

FEBRUARY 26, 2024
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, February 26, 2024 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Erin Stone called the meeting to order at 7:01 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,
 Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Cindy Anderson and Romona Lechner Early Education Program (LEEP) Teacher Ms. Tameeka (Star) McFarlane introduced preschoolers who sang “Little Snowflake” song and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

Jaime Bergard’s Central Fox’s artwork was on display in the Boardroom. First graders created wintery neighborhood collages incorporating Hot Wheel Car images using their iPads. Second graders shared their school spirit by constructing elaborate foxes using simple shapes and creating textures for fur and tree bark. Third graders drew and painted the Chicago cityscape focusing the Cloud Gate, aka, “The Bean” sculpture by Anish Kapoor. Fourth grade students took imaginary trips around the globe packing their suitcases and backpacks with their most loved possessions.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 Board of Education Regular and Executive Session meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stasha Rosenthal, Wilmette, spoke about his eleven-year-old grandson who had expressed the desire to learn cursive.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – February 12, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting

Facility Development & Strategy – there were no FDC or Strategy items on the February 12 Committee of the Whole Agenda

School Finance – Mr. Cesaretti

District #39 & WCSEA FY2023 Audit Reports

Nick Cavaliere of Baker Tilly provided the audit reports and presentation for District 39 and Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA). District 39 and WCSEA financial statements both rendered unmodified/clean opinions from Baker Tilly. District 39 continues to obtain the highest achievable financial profile score of 4.0 for over 20 years.

McKenzie Elementary School Bid Results

Mr. Bultemeier reported on the bids received for the McKenzie Elementary asbestos abatement project scheduled for the summer of 2024. He stated an asbestos abatement is required to remove the old flooring from the second floor at McKenzie. There was excellent participation in the bidding process for this project. The District received nine different bids with the lowest bidder coming in just below \$70K. Mr. Bultemeier noted the bids came in \$10K-\$20K lower than expected.

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee (CRC) – Mrs. Kim

The CRC met on February 13 and continues to work on pace to present their report in the spring.

Educational Foundation – meets February 28 with President Stone attending on behalf of the Board

District Strategic Advisory Team (DSAT) – Mrs. Poehling

Goal 3 Professional Community noted a significant reduction in the frequency of paraprofessionals being pulled from regular assignments.

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim & Mrs. Schneider-Fabes
Mrs. Fabes noted the group did not meet this month. Members agreed to hire a communications firm to research mental health resources for the community. Dr. Cremascoli noted the group will finalize the hiring proposal at the next meeting.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – no report

Legislative Update – Mrs. Paflas

Governor JB Pritzker delivered the State of the State and Budget Address to a joint session of the Illinois House and Senate on February 21. For Fiscal Year 2025 the proposed general fund operating budget totals \$52.7 billion with 20.2% earmarked for PreK-12 education (second only to human services at 20.5%) basically 1/5 of the budget to education. As it relates to PreK-12 education, there were no surprises or major new initiatives. The overall theme for education funding was stable, predictable, and consistent PreK-12 funding for next year. Absent from the budget was funding for the Healthy School Meals for All Program and targeted funding to support schools in educating the influx of new migrant students. The Governor's proposed budget does reflect the full payment of this year's required \$10.1 billion pension payment. Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton is planning to sponsor an amendment to the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance. It is planned that the Amendment will be discussed at the Legislation Committee on March 13.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication – Dr. Cremascoli

The Board received written communication from Kevin Robinson regarding fee options for families who have paid KEEP39 tuition fees in the past, and Paige Lunde advocating that a full-time photography teacher to be hired at WJHS.

Administrative Announcements – Dr. Cremascoli

School Registration

Registration for the 2024-2025 academic year is open for all current and future D39 students. All students, new and returning students, must register. Returning students can be registered using the PowerSchool Parent Portal. The D39 website provides detailed instruction for all new student registrations and parents may also reach out to school offices for support. Kindergarten, Kindergarten Enrichment Program (KEEP39) and the Lechner Early Childhood Program (LEEP) for three- and four-year-old students is also open. Enrollment numbers are critical in staff planning for the next school year.

Institute Day

District 39 faculty and staff engaged in a full day of learning on Tuesday, February 20. The day included a variety of sessions designed specifically for staff groups, some led by leaders in the field and many led by D39 staff.

Conference Sign-Up

Spring parent/teacher conferences will be held March 21-22 for parents with children in elementary school. As in the fall, the District uses “Meet the Teacher” platform for these meetings. Parents will receive an email on Friday, March 1 with instructions for scheduling conferences and registration opens on Monday, March 4. Video conferences are encouraged and set as the default within the registration system; however, requests for in-person conferences will be accommodated.

“Those Who Excel” Recognition

Alicia Wiechert, Library Information Specialist at Romona Elementary, was honored with an Award of Meritorious Service award last week as Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced its Those Who Excel awards. This award honors educators statewide who have deeply connected with their school community and made a positive impact.

Instructional Coaching

District 39’s 2021-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the commitment to addressing student learning needs through Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS). As a result, an MTSS Leadership Team has been established at each school and designated staff will provide supportive and/or enrichment interventions for students.

One of the best methods for supporting these various student needs is through sustained, personalized, and collaborative partnerships between teachers and instructional coaches. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, District 39 will have eight instructional coaches; one coach at each elementary school, two coaches for grades 5-6 and two coaches for grades 7-8. This is an adjustment to and replaces the traditional Differentiation Support Teacher (DST) role.

The Instructional Coach impacts student growth and achievement in academics, acting as a facilitator of professional learning by building educator capacity and ultimately positively impacting student learning. Through partnerships with teachers, the Instructional Coach collaborates to develop student-centered goals grounded in data with staff members and/or teams to inform instructional planning decisions and areas of focus while monitoring progress toward those goals. Common coaching activities within the coaching cycle include data review, co-planning, co-teaching, modeling, and providing strengths-based feedback, and problem-solving. The Instructional Coach plays a critical role in supporting the implementation of the District's strategic plan by developing and facilitating professional learning opportunities to ensure that work is aligned with the overall vision and priorities outlined in the Portrait of a Scholar.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The District received several FOIA requests:

- Melinda Creasy of Painters’ District Council #14 Chicago requested bid tabulations and total costs for District 39 2024 summer work; names of the awarded general contractor or construction manager; list of awarded contractors or subcontractors performing painting, drywall finishing, glazing and signage, including costs for these trades.
- Nathan Mihelich of Illinois Retired Teachers Association requested names and email address for certified staff that are retiring this year.

- Jodi Cohen of ProPublica requesting notifications and records related to site visits to Shrub Oak International School; criminal background information and proof of credentials, licensure and/or certification of any staff working with the Student to the Board; record requests for accounting of services provided to enrolled district student(s) including scope/type of services provided, number of sessions, dates of service, length of time of service and name and signature of person providing services; insurance claim records made to physical injuries that occurred on Shrub Oak premises; documentation of Shrub Oak procedures for behavior management; records documenting incidents of time out/seclusion and physical restraint; incident reports provided by Shrub Oak including but not limited to documentation of accidents, injuries, medical issues or behavior incidents.
- Commercial FOIA request from Karen Garcia of SmartProcure requesting a list of all current employee/staff contact information.

Strategy

1. 2021-2026 District 39 Strategic Plan: 2023-2024 Mid-Year Update

On September 18, 2023, the D39 administration submitted 2023-2024 action steps for the 2021-2026 District 39 Strategic Plan for Board of Education approval. Having received approval, the work continued to implement those action steps. The District 39 Strategic Advisory Team was presented a preview of a mid-year update on February 8 and asked to provide feedback on the data and any action steps that members would recommend to review for improvements. Progress is monitored in terms of the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and so this executive summary report focused on mid-year updates for all goal areas: Student Achievement + Growth, Supportive Community, Professional Community, Family Partnerships, and Stewardship of Resources.

Members noted: priorities focused on actions pertaining to metrics for Goal 1 Student Achievement and Growth and Goal 2 Supportive Community; clarity of goals and transparency of goals was excellent showing the amount of investment, resources, and capital for all goals while maintaining financial resources; transition from fourth to fifth grade has been a major focus and have achieved a smooth and positive transition; the theme throughout the report has shown improvement in needed areas and the intentionality and thoughtfulness which is to improve outcomes for students.

Annual Business

1. McKenzie School – Abatement Project Bid Results

A bid to NES for asbestos abatement at McKenzie for this summer was presented to the Board. An abatement project is required to remove all the asbestos containing materials from the existing flooring products. The winning bid was \$69,600 out of nine total bids.

