

**Board OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7 p.m.  
December 21, 2023  
Jefferson School - Hendee Rooms  
8200 Greendale Ave, Niles, IL 60714**

Board president Pearl called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Demetri Touzios, Rachel Georgakis, Gareth Kennedy, Phyllis Lubinski, Monica Milligan, and Matthew Doubleday. Also attending were: Superintendent Dr. Ben Collins and Christine Bednarek, Assistant to the Superintendent.

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 A CLOSED MEETING**

At 6:14 p.m. it was moved by Board Member Kennedy and seconded by Board Member Touzios 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 [ILCS 120/2(c)(9)].

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

Dr. Adam Parisi, Chief School Business Official, Dr. Joel Martin, Assistant Superintendent of HR, Dr. Samantha Alaimo, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, Alicia Schmeisser, Director of Student Services, Matthew Tombs, Director of Innovation and Technology, Noel Mendoza, Director of Facilities, Frank Borkowski, Assistant Director of Facilities, Chris Lilly, Communications Specialist and approximately 15 members of the public were in attendance for the open session.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

ILMEA award recipient Elliott Poole and several boy scouts in attendance lead the board in the pledge.

Dr. Collins presented Elliott Poole his ILMEA award certificate and a picture was taken with Elliott and the Board.

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

Dr. Pearl welcomed the boy scouts who were in attendance to learn about local government. She also spoke to the Board's goal to connect with the community and her effort to do that by visiting each of the schools. She recounted her interactions with a third grade class at Carpenter who's questions included "do you decide what books are in the library" and "do you decide which websites are blocked?." She joked that she was passing that information along to the person who does that as she promised she would.

**SPOTLIGHT ON FIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Field Principal Dr. Courtney Goodman and Assistant Principal Christa Donnelly presented to the Board how their school is Learning to Grow Together. Dr. Goodman broke down how they're looking at different math and reading data points to improve student growth and aligning the school goals to the District goals.

Ms. Donnelly described the morning meetings with the goals being “to set the tone for respectful and engaged learning and having a climate of trust in the classroom and having a positive community that fulfills the students' needs to have a sense of belonging, feeling significant and having fun with one another.” Dr. Goodman described how once a month the morning meetings are used as Phoenix Nests, which are cross grade level groups and provide the opportunity to connect as a whole school. These students stay together with a staff member and their group for the duration of their time at Field. “They’re connecting with a staff member who they may not have ever connected with, or it’s someone that they haven’t met yet because they’re a younger student. Our hope is that students will begin to see one another in different spaces and places and know who they are,” said Dr. Goodman. “The most important part is having those strong relationships with other staff members throughout the building.” In addition they use Field Cares to connect the social emotional learning and behavioral focus which stands for Cooperation, Acting safely, Respect and responsibility, Empathy and Self control. Students are given a form in triplicate when they are caught using behavior that supports the community at Field. One copy is sent home to celebrate with families, one is entered into a building drawing and the third is given to the classroom for recognition.

Board member Kennedy thanked them for coming and specifically on updating the board on the academics. Board member Lubinski commented on the great job they are doing and stated that they work well together.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

#### **BOARD ADJOURNS FROM REGULAR MEETING & CONVENES TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023 TAX LEVY**

Dr. Adam Parisi, CSBO, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and convene to the public hearing on the 2023 Tax Levy. The motion was made by member Kennedy and seconded by member Touzios. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Parisi summarized the tax levy process, listed the fund balances, and recapped the presentation made to the board at the last meeting. He asked for any comments from the administration and received none. Dr. Parisi then asked for comments from the Board and received none. He asked for comments from the public present and received none.

#### **BOARD ADJOURNS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2023 TAX LEVY & CONVENES PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SELL NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT’S WORKING CASH FUND**

Member Kennedy made a motion to adjourn the public hearing and resume the regular meeting; the motion was seconded by member Lubinski. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Adam Parisi, CSBO, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and convene to the public hearing concerning the intent of the board to sell not to exceed \$10,000,000 working cash fund bonds. The motion was made by member Kennedy and seconded by member Georgakis. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Parisi summarized the reasoning for the sale of the bonds was for work at Lincoln Middle School to create a Structured Learning Community and other districtwide emotional support programs.

He asked for any comments from the Board and received none. Dr. Parisi then asked Board President Pearl if any written testimony regarding the bonds was received, and none was received. He asked for comments from the public present and received none.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SELL NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000,000 WORKING CASH FUND BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE DISTRICT'S WORKING CASH FUND AND RESUMES REGULAR MEETING**

Member Kennedy made a motion to adjourn the public hearing and resume the regular meeting; the motion was seconded by member Georgakis. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**ADOPTION OF FINAL 2023 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION #1326, RESOLUTION #1327 INSTRUCTION THE COUNTY CLERK HOW TO APPORTION 2023 TAX LEVY EXTENSION REDUCTIONS, RESOLUTION #1328 AUTHORIZING TAX FOR ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT PURPOSES**

ACTION ITEM 23-12-1

It was moved by Board Board Member Milligan and seconded by Board Member Georgakis that the Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, adopt the attached Resolution #1326 Providing for the Levy of Taxes For the Year 2023, Resolution #1327 to Instruct the County Clerk How to Apportion 2023 Tax Levy Extension Reductions, Resolution #1328 Authorizing Tax For Illinois Municipal Retirement Purposes. These resolutions and supporting documentation will be filed with the Cook County Clerk's Office.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Doubleday, Lubinski, Milligan, Georgakis, Kennedy, Pearl, Touzios

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

**MOVED A-8 APPROVAL OF THE K-1 SOCIAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM TO AFTER THE SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

Board President Pearl moved agenda item A-8 Approval of the K-1 social science curriculum to after the superintendent update to honor the time of the teachers present.

**SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE**

Dr. Collins and the administration team updated the board on the Strategic Plan. Highlights included:

Strengthening Relationships and Communications

Developed new and improved social media guidelines for staff. Encouraging staff to use social media to celebrate the district, staff, schools, and students. Engaging the community through the Community Coffee meetings as well as engaging other forms of government to get the district brand out into the community. Recognizing staff as much as possible and promoting and encouraging staff to present at conferences where they can to build a strong reputation within the Education community.

Enhance Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Access

Focus on trying to reach new, diverse candidates by publicizing opportunities in diverse magazine services as well as historically black university and colleges websites and job posting sites. Also participating in a Diversity in Education Network job fair in February. Working with Loyal to provide different opportunities for current staff to provide different learning opportunities.

Providing resources to help bilingual families with registration.

New programming for K-1 social science as well as Curriculum Review Committee for K-8 ELA programming.

#### Explore Program Expansion

Improved reporting of standards for grades K-5 and updated levels of achievement, rubrics, and manners of evidence collection. In addition conducting a significant teacher professional development as well as parent education surrounding standards based grading.

Developed partnerships with neighboring Districts to discuss their offerings of services/support and observe their continuum to see where we can improve. Support the learning needs of staff by providing ongoing professional development that targets the needs identified by the annual needs assessment survey.

Continued (Year 2) utilizing the social-emotional screening tool SAEBRS to collect data on the presenting needs of students. In addition, allocated time for staff to participate in the screening and discuss outcomes.

#### Broaden Best Practices

Legal training for staff on supporting 504 plans and targeted sessions that include writing strategies, reading strategies, the co-teaching framework, and the framework for receiving special education services. Continued outreach for training non-certified staff in Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) practices.

#### Maximize Resources for Sustainability

Solar panel study performed at Emerson as well as a LED retrofit conversion study at Emerson and Field. Consolidated five BAS (Building Automation System) companies into one. Also resumed composting at the buildings. Conducted in house indoor air quality testing and updating and refreshing the 5-year facility plan.

Assess the District's technology infrastructure to understand how our environment looks today. Develop a long-term strategic technology plan for cybersecurity and data privacy based on assessment data and that aligns with industry best practices, laws, and requirements. Harden the security posture both internally and externally through the implementation of technology solutions and updating of policies/procedures. Provide ongoing support and training for all staff.

Dr. Collins thanked the cabinet for all their hard work and stated we will cover more about safety and security as well as Special Education in January.

Member Lubinski thanked everyone for their updates. Member Doubleday asked if the increased incidents in cyber security were a result of hackers seeing education systems as easier targets. Matt Tombs replied that he believes it is a result of not having the resources available in education that private institutions have available. Member Doubleday then followed up with a question as to whether educational focused security was good enough or if the district should look at other options. Mr. Tombs stated that cost would likely be a factor however that we additionally need someone who understands schools and how they work as well. Lastly, it was asked if there would be training provided as well and Mr. Tombs stated his staff would absolutely do what they can in house for training. Member Milligan thanked the group and stated that they are the backbone of the learning community and the work they do matters and is impactful and appreciated. Members Georgakis and Kennedy offered their thanks as well. Member Kennedy asked if we need to tweak the Strategic Plan or not. Dr. Collins said there may be areas that we may want to lean into more than others.

Dr. Collins mentioned that there would be a joint PTO meeting in the Lincoln LRC with Lincoln, Washington and Roosevelt PTOs on January 11th including tours after the meeting. He then updated the board on his goals. He stated that having the entry plan helped with learning the District. He shared his communication with parents as well as board members and the number of visits to the schools.

Reflections on the Triple conference included an update from Member Lubinski who served as the delegate for the resolution voting recapped the outcomes. Only two of the 5 proposed resolutions were discussed and both passed. Member Georgakis found the details on referendums was helpful and Member Doubleday stated that the details on failed referendums was beneficial as well. Member Milligan stated she planned to be more thoughtful on mapping out her experience next year. President Pearl stated that partnering with neighboring districts proved helpful in her work.

### **APPROVAL OF THE K-1 SOCIAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM**

Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers and curriculum specialist Dina Pappas talked about the benefits of the proposed social science curriculum. The four pillars that are used are professional learning, program analysis, unit sampling, and resource selection and reflection for ongoing learning. This resource is aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards and includes units of instruction at each grade level in history, civics, economics/financial literacy, and geography.

Member Lubinski asked if students are learning about continents or other states? At this point they are just learning about their own state. And there is introduction to vocabulary such as what is a compass, country, continent, etc.

Member Kennedy asked what is the economics/finance piece? There is discussion on needs vs. wants, how people earn pay or income for work. And on the history side? There is a comparison on life in the past vs life today, schools today vs. older schools and traditions.

Milligan stated that she heard overwhelmingly that the curriculum has taught students a set of overarching skills and everything from questioning phrases or words.

Member Lubinski asked why it is optional to learn the states? The standards are broader now and it starts small with my school, my community, my state, etc. Then in 4th grade students are exposed to the states.

### **ACTION ITEM 23-12-6**

It was moved by Board Member Milligan and seconded by Board Member Georgakis that the Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the adoption of InquirED Inquiry Journeys for Grades K-1 starting in the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$70,566.93.

The votes were cast as follows:

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

AYES: Touzios, Doubleday, Kennedy, Georgakis, Milligan, Lubinski, Pearl

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

### **DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF STUDENT FEES & KINDERGARTEN TUITION FOR 2024-25**

Dr. Adam Parisi, Chief School Business Official took the board through a presentation on student fees. The District looked at the revenue collected and how it correlates to expenditures. He stated that there is no correlation between the registration fees charged and the district expenditures. He stated however that the fees and tuition do help offset the expenditures.

Pushing up the registration will help the district in planning for staffing sooner rather than later. In order to incentivize early registration the district is offering an early bird discount for registering and paying student fees prior to Spring Break. The district will hold off collecting preschool tuition as we are in the process of applying for the preschool for all grant which will affect the costs. Participatory fees will remain constant as well as transportation, and full day kindergarten.

Member Kennedy pointed out that fees are effectively increasing \$20 per student if you do not register early. He also stated that we need to figure out what schools are the correct comparables. Member Georgakis stated that she would like to be more mindful as to what the philosophy is regarding fees. Member Milligan asked if requiring payment by Spring Break would be a hardship on families. President Pearl stated that early communication regarding the changes would be key. Member Georgakis asked if we could have clear communication on when registration needs to be completed in order to pay fees by the cut off date. Member Kennedy asked about creating payment plans and Dr. Parisi stated that we do create payment plans for families as needed. Dr. Parisi stated this is the first time we are trying this and the data we collect as a result will help make decisions in the future.

ACTION ITEM 23-12-2

It was moved by Board Member Milligan and seconded by Board Member Lubinski that the Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the 2024-2025 student fees and kindergarten tuition as presented.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Georgakis, Milligan, Pearl, Touzios, Kennedy, Lubinski, Doubleday

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL YEAR 2024-25 ADDITIONAL STAFFING REQUESTS**

Dr. Martin stated the cabinet looked at the staffing and put in good plans that were thorough and thoughtful in what is beneficial and will fit the needs of the district. The recommendations currently include 2.5 school psychologists, 1 district technology position and 1 administrator in student learning.

Member Kennedy asked if the district is leaning on the teacher leaders too much. Dr. Alaimo explained that the teacher leaders are under the teacher contract and do not supervise other employees. Member Milligan stated she would like to see a deep dive on comparable districts and how their administration teams are configured. President Pearl asked if the person needs a certification for the Administrator role. Dr. Martin stated they would need a Type 75 certificate.

ACTION ITEM 23-12-3

It was moved by Board Member Milligan and seconded by Board Member Touzios that the Board of Education of Community School District 64, Park Ridge - Niles, Illinois, approve the recommended Staffing Requests for the 2024-25 school year as presented and discussed by the District 64 administration.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Kennedy, Doubleday, Touzios, Pearl, Milligan, Georgakis, Lubinski

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

**APPROVE UPDATED COPIER CONTRACT WITH IMPACT NETWORKING - Moved to January board meeting**

**SUMMER INTERIM SESSION 2024 REPORT, PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF SUMMER INTERIM SESSION 2024**

Worlds of Wonder will offer two 12-day sessions, this summer taking place at Washington (K-3rd grade) and Lincoln (4th-7th grade). The first session will run Wednesday, June 12 - Friday, June 28, 2024 (No School on Monday, June 19) and the second session will run Monday, July 1 - Friday, July 19 (No School Wednesday, July 3 - Thursday, July 4 - Friday, July 5). Registration will begin at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024. The costs to families will remain stable and the staffing salary, which was increased last year, will remain the same. The team has looked at which courses were of high interest to students and streamlined course offerings.

Member Kennedy asked if parochial students who live in district will be charged the same as district students and if there is an upcharge for students who live out of district. Dr. Alaimo confirmed that any student who lives in district is charged the same and there is an upcharge for out of district students.

ACTION ITEM 23-12-5

It was moved by Board Member Milligan and seconded by Board Member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the recommendations of dates and fees for the 2024 Summer Interim Session.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Pearl, Georgakis, Touzios, Lubinski, Doubleday, Kennedy, Milligan

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

President Pearl stated the board talked about the draft calendar at the last meeting and that there is a calendar committee that approves the calendar and that we now want to revisit and approve the calendar. There was some feedback received from the PREA. Currently the calendar is aligned with the start, end and breaks with District 207. Dr. Collins stated there was a change in the date on the October Institute Day. Member Kennedy asked what the earliest date that school could start. Dr. Collins stated that the reason the calendar gets adjusted based on the end and counting backwards. The committee agreed that the Wednesday start is best with Monday and Tuesday being Institute Days. Member Georgakis mentioned that it would be helpful to move the calendar discussion earlier and have multiple year plans ahead. Dr. Collins stated he would like to have a collaborative process with District 207 going forward. Member Kennedy agreed and stated it would be nice to have future plans for a few years out.

Member Kennedy stated he read through what the teacher union provided and a lot of their points were very temporary and that the pros that we see with the new calendar are long term solutions for families. President Pearl agreed and stated that she was appreciative of the feedback provided by the union.

ACTION ITEM 23-12-7

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 calendar for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: Touzios

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT**

Dr. Martin pointed out that this time of year we start to get retirements and that we wish them the best as they've had a tremendous impact on our students over the years.

ACTION ITEM 23-12-8

that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge –Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report dated December 21, 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, Touzios, Georgakis, Lubinski, Kennedy, Doubleday, Pearl

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

**PROPERTY NAMING RIGHTS**

PTO at carpenter is planning a playground and inquiring whether or not they can see out sponsorships. Dr. Collins stated that this is something that could potentially be handled by the Policy Committee. Member Doubleday asked if there is already interest or if the PTO is looking for permission to seek sponsorships. Member Kennedy stated that there is a need to be able to turn someone down as well as to remove the advertisement if needed. It was agreed that it should be handled by the Policy Committee.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	Fund Total
10 - Education Fund	\$505,213.08
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$383,546.87
30 - Debt Services	\$28,313.54
40 - Transportation Fund	\$221,882.88
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$114,783.15
80 - Tort Fund	\$205.70
Total:	<u>\$1,253,945.22</u>

Payroll & Benefits (October)

<u>Fund</u>	Fund Total
10 - Education Fund	\$4,494,261.85
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$238,448.86
40 - Transportation Fund	\$1,393.75
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$82,677.46
51 - SS/Medicare	\$114,945.36
Total:	<u>\$4,931,727.28</u>

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 and Benefits
- Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending October 31, 2023
- Intergovernmental Agreement with Institute of Therapy Through the Arts regarding creative arts therapy.

ACTION ITEM 23-12-9



It was moved by Board Member Milligan and seconded by Board Member Lubinski that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for December 21, 2023, which includes: bills, payroll & benefits; approval of financial update for the period ending November 30, 2023; and approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Institute of Therapy Through the Arts regarding creative arts therapy.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Touzios, Pearl Milligan, Kennedy, Doubleday, Georgakis, Lubinski

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### ACTION ITEM 23-12-10

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 regular meeting on November 16, 2023; and the special meeting on December 12, 2023.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Milligan, Pearl, Touis, Doubleday, Georgakis, Kennedy, Lubinski

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was a discussion regarding forming board committees in particular areas who would then report back to the board with recommendations. One concern is that it needs to be as transparent as possible. Each committee would have a report back to the board and the community. It was agreed that President Pearl would send an email to collect interests of the board as to which committee members would be interested in serving on.

Rainbow for All Children meet and greet will take place 1/16 we have secured insurance and families will sign waivers. It is in 800 schools across america.

At 11:12 p.m. Board Member Kennedy made the motion to adjourn into closed session to continue discussion on 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 [ILCS 120/2(c)(9)]. Board Member Milligan seconded the motion.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Lubinski, Touzios, Pearl, Milligan, Kennedy, Doubleday, Georgakis

NAYS:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 12:13 am, the board completed the closed session and adjourned the meeting.

Signed Date: January 25, 2024.

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President

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Secretary