

**THE DISTRICT 39 BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE of the WHOLE**

Monday, December 11, 2023

8:00 a.m.

Mikaelian Education Center

615 Locust Rd.

A District 39 Board of Education Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Committee of the Whole members present: Erin Stone, Jon Cesaretti (remotely), Anne Hart, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes

Committee of the Whole members absent: Bonnie Kim

Administrators present: Kari Cremascoli, Heather Glowacki, Corey Bultemeier, Tony DeMonte, Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Stone called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

II. APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to accept the minutes of the November 6, 2023 Committee of the Whole and Executive Session meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **Roll Call Vote**.

III. FACILITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC)

A. 2024 Summer Construction Projects and Bids

Mr. Bultemeier reviewed the projects planned for summer 2024 construction which included partial roof replacement and a new mechanical roof top unit at Wilmette Junior High and renovation of the conference room to have the ability to divide into two smaller conference rooms. Second level flooring will be replaced at McKenzie as well as renovation of the teachers lounge. One mechanical rooftop unit will be replaced at Romona, along with installation of a water booster pump to increase water pressure. Replacement of the blacktop at Central school will include a new drainage system from the middle of the blacktop to the street. The total bid recommendation for these projects is \$5.1M. Several alternates were presented for review; six are recommended for approval and one alternate for auditorium enhancements at the junior high school was recommended to reject and put on hold for the future.

Mr. Papanicholas noted the bid opening held on November 30 was successful receiving four bid packages with very favorable numbers. The largest project will be the roofing at Wilmette Junior High School. He also stated the two rooftop units were pre-purchased last October to avoid any supply issues and are expected to arrive in by start of projects.

IV. STRATEGY ITEMS

A. Goal 3: Professional Community Action Steps Update

Dr. Glowacki and Ms. Katie Lee updated members on Goal 3 Action Steps. They highlighted:

- District Strategic Advisory Team meets three times during the year to review action steps and progress throughout the year.

- D39 administration continues to seek information from new staff regarding onboarding, mentoring, and support to identify themes using exit interviews, surveys and focus groups.
- D39 continues to engage and include staff on district and/or school committees. Their voices and expertise contribute to a collaborative, shared decision-making structure.
- Culture and Climate committee made up of faculty, staff, and administrators are working to identify culture and climate needs and make recommendations to address.
- Student services faculty will be trained on how to engage in difficult conversations and facilitate difficult meetings.
- PASS39 Parent event was provided regarding advocacy strategies for parents when perspectives of student needs differ.
- The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Task Force continues their work this year. They will make recommendations for attracting, hiring, and retaining employees of color.

V. SCHOOL FINANCE COMMITTEE (SFC) ITEMS

A. ESSER III & COVID Mitigation Plan

Dr. Kristin Swanson presented this report. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic the U.S. Department of Education released three grants to provide support to schools. The final year of funding for the ESSER III grant has been released. The District has \$217,210 dollars left in the grant and will be allocating funds to continue the social emotional and other interest-based clubs at Highcrest Middle School and Wilmette Junior High. Funding will continue for Foundations training, focused on schoolwide positive and proactive interventions for behavior, as well as funds for curriculum resources. As part of ESSER III, the District is required to review and update the COVID mitigation plan to reflect current recommendations. The plan has been updated to following the most current guidelines released by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

B. Five Year Financial Projections

Mr. Bultemeier provided baseline five-year financial projections with the District projecting to remain above 40% fund balance for the next five years.

Discussion ensued regarding the pension cost shift and future of pensions for Tier 2 employees and administrators.

C. KEEP39 Financial Review and Fees

Mr. Bultemeier reviewed the KEEP39 financials and provided several fee options for consideration prior to transitioning to a full day kindergarten program. Options included maintaining KEEP39 fees as flat; aligning fees with element of recouping construction (capital investment) costs and having operational costs subsidized through the District; Board subsidizing construction costs and have fees cover operational costs. Discussion also ensued regarding when to implement full day kindergarten. Illinois mandates full day kindergarten by 2027-2028 school year. It was also noted kindergarten is not a mandated grade level for public schools in Illinois at this time. Administration advised members that direction on potential full day implementation would need to be decided by April 2024.

Katie Lee provided a project list of tasks to be accomplished before implementation of a full day kindergarten program.

Members discussed the history of KEEP39 inception; being a fiscally responsible Board, and keeping fund balances at 40% or higher. Members discussed options and felt Options 3 and 4 were most popular with KEEP39 fees at \$4,392 with the future consideration to implement full day program sooner than 2027. Members' opinions varied on whether to decide on an implementation date now or wait until spring. Administration noted that future capital project investments may become more restricted. Construction projects are important for ongoing operations and maintaining healthy, safe schools.

Members agreed to reassess implementation in the spring and Mr. Bultemeier would provide additional information regarding operations, staffing, and projected enrollment for a presentation at the February or March committee meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sustainability Committee Attendee

President Stone received an email from a member of the D39 sustainability committee requesting a Board member liaison attend their meetings. Ms. Stone requested a volunteer.

President Stone noted the Educational Foundation meeting scheduled for December 13 had been moved to December 12 and would be held via Zoom. She requested a Board member volunteer to attend.

IX. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS:

A. The Appointment Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

Executive session was not needed.

X. ADJOURN

Having no further business, Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

President

Secretary