

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 70
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

January 20, 2021

This Meeting was conducted telemetrically using the Zoom webinar platform pursuant to [Executive Order in Response to COVID-19 No. 5](#)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mark Thannert
Lori Eslick
Paul Torres
John Przekota
Wayne Youkhana
Paul McGivern

Members Absent:

George Karagozian

Kelly Allen and Darcy Willis, Assistant Principals; Katie Douglas, Coordinator of Special Education; Jesse Chatz, Communications Director; Annie Byrne, Nurse; Erin Majchrowski, Director of Business Services; Brian Galuski, Director of Technology; Alana McCloskey, District Data Manager; Matthew Mayer, Assistant Superintendent; Brad Voehringer, Superintendent; and Deirdre Koehler, Board Secretary were in attendance. The following staff members were also in attendance: Laura Dounis, Kelli Murphy, Jennifer Summers, Jody Shelist, Johanna Arias-Pinto, Liz Frake, Chelsea Massari, Katlin McShane, Marci Heymann, Debbie Wiggins, Laura Hansen, Suzanne Jonota, Andy Eckhorn-Martinez, Mindy Debes, Christine Pllum, Connie Schroeder, Vicki Goldberg, Lisa Brody, Brian Hood, Amalia Keane, Christina Botten, Maureen Levin, Jill Brocar, Sydney Starwalt, Jen Drozd-Nolan, Kate Mazukelli, Olivia Hobson, Erin Cepa, Justine Reich, Margaret Reynolds, Krissy Lochner, Rebecca Kovacs, and Tracy Paskiewicz. Also in attendance were Jacob Seal, Kristey Chalabi, Kaitlin Atlas, Anne Paul, Michelle Wang, Gia Schultz, and Jeremy and Stephanie Wilson.

Pledge of Allegiance

*Audience
To
Visitors*

None

***Approval of
Minutes
Regular Mtg.
12/14/20
Committee of
The Whole
Meetings
12/21/20
1/4/21
1/11/21***

Copies of the Minutes from the Board of Education Meeting on December 14, 2020, and the Committee of the Whole Meetings from December 21, 2020, January 4, 2021, and January 11, 2021 were included in the Board Packet.

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Eslick to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on December 14, 2020, and the Committee of the Whole Meetings from December 21, 2020, January 4, 2021 and January 11, 2021.

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Recommendation
For Closed
Session
Minutes***

A recommendation for closed session minutes for August 7, 2020 to be made available to the public or to remain closed was included in the Board Packet.

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by member Thannert to approve the recommendations for the closed minutes listed to remain closed.

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Approval of
Deposits***

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Youkhana to approve the deposits for the month of December 2020.

Student Fees	\$5,025.00
Student Lunches	\$15.00
TIF Payments	\$204,759.00
Other Local Rev	\$3,082.25
Supplies - Library	\$49.14
TOTAL	\$212,930.39

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

Approval of Payables

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Youkhana to approve the payment of bills for the month of December 2020 presented in fund totals as follows:

Fund 10 - Education	\$865,328.42
Fund 20 - O&M	\$25,290.17
Fund 40 - Transportation	<u>\$19,271.92</u>
TOTAL	\$909,890.51

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

An unofficial year-to-date financial report was included in the Board Packet.

Education Report

Dr. Mayer reported that he is working on an assessment presentation for the February board meeting. Last year the district was in the process of piloting a new math program and materials when the pandemic hit. Next school year the district will begin using that program for grades Kindergarten through 8th. Dr. Mayer is working with the high school to align the algebra assessments to ensure that students are on good track for entering high school.

Solution Tree has a program to recognize schools for PLC (Professional Learning Communities). The district is eligible to apply to be a model PLC school. If the district is recognized, the district will open its doors to have other districts observe. There are only 336 schools that are model PLC schools. If the district does not achieve this status, Solution Tree will help it to determine the next steps to be taken in order to achieve the status. There is no cost to this and will help the district continually improve.

Dr. Mayer will look at data from the past few years (since the curriculum alignment) to determine trends of student progress.

Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Willis reported that they have been gathering data to increase student attendance and engagement. Friday, January 15th was a Teacher Institute Day. Teachers were tasked with determining what are obstacles to student attendance and engagement. A foundation team will gather the results. During the institute day, elementary teachers also developed a 15 day plan using backwards design. Teachers determine what they want students to learn by the end of the 15 days and then design a plan of how to achieve this.

Mrs. Allen reported that during remote learning the administrators observed classrooms to determine what effective teaching techniques were being used. The institute day was used for teachers to share these effective teaching techniques with each other. This gives middle school teachers a chance to collaborate

outside of their discipline and grade level. The teachers also looked at how far students have come since August by looking at MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). They determined which students are making good progress and which students need additional help and documented interventions.

Mrs. Willis shared that the school is encouraging student engagement by sending out positive postcards. Approximately five postcards are sent out each day by Mr. Condon, Mrs. Allen, and Mrs. Willis. The postcards share the teachers' words about the students. Mr. Condon, Mrs. Willis, and Mrs. Allen will also be performing home visits this year to bring students supplies and books.

Wally the Warrior has been making visits and giving out Warrior Way Ribbons. Over 200 ribbons have either been sent home via mail or in person. A video was shared with Wally and Mr. Condon and Mrs. Willis. Students are encouraged to make a Find the Warrior picture and put it in their window at home. Administration will look for the pictures.

***Special
Education
Report***

None

***Super-
Intendent
Report***

Bids for roofing and mechanical on the big and little gyms will be going out. The district is holding off on the LED lighting because rebates for this will be coming in 2022.

The district has been having weekly Committee of the Whole meetings to discuss COVID. The state is currently in Phase 1A for vaccine purposes. Phase 1A includes school nurses, speech pathologists, psychologists, and social workers. Phase 1B will include the rest of the school staff. Cook County expects to roll out 1B in February/March. If employees live in counties other than Cook or in Skokie, Evanston, or Oak Park, they are encouraged to register there as well as in Cook County because distribution may be faster in those areas. Staff will be offered free COVID testing on Thursday, January 21st.

Dr. Doug Bolton is offering a parent webinar on Tuesday, January 26th from 5:30 to 6:30 on the topic of resilience for kids and how to help our kids during COVID and how to take care of ourselves. There is no fee for parents.

Approximately 20 students have switched from remote to in-person learning and the school is now almost 50% remote and 50% in-person learning.

Mr. Voehringer asked the board if a teacher's aide whose position will be brought up for approval at the February board meeting can start working before that. This is a replacement for a teacher's aide who resigned in December. The position is

greatly needed as soon as possible. The board agreed that she can start as soon as the necessary paperwork is completed.

***Informational
Items***

***Enrollment
Report***

2020-2021 Enrollment Report as of December 18, 2020:

	<u>PreK-8</u>
PreK-5	545
6-8	<u>289</u>
TOTAL	834
In-person	394
Remote	<u>440</u>
	834

***Lunchroom
Report***

814 lunches were sold during the month of December.

***FOIA
Requests***

Request received via email on December 14, 2020 from Kaza Rhan, Manager, Local Labs. Response sent via email on December 15, 2020. No action is needed from the Board.

***Action
Items***

***Approval of
Policies.***

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by member Eslick to approve the policies in the board packet.

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Resignation
Teacher's
Aide***

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the resignation of Joyce Parker effective December 18, 2020.

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

Old Business Mr. Voehringer's evaluation will be completed by March 1st.

New Business None

Audience To Visitors Mr. Jacob Seal wanted to recognize Ms. Laura Hansen and appreciates her efforts with his child who is in her class.

Move to Closed Session At 7:47 p.m. a motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Eslick to adjourn to closed session – For the purpose of the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

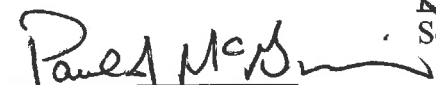
Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

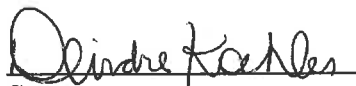
Return to Open Session At 8:09 p.m. a motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Thannert to return to open session.

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

Adjournment A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Thannert to adjourn the Board Meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Approved by:


President


Secretary