

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

**February 17, 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  
George Karagozian (joined at 7:05pm)  
Lori Eslick  
Paul Torres  
John Przekota  
Wayne Youkhana  
Paul McGivern

Members Absent:

None

Matt Condon, Principal; 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, Laura Hansen, Suzanne Jonota, Andy Eckhorn-Martinez, Debbie Wiggins, Mindy Debes, Christine Pellum, Connie Schroeder, 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, Jane Melnick, Shana Finkelstein, Corrie Cogan, 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.  
1/20/2021  
Committee of  
The Whole  
Meetings  
1/25/2021  
2/1/2021  
2/8/2021***

Copies of the Minutes from the Board of Education Meeting on January 20, 2021, and the Committee of the Whole Meetings from January 25, 2021, February 1, 2021, and February 8, 2021 were included in the Board Packet.

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting on January 20, 2021, and the Committee of the Whole Meetings from January 25, 2021, February 1, 2021, and February 8, 2021.

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Karagozian abstained. 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 January 2021.

Student Lunches	\$40.00
Student Fees	\$1,856.00
Dues and Fees – Food Service	\$447.50
Unemployment Insurance	<u>\$24.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,367.50</b>

Roll Call: Members Thannert, Eslick, Torres, Przekota, Youkhana, and McGivern voted aye. Karagozian abstained. 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 January 2021 presented in fund totals as follows:

Fund 10 - Education	\$40,555.31
Fund 20 - O&M	\$33,635.13
Fund 40 - Transportation	<u>\$9,375.07</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$83,565.51</b>

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

***Treasurer's  
Report***

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

***Education  
Report***

Mrs. Willis shared that the district administration has been working on community relations with the Find the Warrior activity. The school will expand the map from last year and will go out to the community to look for students who have drawn a warrior and put it in their window. For more information, please see Condon's Catch-up!

There is a 5 Essentials Survey that will be open from February to April.

There are assembly videos featuring new Golden Warriors in grades 6 through 8.

The school is working on the second Literary Magazine. Details can be found in Condon's Catch-up!

Dr. Mayer shared a Student Progress Timeline that started with Mr. Voehringer being hired during the 2016-2017 school year and included the curriculum audit, Dr. Mayer being hired, Professional Learning Communities being developed, the Curriculum Council being established, the master schedule being rebuilt, a new ELA curriculum developed, and a new mathematics program being piloted. The pilot did not happen because of the pandemic. The curriculum is reassessed in a 4 year cycle, which is ELA, mathematics, science, social studies, and then in the fifth year, it's back to ELA. If everything is working well, it would not be changed. The curriculum is particular to the school because of the population and the teachers' involvement.

Dr. Mayer then showed graphics of data from the 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 school years for MAP (federal assessment) and PARCC and IAR, (state assessments), and data for ELA and mathematics. He broke it out by ethnicity, gender, IEP, Income, and LEP. In every category there is an upward trend over the years. The district is in the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile for the nation in MAP scores.

***Special  
Education  
Report***

Mr. Voehringer shared that NTDSE, which is the special education cooperative that all the districts in Niles Township use, is undergoing a renovation project. They just had a bond sale in February at a good rate. Construction is likely to begin in late summer.

***Super-Intendent Report***

Mr. Voehringer shared that the third grade classroom that was switched to remote-learning will return to in-person learning tomorrow. The rest of the in-person classes that were switched to remote-learning will return to in-person learning on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Every Thursday, the district offers free COVID testing. Over 60% of the staff has had at least one dose of the vaccine. New Trier and Maine East will be used as vaccination sites in March. Police will get vaccinated first and then educators.

There were 10 bids for the roof renovation over the big and little gyms. The lowest responsible bidder was L. Marshall. The district's architect has worked with them before and feels positive about them. They still have to be vetted but the district will likely go forward with them. The work may begin over spring break.

The district is bringing back the blended preschool for the 2021-2022 school year. It was not held in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic.

***Informational Items***

***Enrollment Report***

2020-2021 Enrollment Report as of January 29, 2021:

	<u>PreK-8</u>
PreK-5	550
6-8	<u>290</u>
TOTAL	840
In-person	419
Remote	<u>421</u>
	840

***Lunchroom Report***

1368 lunches were sold during the month of January.

***FOIA Requests***

A request was received via email on February 2, 2021 from Illinois Retired Teachers Association. A response was sent via email on February 2, 2021. No action is needed from the Board.

***Policy Review***

***First Reading*** PRESS has released some revisions to policies. The district has a policy committee which consists of Mr. Voehringer and two board members. Mr. Voehringer recommended that the board adopt all changes as presented. Some of the updates have changed due to new policies 2:265 and 7.345. The changes will be voted on as an action item at the March 15th board meeting.

***Action Items***

***Approval of FY 22***

***Calendar*** A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by member Eslick to approve the calendar.

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

***Approval of Hiring***

A motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Eslick to approve the hiring of Natalie Zak, teacher aide.

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

***Old Business***

Mr. Voehringer's evaluation will be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

***New Business***

Mr. Voehringer mentioned that IASB has a board development seminar geared toward onboarding new board members and is a good refresher for all. There are multiple dates and he will send the board the information.

***Audience To Visitors***

None

***Move to Closed Session***

At 7:56 p.m. a motion was made by Member McGivern and seconded by Member Thannert to adjourn to closed session – For the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Ayes all. Nays none. The motion carried.

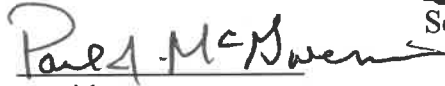
***Return to  
Open  
Session***

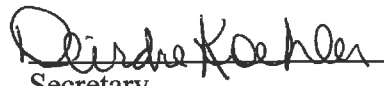
At 8:10 p.m. a motion was made by Member Youkhana and seconded by Member Thannert to return to open session.

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

***Adjournment*** A motion was made by Member Youkhana and seconded by Member Eslick to adjourn the Board Meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Approved by:

  
President

  
Secretary