ as Special Education Teacher at Franklin School effective August 22, 2022 - BA+24, Step 1 - \$60,982.

Lisa Trunek - Employ as .5 English Language Teacher at Washington School effective August 22, 2022 - MA, Step 1 - \$32,595.

Paige Dalton - Resign as Science/Social Studies Teacher at Lincoln School effective August 5, 2022.

Joan Layton - Resign as Special Education Teacher at Franklin School effective July 26, 2022.

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

Alex Rubenstein - Resign as Intervention Teacher at Franklin School effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

Theresa Simonetti - Resign as Level IV Office Associate at Emerson Middle School effective August 8, 2022.

Colleen Treutler - Resign as Level IV Transportation Secretary effective August 25, 2022.

Alex Aguirre - Terminate as Probationary Floater Custodian for the District effective August 18, 2022.

#### ACTION ITEM 22-08-5

It was moved by board member Voitowich 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 August 18, 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, Pearl, Lubinski, Voitowich, Ryles

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Kennedy, Sotos

The motion carried.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 1,233,117.69
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 633,306.22
30 - Debt Services	\$ 23,467.05
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 32,325.64
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 9,870,889.82
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 425.00
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$11,793,531.42</u></b>

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 455,989.60
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 247,511.40
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 3,020.38
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 41,952.34
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 33,082.74
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ -
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$ 781,556.46</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 June 30, 2022
- Adoption of Intergovernmental Agreement between the Governing Board of the Niles Township District for Special Education 807 and Park Ridge-Niles Community Consolidated School District 64 for the Provision of Certain Special Education Services
- Approval of Agreement with Park Ridge Public Library for Teacher Cards for District Schools
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

ACTION ITEM 22-08-6

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 Consent Agenda for August 18, 2022, which includes: Bills, Payroll, and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending June 30, 2022; Adoption of Intergovernmental Agreement between the Governing Board of

the Niles Township District for Special Education 807 and Park Ridge-Niles Community Consolidated School District 64 for the Provision of Certain Special Education Services; Approval of Agreement with Park Ridge Public Library for Teacher Cards for District Schools; and Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none).

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Pearl, Voitowich, Ryles, Sales, Lubinski

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Kennedy, Sotos

The motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### ACTION ITEM 22-08-7

It was moved by board member Ryles and seconded by board member Voitowich that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Closed Meeting on July 21, 2022; and the Regular Meeting on July 21, 2022.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Voitowich, Lubinski, Pearl, Ryles

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Kennedy, Sotos

The motion carried.

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

Dr. Martin gave an enrollment update and noted that while the registration had been slow at the beginning, the last two weeks had been very busy. He gave some data on projected enrollment and stated that when all was said and done, the district could end with 15 more students than the previous year. A “bubble” had popped in 6th grade at Lincoln Middle School; the timing was unexpected, but everything had been handled and accommodated. Dr. Parisi noted that full-day kindergarten registration might be lower than expected this year due to some people’s skepticism over the construction being completed on time. He expected next year’s enrollment to be higher.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The board discussed a possible tour of the buildings to see the new spaces and explored some dates. Board president Pearl will follow up with the members to establish a date convenient for everyone. Member Sales asked for the addition of a discussion on committees to the September agenda. President Pearl mentioned that the Board needed a new group photo and Chris Lilly would take one before the beginning of the

September meeting. Member Lubinski noted she liked the new website and had heard positive feedback from parents.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:58 p.m., it was moved by board member Woitowich and seconded by board member Ryles to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote by those members present.

Signed Date: September 15, 2022.

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President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary