

AUGUST 28, 2023
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, August 28, 2022 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Erin Stone called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

Members Present: Erin Stone, Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas,
Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Kari Cremascoli, Corey Bultemeier, Tony DeMonte, Heather
Glowacki, Kristin Swanson

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to accept the June 12, 2023 Board of Education and Executive Session minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS - Committees met on August 14 as part of Committee of the Whole meeting.

Facility Development Committee (FDC) – Mrs. Kim

Summer 2023 Construction Update: Mike Bickler of Nicholas and Associates updated the Board on construction projects at six schools. Mr. Bickler stated they are still waiting for delivery of three chillers expected to ship at the end of August and one for early September. Once chillers have been installed there are a series of checks and balances to complete commissioning of the project. Unfortunately, the equipment delays will delay the ability to provide air conditioning in the currently not air-conditioned classrooms. Mr. Bickler noted all other renovations have been completed and buildings and classrooms were ready for the start of the school year.

Summer 2024 Construction Planning: Mr. Bultemeier stated the design team is working through plans for summer 2024. A bid alternate will be created for Central Elementary to replace asphalt behind the school. Storm water drainage pipes that connect to the city drainage run under the cafeteria at Central. Once the asphalt is removed, these pipes would be replaced. At Romona, a booster pump would be installed to increase water pressure. Costs have yet to be identified; if pricing is high the bid will be discarded. More information will be provided in September or October as the project develops.

School Finance Committee (SFC) – Mr. Cesaretti

District 39 Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget: Mr. Bultemeier provided budget changes made since the tentative budget presentation last June. The District 39 FY24 Final Budget will be presented for approval as part of this agenda.

Wilmette Community Special Education Association (WCSEA) Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget

District 39 continues to serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of the coop that includes D39 and Avoca Schools. The WCSEA budget is a flow through entity with revenues and expenditures being equal. The WCSEA budget follows the same budget calendar as D39. The WCSEA FY24 Final Budget will be presented for final approval as part of this agenda.

Annual Post Tax Compliance

Each year the District reviews contracts and records to be in compliance with federal tax requirements. Upon review, the District is in compliance with all requirements.

2022 Tax Year Second Installment Taxes

Mr. Bultemeier reported that the statutory due date for second installment taxes is August 1. It was released that the installment will be late. Second Installment Tax Bills will be mailed out November 1 with a due date of December 1.

Strategy Committee –Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

School Climate Survey

School Districts in Illinois are required to administer a School Environment/Climate survey at least every other year. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) pays for and supports the administration of 5Essentials for this purpose. Accordingly, District 39 has been using the 5Essentials for several years and has chosen to administer the survey annually in order to get the most useful information possible. Unfortunately, staff have found the questions and subcategories of the 5Essentials to be difficult to interpret and use. District 39, along with other NT Township Districts, began exploring other options for an annual school climate survey that was approved by ISBE and would align better with the work being done, challenges presented, and best practices. At the time, there were two options other than 5Essentials. Upon review, one of the two, Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI), appeared far better than the other and 5Essentials. (The second alternative has since folded.) After careful review and consideration, consultation with other districts and D39 union leadership, and with Board support, D39 plans to use CSCI for the upcoming school year. CSCI will allow administration to utilize the data collected in much more meaningful ways and are planning to form a small leadership group in partnership with our union leaders to evaluate how best to target improvement. Several other districts in the Township have moved or are planning to move to use of the CSCI, too, including New Trier and Kenilworth.

Mrs. Hart asked if the small leadership group would be responsible for reviewing and setting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Dr. Cremascoli stated KPIs will be reviewed and recommended through the District Strategic Advisory Team (DSAT) team. The small group may advise the DSAT on what adjustments need to be made.

Liaison Reports

District Strategic Advisory Team (DSAT) - Dr. Cremascoli noted the first meeting will be held on September 7. Currently in the process of team recruitment.

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim & Mrs. Schneider-Fabes
The next meeting will be held on September 7. The topic of focus is mental health in the community.

Illinois Association of School Boards – Mrs. Paflas

Last Spring, the D39 Board submitted a resolution related to School Safety and Security on Election Days to the IASB Resolutions Committee: Co-sponsor the resolution with Wheeling District #21 to amend the Illinois Election Code to allow schools to have an option of whether to be a polling place. The 2023 IASB resolutions Committee recommended “DO NOT PRESENT” on our School as Polling Place Resolution. The committee felt that the resolution was too similar to the current IASB Position Statement 7.08 which is available on the IASB website. An Ed-Red representative said that prohibiting the use of school facilities for polling will be one of their Ed-Red initiatives and will work on drafting a bill to submit for the veto session.

IASB 2023 Joint Annual Conference Registration is open and takes place in Chicago November 17-19.

Legislative Update – Mrs. Paflas

The General Assembly announced a two week fall session (veto session) will take place on October 24, 25, and 26 and November 6, 7, and 8. No new bills of note but reiterated important ones: On August 2, 2023 Governor Pritzker signed HB2396 requiring each school board to establish a kindergarten program with full day attendance beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Under this bill, every district must also establish a half-day program that is developmentally appropriate and provides opportunities for play-based learning. Other bills noted: HB3425 regarding new mandates on bullying notifications and data collection including requiring schools to notify parents/guardians within 24 hours (effective June 9, 2023); SB 0090 requirements introduced and expanded by the Racism-Free School Law to remedy racial harassment in school (effective August 1, 2024); SB 1872 accelerated timeline for teacher tenure (effective August 4, 2023).

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board received written communication from Carl Hopman with continued questions regarding the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Task Force; Brittany Farris regarding the KEEP39 fees; Heather Oliver regarding utilizing the Village newsletter to advertise parent engagement opportunities.

B. Administrative Announcements

Opening of Schools

Dr. Cremascoli reported the school year is off to a great start. With the excessive heat, it was needed to implement the District Excessive Heat Action Plan, which worked well and the first few days were navigated with success.

Summer Construction and Building Preparation Updates

Dr. Cremascoli provided updates on summer construction projects, especially noting the delay in air-conditioning at the schools.

Institute Days and Pre-Service Trainings

Dr. Cremascoli stated pre-service and institute days were successful. New teachers began the week of August 14 with orientation. These days are filled with professional development and training as well as opportunities for new teachers to meet with their mentors and building administrators. The annual kick-off Institute Days on Monday and Tuesday, August 21 and 22 began with a District-wide welcome back followed by all staff professional development in the morning, with time in home schools in the afternoon. On Tuesday, staff returned to their buildings for another day of professional development, collaboration, and preparation before students arrived for their first day of school on Wednesday.

Curriculum Nights

Dr. Cremascoli provided dates and times for curriculum nights and orientations at the schools.

School Climate Survey

Dr. Cremascoli reiterated that school districts in Illinois are required to administer a School Environment/Climate survey at least every other year. The District previously administered the 5Essentials for this purpose; however, plans to change to the Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI) this school year.

Parent Education Events

Dr. Cremascoli announced the District will host a variety of Parent Education Events for families throughout the school year. These events target topics of interest specific to D39 parent community and all are welcome to join live or to watch the recordings at their convenience. The recording of “Feeling Safe in District 39 Schools,” the first Parent Education event of the year, can be found on the Parent Education web page along with a full schedule of upcoming Parent Education events. The next event titled, “Supporting your Neurodivergent Learner: Strategies for Success,” will take place Wednesday, September 13 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. The presentation will be held live at Central Elementary and parents are welcome to join in-person or participate via Zoom.

District and School Websites

Dr. Cremascoli announced the launch of the redesigned District 39 homepage and school websites. In addition to an updated design, the websites offer quick links for commonly used web pages, pared down headings with better organization, and an accessibility widget to assist those with disabilities with accessing information. Visit www.wilmette39.org to see the changes.

Property Tax Appeals

Recent property tax appeals and their potential impact on the District were provided.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Dr. Cremascoli reported the District received FOIA requests from: Adam Zelizer requesting records regarding Board votes on IASB resolutions from 2018-2022; Vince Espi of Prairie State Wire requesting contracts/agreements with vendors providing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) services from January 1, 2019 to present; invoices, payment records or financial documentation made to DEI vendors including their findings/recommendations; reports, assessments, evaluations conducted by DEI vendors including their findings/recommendations; communications including emails, letters and memos exchanged between D39 and DEI vendors: Diane Schanzenbach requesting MAP growth summary reports for all D39 schools from Fall 2022 - Spring 2023; Kate Smyser of NBC Chicago requesting all settlement agreements, judgements, law firm invoices, insurance claims, studies, reports, or records referencing FOIA/PAC lawsuits and reviews: Commercial FOIA from SmartProcure requesting all purchasing records from March 17, 2023 - June 2023.

C. Strategic Plan Update

1. Response to the Community Review Committee

Dr. Cremascoli stated this report is the Superintendent’s response to the CRC Report, “A Culture of Connectedness: An Empathic and Inclusive Community for Neurodivergent Students.” that was presented to the Board of Education in May 2022. This report shares that the recommendations were accepted by District 39.

D. Annual Business

1. Enrollment Update

Dr. Glowacki stated this report is an update to the report given last spring. The report notes changes that occurred over the summer months as a resulting in changes to student enrollment and staffing. McKenzie had three kindergarten classes, due to increased enrollment there are now 4 sections. Additionally, both Central and Romona first-grade enrollment increased and warranted an extra class at each school.

2. Summer Enrichment Program

Dr. Kristin Swanson stated the Summer Enrichment Program is comprised of three somewhat distinct programs; summer camp classes, Review and Reinforcement, and Extended School Year. Summer camp classes are hobby and application based, so students may practice math and reading skills through cooking or rocketry. Review and Reinforcement classes are focused on strengthening core academic skills in math and reading, and are targeted toward students who struggle academically. There is an eligibility process for Review and Reinforcement. Extended School Year, or ESY, is a program for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) who qualify for the programming based on regression or discrepancy. This year, approximately 270 students attended one or more summer programs. This is approximately 70 students fewer than last year.

Members discussed lowered fees and the decrease in enrollment.

3. Fiscal Year 2022 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report

Dr. Glowacki stated this is required annual report for all school districts. After the report is submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) it is posted online for public view.

4. Annual Tax Compliance Notification

Mr. Bultemeier stated an annual review of the District's contracts and records is conducted to determine that the Tax Advantaged Obligations comply with the applicable federal tax requirements.

5. Support Staff Union (SSU) Letter of Agreement

Dr. Glowacki stated this Letter of Agreement modifies Appendix B of the 2022-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Support Staff Union and the Wilmette Public Schools District 39. Appendix B of the SSU contract details the types of positions within the minimum hourly rates. This agreement proposes the addition of a painter position within the maintenance department. Currently, the District contracts this work with private vendors. Given the needs within schools, it is cost effective to have a painter on staff.

E. Board Policy Review

1. First Reading of Board of Education Policies 3:30; 4:45; 6:10; 6:80; 7:180; 7:190; 7:275; 7:305; 8:10; 8:25; 8:30; 8:80; and 8:95

Dr. Cremascoli stated policies have been reviewed to confirm they are reflective of current practice. Legal counsel has also reviewed policies to ensure they meet legal compliance.

A suggested edit was provided

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poheling, to approve the personnel report dated August 23, 2023, which included administrative full-time employment of **Meghan Otto**, effective July 1, 2023; licensed full-time employment of **Michael Donhost**, effective August 23, 2023; **Jennifer Madden**, effective August 21, 2023; **Alexia Markovic**, effective August 21, 2023; **Tameeka McFarlane**, effective August 21, 2023; **Catherine Monaco**, effective August 21, 2023; **Victoria Ottaviano**, effective August 21, 2023; **Kelly Pollack**, effective August 21, 2023; **Sara Schroeder**, effective August 21, 2023, employed for one school term to replace a teacher on leave; **Daniel Schwartzman**, effective August 21, 2023; **Emily Tyndorf**, effective August 21, 2023; licensed part-time employment of **Marissa Barnette**, effective August 21, 2023; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Ariella Bral**, effective August 22, 2023; **Caroline Chung**, effective August 21, 2023; **Joseph Cisneros-Frausto**, effective August 21, 2023; **Steve Devine**, effective August 21, 2023; **Courtney Dill**, effective August 21, 2023; **Kathleen Dillon**, effective August 21, 2023; **Anne Dutro**, effective August 21, 2023; **Patricia Elliott**, effective August 21, 2023; **Julie England**, effective August 21, 2023; **Valerie Gabuzzi**, effective August 21, 2023; **Ezekiel Givens**, effective July 27, 2023; **Yuritzzy Gonzalez**, effective August 22, 2023; **Aimee Hartigan**, effective August 31, 2023; **Adelia Hurducas**, effective August 21, 2023; **Rosa Kang**, effective August 21, 2023; **Benjamin Kutilek**, effective August 21, 2023; **Simila Latchin**, effective August 21, 2023; **Shea Martell**, effective August 21, 2023; **Guadalupe Martinez**, effective August 29, 2023; **Maxwell Shabica**, effective August 23, 2023; **Tammi Toren**, effective August 7, 2023; **Omta Yuhana**, effective August 21, 2023; temporary employment of **Brad Carlson**, effective August 24, 2023; **Daniel Carlson**, effective June 16, 2023; **Franca Hekster**, effective August 24, 2023; licensed resignation of **Amanda Barton**, effective June 20, 2023; **Stephanie Golden**, effective July 28, 2023; **Lyndsey Incandela**, effective July 5, 2023; **Mary Kleiner**, effective June 29, 2023; **Caroline Moore**, effective June 27, 2023; educational support personnel resignation of **Ellen Brown**, effective August 18, 2023; **Patricia Elliott**, effective August 24, 2023; **Kody Pawliger-Anthony**, effective August 3, 2023; **Kendra Welch**, effective July 7, 2023; approve as first reading of Board of Education Policies 3:30 *Organizational Chart*; 4:45 *Insufficient Fund Checks*; 6:10 *Educational Philosophy and Objectives*; 6:80 *Teaching About Controversial Issues*; 7:180 *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; 7:190 *Student Behavior*; 7:275 *Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment*; 7:305 *Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries*; 8:10 *Communications with the Public*; 8:25 *Advertising and Distribution of Literature and Other Materials by Non-School Entities*; 8:30 *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property and Community Use of Buildings*; 8:80 *Gifts to the District*; and 8:95 *Community Review Committee*: to approve the Support Staff Union (SSU) Letter of Agreement dated August 28, 2023, indicating changes to Appendix B: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between June 13, 2023 – August 28, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$142,639.54; O&M Fund \$61,951.30; Transportation \$17,750.30; Capital Projects \$72,212.26; total all funds: \$294,553.40: approve the manual checks issued between June 13, 2023 – August 28, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$3,481,487.96; O&M Fund \$496,420.41; Debt Service \$806,041.67; Transportation \$230,184.67; Capital Projects \$5,707,013.02; Tort Fund \$158,720.00; total all funds: \$10,879,867.73.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneier-Fabes, Erin Stone; voting “nay” – none; absent – none: **Motions Carried.**

B. Adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for Wilmette Public Schools District 39

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adopt Annual Budget for Wilmette Public Schools, Cook County District 39 as presented in this report reflecting all anticipated revenues and expenditures for a period extending from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneier-Fabes, Erin Stone; voting “nay” – none; absent – none: **Motion Carried.**

C. Adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA)

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adopt the Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement annual budget, as presented in this report, reflecting all anticipated revenues and expenditures for a period extending from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneier-Fabes, Erin Stone; voting “nay” – none; absent – none: **Motion Carried.**

CONFERENCE ITEMS**Old Business**

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Schneider-Fabes cheered for successfully opening schools despite the heat.

Dr. Cremascoli congratulated Ms. Stone on beginning her career as a first-year teacher in another school district.

Mrs. Stone noted the many changes at McKenzie elementary school, where her children had attended. Changes included constructing a new addition, adding a volleyball court, a playground, as well as changes in staff and administration. What has not changed, she noted, was the love in the hallways and the learning in the classrooms. Ms. Stone expressed her gratitude for the love and learning going on in D39 schools every day.

Being no further business, Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:06 p.m. by **General Consent.**

 President

 Secretary