2. Fiscal Year 2023 Audit

Annually the Board is asked to accept the audit reports for D39 and Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA). At the February 12 committee meeting, Baker Tilly presented information related to both audit reports. It was another successful audit for D39 and WCSEA with no material weaknesses or other issues noted during the audit.

D. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Board of Education Policies 2:20, 2:110, 2:120, 2:200, 2:220, 3:50, 4:10, 4:30, 4:60, 4:90, 4:130, 4:160, 4:170, 5:30, 5:50, 5:90, 5:120, 5:150, 5:190, 5:200, 5:210, 5:220, 5:250, 6:15, 6:20, 6:50, 6:60, 6:65, 6:280, 7:50, 7:60, 7:70, 7:160, 7:250, 7:270, 7:285, 7:290, 7:345, 8:30

Policies were revised with suggested updates from the first reading in January.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to approve the Personnel Report dated February 26, 2024, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Inana Nissan**, effective January 29, 2024; educational support personnel resignation of **Glenn Barr**, effective February 12, 2024; **Maria Soto**, effective January 26, 2024; educational support personnel retirement of **Beth Bishop**, effective February 4, 2028; tenured leave of absence of **Justyna Lostumbo**, effective May 22, 2024 to the end of the 2023-2024 school year: to accept the fiscal year 2023 annual financial audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Wilmette Public Schools as presented by Baker Tilly US, LLP of Oak Brook, Illinois: to accept the fiscal year 2023 annual financial audit for the Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement as presented by Baker Tilly US, LLP of Oak Brook, Illinois: to approve as second and final reading of Board of Education Policies 2:20 *Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification*; 2:110 *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*; 2:120 *Development of Members of the Board of Education*; 2:200 *Types of Board of Education Meetings*; 2:220 *Board of Education Meeting Procedure*; 3:50 *Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent*; 4:10 *Fiscal and Business Management*; 4:30 *Revenue and Investments*; 4:60 *Purchases and Contracts*; 4:90 *School Activity Funds*; 4:130 *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services*; 4:160 *Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds*; 4:170 *Safety*; 5:30 *Hiring Process and Criteria*; 5:50 *Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition*; 5:90 *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:120 *Employee Ethics: Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 5:150 *Personnel Records*; 5:190 *Teacher Duties and Qualifications*; 5:200 *Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal: Teachers*; 5:210 *Resignations*; 5:220 *Substitute Teachers*; 5:250 *Leaves of Absence*; 6:15 *School Accountability*; 6:20 *School Year Calendar and Day*; 6:50 *School Wellness*; 6:60 *Curriculum Content*; 6:65 *Student Social and Emotional Development*; 6:280 *Grading and Promotion*; 7:50 *School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools*; 7:60 *Residence*; 7:70 *Attendance and Truancy*; 7:160 *Student Appearance*; 7:250 *Student Support Services*; 7:270 *Administering Medicines to Students*; 7:285 *Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program*; 7:290 *Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention*; 7:345 *Use of Educational Technologies: Student Data Privacy and Security*; and 8:30 *Visitors To and Conduct On School Property And Community Use of Building*: to approve the accounts payable for bills listed between January 23, 2024 – February 26, 2024 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$367,640.46; O&M Fund \$76,978.19; Debt Service \$1,500.00; Transportation \$306,872.31; Capital Projects \$320,574.00; total all funds: \$1,073,564.96: to approve the manual checks issued between January 23, 2024 – February 26, 2024 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$1,132,526.54; O&M Fund \$150,463.43; Transportation \$118.40; Capital Projects \$91,618.47; total all funds: \$1,374,726.84.

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

B. Motion to Approve the McKenzie Elementary School 2024 Asbestos Abatement Project Bid

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling to award the base bid in the amount of \$69,600 per bid specifications for the 2024 asbestos abatement project at McKenzie Elementary School. NES Environmental, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$69,600. Total McKenzie Elementary School project cost: \$69,600.

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

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Ms. Stone noted her son who is a senior in high school got into his first-choice college. She expressed her gratitude of his educational experiences at McKenzie Elementary School, Highcrest Middle School, Wilmette Junior High and New Trier High School.

Being no further business, Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary