

JUNE 13, 2022
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. (Due to threatening weather and tornado alerts the start of the meeting was postponed to 7:15 p.m.) President Amy Poehling called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

Members Present: Amy Poehling, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Lisa Schneider-Fabes (remotely), Erin Stone

Members Absent: Jon Cesaretti

Administrators Present: Kari Cremascoli, Corey Bultemeier, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson, Kelly Jackson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Harper Principal Aaron Dubnow introduced End-of Year Writing Contest winners to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Students chose to participate in the optional end-of-year writing contest by writing a poem or paragraph highlighting a special memory at Harper Elementary School. Students introduced themselves and reported the topic of their winning writing submission.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2022 Board of Education Regular and Executive Session Meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by
Roll Call Vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facility Development – Mr. Panzica

Summer 2022 Construction Update

Mr. Papanicholas of Nicholas and Associates updated members on summer construction at McKenzie, Romona and Harper. He stated lead times are on track and plans are expected to go smoothly. He noted the chiller for McKenzie would arrive at the end of July but expected no foreseeable delays.

Long-Term Capital Planning

Mr. Bultemeier identified long-term planning projects for review at the May committee meeting. He asked members to provide guidance on specific plans for the six district buildings. He noted renovations can be tricky and expensive with buildings being older. The recommendation was to increase the annual budget for individual school-based capital projects from \$600K to \$900K. Air conditioning has been identified as a priority to enhance educational settings across the District. Mr. Bultemeier provided the estimated costs to add air conditioning to remaining classrooms at each school building.

Mr. Bultemeier provided several scenarios to conduct air conditioning enhancements at the buildings with budget estimates and plans for estimated bond issuance to help fund the projects. Each scenario built in air conditioning and the other planned projects over the next five years. He noted inflation would continue to rise and completing projects sooner would be beneficial. He requested guidance for summer 2023 projects and authorization to incur design costs for all projected capital projects. Each project would be bid out and presented individually for Board approval.

Members engaged in lengthy discussion regarding the facility initiatives and all agreed that air conditioning remained the priority for each building. Discussion ensued regarding construction projects being funded through bond issuance or utilizing existing fund balances and possibly supplementing with SB508 refunds (an amount to be reevaluated each year).

Central Elementary Playground Replacement

Mr. Bultemeier stated the Central School PTA has raised money and met their goal to fully fund the playground equipment. Initially the playground project was to be replaced in 2023 but with rising inflation costs the committee is working to have the equipment installed in the fall. In the past, the Board has approved a donation agreement to match earnings for playground replacement projects.

School Finance – President Poehling

Fiscal Year 2023 Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) Tentative Budget
District 39 serves as the fiscal agent on behalf of the special education cooperative that includes District 39 and Avoca School District 37. The Illinois State Board of Education requires WCSEA to keep separate accounting records and to follow the same Illinois State budget guidelines required of all Illinois school districts.

Mr. Bultemeier noted the WCSEA budget is a flow through entity with equal revenues and expenditures. The public hearing will be held in August for final approval of the WCSEA budget.

Fiscal Year 2023 District 39 Tentative Budget

Mr. Bultemeier presented the initial review of the FY2023 tentative budget and calendar. The tentative budget will be approved in June. The final Fiscal Year 2023 Budget will be approved at the public hearing to be held in August prior to the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The account summary estimates revenues at \$70.5M and expenditures at \$69.4M.

Annual Resolutions and Renewals

Mr. Bultemeier reviewed the annual budget resolutions which included the Treasurers' Bond Resolution, along with inter-fund transfers to and from the O&M Fund, Educational Fund, and Capital Projects Fund. These short-term transfers permit timely payments of construction related expenses. The District tax levy receipts generally are received twice a year, in July/August and February/March. The 2023 payment schedule is questionable due to county issues. Due to the timing of cash flow, short-term loans may be necessary to maintain adequate fund balances.

Mr. Bultemeier stated the Board will be obligated to make payment of various recurring bills and previously approved construction-related services and materials during the month of July. Since there is no board meeting scheduled for July, this resolution enables the treasurer to fulfill the payment of necessary financial obligations between the June and August Board meetings.

Strategy – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

Science Olympiad

Upon request from a Board member, Ms. Katie Lee summarized the history of the Science Olympiad program highlighting the significant role of D39's Educational Foundation.

The Educational Foundation took the lead in 2012-2013 with a soft launch and hired one coordinator to assist the program. In 2013-2014 the Foundation advertises the Science Olympiad courses for Highcrest Middle School and Wilmette Junior High School and hired two coordinators along with two facility coordinators. In 2015-2016 they hired facility coordinators and recruited from the community.

They also adjusted course offerings to meet the interest of students and the courses didn't necessarily align with topics selected by Science Olympiad. The courses not being aligned resulted in the last year of competitive teams. District 39 was asked to take over running the competitive teams. Since 2016, the District entered into an agreement that Ed Foundation would continue to run science courses as *Lab39* and District 39 would run the Science Olympiad competitive teams. Recently the Educational Foundation announced the discontinuation of Lab39. The primary challenge for both the Foundation and the District has been staffing.

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee (CRC) – Ms. Katie Lee

The Community Review Committee met for the last time this year on June 7th. The meeting was attended by currently seated members and were joined by some new members. The President and Vice President shared that the presentation to the D39 Board of Education went well. They shared the compliments and acknowledgements of the hard work. Following that, the election of 2022-2023 officers were held. Congratulations to the new CRC President, Amy Wechsler-Ross, Vice President, Arielle Ruby, and Secretary, Katie Voorhees. The committee members engaged in an informal generation of next year's potential topics. In the fall, the 2022-2023 CRC members will engage in a formal discussion to select and vote on the topic for the school year.

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim/Mr. Cesaretti

Sustainability: The Committee reviewed a draft job description for a shared Sustainability Coordinator position. The Village and Park District expressed their strong interest in partnering to fund such a position. The Library, School Districts and Township expressed support for collaboration but were less certain on their ability and/or willingness to allocate funds to a shared Sustainability Coordinator.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI): The Committee discussed opportunities to work together on DEI and to identify ways to reach a larger segment of the community with one message/voice. Each governing body will consider their support of forming an intergovernmental DEI committee to work collaboratively to advance DEI initiatives. The committee will be comprised of professional staff from each organization.

The next meeting to be held in the fall, staff will be seeking input on training topics that committee members feel would be valuable to an intergovernmental newly elected official orientation (training to take place in Spring 2023).

Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement Advisory Meeting

Mrs. Hart reported the WCSEA Advisory Board met earlier today and confirmed leadership will remain the same for the 2022-2023 school year. The committee also approved meeting dates and the tentative budget for coming school year.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – Mrs. Kim

Registration for the Joint Annual Conference, scheduled for November 18-20, is now open if you are interested in attending.

Legislative Update – Mrs. Kim

Over 85% of all the bills impacting education that were sent to the Governor by the Illinois General Assembly are now signed into law. There are too many to list specifically, but Mrs. Kim highlighted some of the more interesting bills in recent months. The Governor has not issued vetoes to any education-related bills as of June 9.

Recently, a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations held a public hearing on President Biden’s FY2023 budget request for the U.S. Department of Education. Members of the committee emphasized the need to address school safety and gun reform in light of the recent unfortunate mass shootings.

Senate negotiators announced that they had reached a bipartisan framework on measures intended to limit some access to firearms, paving the way for the broadest federal legislation on guns in decades. The proposal aims to go after illegal sales of guns and to fund mental-health programs and school security. This may involve additional federal appropriations for local school districts to address these needs.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication – Dr. Cremascoli

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board received written communication from an “Anonymous Community Member” requesting clarification regarding residency when a family owns two homes in District 39.

B. Administrative Announcements – Dr. Cremascoli

Celebrations and Preparations for End-of-School Year

Dr. Cremascoli stated last week marked the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Each school hosted celebrations to commemorate the end of the year. Special thanks was given to the PTAs and PTOs for helping to organize these celebrations.

Mr. Alex Blomarz, Wilmette Junior High School Band teacher, has received the 2022 Barbara Buehlman Young Conductor Award. He will be recognized publicly at the 83rd Annual IGSMA State Meeting on Sunday, September 25th.

Wilmette Junior High School Graduation Celebrations

Two outdoor graduation ceremonies were held on Wednesday, June 8 at New Trier’s Northfield campus. It was a chilly June evening, however, the graduation events were wonderful. Students enjoyed being together and cheering each other on as they celebrated the conclusion of their District 39 journey.

Staff Movie Night

Another special end of year celebration for staff and families was the outdoor movie night held last week. Staff and their families enjoyed a showing of *Encanto* outdoors at Romona, paired with hotdogs, popcorn, ice cream cups and fun treats to enjoy. Special thanks went to Mr. DeMonte for organizing this event.

Summer School

Final plans and staffing continue for the summer enrichment program. Approximately 380 students have enrolled.

Summer Curriculum Work and Professional Development

Staff have been offered several professional development opportunities as they continue learning and leading throughout the summer. A brief overview of offerings was outlined.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The District received FOIA requests from: Diane Schanzenbach requesting MAP Student Growth reports for all schools with grade level detail for Fall 2021-Spring 2022; Tony Wallk requesting copies of certified payroll submitted by the General Contractor and all Subcontractors and any invoices for the Harper Elementary School 2022 Asbestos Abatement Project; Zoe Yalcin of SmartProcure submitted a commercial FOIA request for any/all purchasing records from May 10, 2022 to present.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. 2022 Spring NWEA MAP Assessment Report

NWEA MAP Growth assessments in reading and mathematics were administered fall, winter, spring for students in grades 2-8. The assessment report shared the spring achievement and growth results for 2021-2022 school year.

Members discussed the data presented and questioned the reading and math growth for 7th grade. Members agreed the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) along with grade level conversations and DataWise training will have a powerful impact on achieving goals.

2. 2022 Spring Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Assessment Report

Principal Kelly Jackson explained the two assessments, Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) for PreK-2 grades, and Mindsets Essential Skills and Habits (MESH) for 3-8 grades. Early Childhood-2nd grade teachers administered the DESSA SEL Assessment and 3rd through 8th grade students responded to questions on the MESH SEL Assessment. Mrs. Jackson shared the results of the most recent assessments, and discussed social-emotional strengths through the 2021-2022 school year.

Members discussed the impact of the pandemic and its effect on social emotional behaviors over the last few years.

3. Review of 2021-2026 Strategic Plan and Action Step Accomplishments

On September 27, 2021, the D39 administration submitted the goals and strategies of the 2021-2026 District 39 Strategic Plan for Board of Education approval. Having received approval, the work continued to develop the specific, action steps for the first year of a multi-year strategic plan and other next steps such as launching a promotional campaign and forming a District 39 Strategic Advisory Team to develop Key Performance Indicators for each goal. The Key Performance Indicators were presented during the May Board of Education meeting. The report is a comprehensive executive summary that includes much detail for all goal areas: Student Achievement + Growth, Supportive Community, Professional Community, Family Partnerships, and Stewardship of Resources. Therefore, the presentation will focus on end-of-year updates regarding the 2021-2022 Action Steps.

The entire administrative team shared highlights of action steps for 2021-2022 and next steps for multi-year plan. Members appreciated the tremendous amount of work and information provided.

D. Annual Business

1. Annual Bullying Report

Dr. Swanson reported each year the District compiles and reviews data related to incidences of bullying within the schools. Bullying has a specific and statutory definition, and the official count of reports and investigations must be consistent with the definition. As a District, a number of proactive interventions have been implemented, with an increased focus on the identification and prevention of bullying every year through Social Emotional Learning initiatives and a focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. However, students do still engage in inappropriate behaviors which are, at times, identified as bullying. District 39's incidence of bullying has been variable across the last five years, but the administration's commitment to taking all reports seriously and investigating them thoroughly has not changed. There also has been an increase in bullying using the internet, which remains a focus for parents and staff alike.

Questioned on the frequency of incidents, Dr. Swanson noted teachers spend time daily guiding students' social interactions. Children are learning how to engage with each other and sometimes make missteps. The pandemic caused further reteaching of social behaviors due to isolation.

2. Fiscal Year 2023 District 39 Tentative Budget

Mr. Bultemeier presented the Fiscal Year 2023 Tentative Budget and budget calendar. The final Fiscal Year 2023 Budget will be approved at the public hearing to be held in August prior to the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The June 30, 2023 Operating Funds balance is estimated at \$29M.

3. Fiscal Year 2023 Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) Tentative Budget

WCSEA is a joint agreement between District 39 and Avoca School District 37. District 39 is the fiscal agent for the agreement and therefore requires D39 Board approval. Each year the Board is required to approve the WCSEA tentative budget for the next fiscal year as well as approve a public budget hearing to be held prior to the August 22 Board of Education meeting. A brief review of the WCSEA FY2023 tentative budget was shared.

4. Illinois School Treasurer Bond Renewal

Mr. Bultemeier noted annually, the Board is required to approve the treasurer's bond for District 39. The bond requirement is 25% of the highest cash balance throughout the fiscal year, which is \$16M.

5. Budget Resolutions

- a. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund
- b. Resolution Authorizing an Interfund Loan from the Educational Fund to the Operations & Maintenance Fund

Mr. Bultemeier explained each year the Board approves a resolution to transfer money from O&M fund to the Capital Projects fund. Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) accounting rules require money spent for summer construction projects be paid out of the Capital Projects Fund, however, the Capital Projects fund has no source of revenue, so money needs to be transferred from the O&M fund to cover the construction expenditures.

At times, the O&M fund could potentially run negative due to the timing of revenue in that fund. To prevent the O&M fund from going negative, the Educational Fund can loan the O&M fund money on a temporary basis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the Personnel Report dated June 13, 2022, which included licensed full-time employment of **Rochelle Hanawalt**, effective August 18, 2022; **Melissa Hansen**, effective August 18, 2022; **Natalia Panico**, effective August 18, 2022; **Hallie Saperstein**, effective August 18, 2022; **Isabella Scarlati**, effective August 18, 2022; **Helen Annie Steinbach**, effective August 18, 2022; **Aleta Wurfel**, effective August 12, 2022; temporary employment of **Jay Heidekat**, effective July 5, 2022; **Faith Hincapie**, effective July 5, 2022;

Bernadette Hoffman, effective July 5, 2022; **Kyle Kuchuris**, effective July 5, 2022; **Taylor Langland**, effective July 5, 2022; **Brian Maisel**, effective July 5, 2022; **John McGregor**, effective June 10, 2022; **Jeannine Salm**, effective July 5, 2022; **Annie Sheehan**, effective July 5, 2022; **Alton Sim**, effective July 5, 2022; **Stephanie Somoo**, effective July 5, 2022; **Jesse Wade**, effective July 5, 2022; **Julie Weiss**, effective July 5, 2022; educational support personnel resignation of **Maggie Baker**, effective June 9, 2022; **Katherine Black**, effective June 9, 2022; **Kimberly Burns**, effective June 9, 2022; **Laura Crane**, effective June 9, 2022; **Robert Deans**, effective June 1, 2022; **Nicole Meyer**, effective June 9, 2022; **Jay Ok**, effective June 9, 2022; licensed retirement of **Heather Peterson**, effective the end of the 2026-27 school year; **Kathleen Vegter**, effective the end of the 2025-26 school year; educational support personnel retirement – revised date for **Kate Johnston-Legg**, effective the end of the 2022-23 school year: to approve the Superintendent’s contract extension with salary increase indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI): approve the resolution dated June 13, 2022 authorizing payment for goods and services between June 13, 2022 and the next board meeting scheduled for August 22, 2022: approve the attached renewal of the State of Illinois School Treasurer Bond in the amount of \$16,000,000: approve the Fiscal Year 2023 District 39 Tentative Budget as contained in the report dated June 13, 2022 for immediate public display; and further, approve the publication of notice of a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget to be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to commencing the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, August 22, 2022: approve the Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement FY23 Tentative Budget as contained in the report dated June 13, 2022, for immediate public display; and further, approve the announcement of a public hearing on the tentative budget to be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to commencing the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, August 22, 2022: approve the resolutions dated June 13, 2022 authorizing accounting transfers from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund; and, approve the resolution dated June 13, 2022, authorizing an interfund loan from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between May 24, 2022 – June 13, 2022 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$440,520.51; O&M Fund \$46,352.87 ; Debt Services \$49,071.25; Transportation Fund \$213,803.15; Capital Projects \$333,781.84; total all funds: \$1,083,529.62: to approve the manual checks issued between May 24, 2022 – June 13, 2022 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$324,924.67; O&M Fund \$32,591.93; Transportation Fund \$31.73; Tort Fund \$1,920.57; total all funds: \$359,468.90.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Erin Stone, Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent – Jon Cesaretti:

Motions Carried.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

President Poehling stated it was a great honor to be part of 8th grade graduation. She noted watching classmates support their friends as they gave their speeches was delightful.

Mrs. Schneider-Fabes thanked D39 employees for yet another year of dedicated hard work among the drama of COVID. Staff hasn’t had a chance to rest or take a breath, and District 39 students were in-person more than many other school districts. She wished staff a restful summer.

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn to executive session to discuss special education, collective negotiations and specific personnel.

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:15 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 10:21 p.m.

Being no further business, Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 10:22 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary