

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

October 18, 2021

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

Pamela Alper
Jeremy Wilson
Paul McGivern
George Karagozian
Mark Thannert
John Przekota

Members Absent:

Paul Torres

Erin Majchrowski, Director of Business Services; Matt Condon, Principal; Kelly Allen, Assistant Principal; Katie Douglas, Coordinator of Special Education; Alana McCloskey, District Data Manager; Brad Voehringer, Superintendent; and Deirdre Koehler, Board Secretary were in attendance. The following staff members were also in attendance in person: Michelle Brodsky, and Jen Drozd-Nolan. Attending virtually were Kate Mazukelli, Jody Shelist, Kate Cobb, Katlin McBrien, Debbie Wiggins, Olivia Hobson, Laura Hansen, Andy Eckhorn-Martinez, Chris Kennelly, Mindy Debes, Corrie Cogan, Christine Pellum, Tracy Pasckiewicz, Connie Schroeder and Laura Dounis. Also in attendance in person was Kate DeWitt. Attending virtually were Kathy Foley, and Ryan Silhavy. Cheryden Juergensen from Eder, Casella & Co, was present to give an audit presentation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Audience

To

Visitors

None

Approval of

Minutes

Regular Mtg.

9/20/2021

Copies of the Minutes from the Board of Education Meeting on September 20, 2021 were included in the Board Packet.

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member McGivern to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on September 20, 2021.

Roll Call: Members McGivern, Alper, Wilson, Thannert, and Karagozian voted aye. Member Przekota abstained. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Approval of
Minutes
Closed Session
9/20/2021***

Copies of the Minutes from the Closed Session of the Board of Education Meeting on September 20, 2021 were included in the Board Packet.

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Board Meeting on September 20, 2021.

Roll Call: Members McGivern, Alper, Wilson, Thannert, and Karagozian voted aye. Member Przekota abstained. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Approval of
Deposits***

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the deposits for the month of September 2021.

Preschool	\$14,475.00
Summer School	210.00
Student Lunch	237.00
Adult Lunch	24.00
Textbooks	6,537.00
Refunds	280.63
School Services	950.00
TOTAL	\$22,713.63

Roll Call: Members McGivern, Alper, Wilson, Thannert, Przekota, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Approval of
Payables***

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member McGivern to approve the payment of bills for the month of September 2021 presented in fund totals as follows:

Fund 10 – Education	\$114,069.21
Fund 20 - O&M	56,744.18
Fund 40 – Transportation	100,372.07
TOTAL	\$271,185.46

Roll Call: Members McGivern, Alper, Wilson, Thannert, Przekota, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Treasurer's
And Business
Report***

Mrs. Majchrowski presented the treasurer's report. Cheryden Juergensen, auditor from Eder, Casella, & Co, presented the findings of the audit. She thanked Erin and the staff for pulling the information. The audit is a draft until the federal funds are released but nothing is expected to change. The financials are free from material misstatement and the district has a modified opinion which is the best a district can have with a cash basis accounting system. The internal controls are working effectively. Cash reserves are within the guidelines of over 3 months and less than 20 months except for IMRF. The district is looking to lower that fund through levying less. One major change is Activity Funds and Flexible Spending are not included in the Education Fund. There will be a single audit of the federal funds received from the ESSER grant this year and probably for the next two years.

Mrs. Majchrowski gave a presentation on the levy. The district is asking for a 4.99% increase to capture all new property. The district is also levying less than actual expenditures in IMRF and Social Security to decrease the fund balance. The district is continuing to levy more in the Operations and Maintenance Fund to fund capital projects. The district is levying more in the transportation fund to account for an additional bus route added this year. Mrs. Majchrowski informed the board about Public Act 102-0519 which amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law to provide that a taxing district's levy will automatically be increased each year to recapture property tax refunds made in the prior 12 months arising from a PTAB appeal, tax objection suit, or certificate of error that reduced a property's assessed value. However, House Bill 4130 would alter this recapture process making the recapture levy optional in the discretion of the taxing district and limit the amount of the recapture levy to 5% of the taxing district's aggregate levy excluding debt service.

***Education
Report***

Mr. Condon reported that teachers have been making videos showing how they support the district's purpose of ensuring all students learn at high levels. Mr. Condon also reported to the board that this year is not "business as usual". Many students are struggling and the staff is working very hard to meet academic and social emotional needs. There are 91 students who have been identified as at risk for social emotional difficulties and are being seen in student mentor groups. Mr. Condon also informed the board that Parent Teacher conferences are being planned and that information will be sent out this week. Virtual conferences are being considered.

***Special
Education
Report***

Mrs. Alper reported that the Molloy project broke ground in October.

***Super-
Intendent
Report***

Mr. Voehringer reported that Shield testing was performed on 6th, 7th, and 8th graders last Thursday. Only one student tested positive. The test results are available in less than 24 hours. This week the company is hoping to test the whole school. The tests are done in the hallway and the students are kept six feet away. This week the gym might be used for the older students. If a student tests positive, they are quarantined for ten days. Close contacts are tested to stay.

The School Board Conference is scheduled for November 19th through 21st and is still scheduled to be in person. The Niles Township Superintendents will be meeting with legislators on November 4th to discuss matters of importance to school districts. Niles Township has developed a mini food pantry program similar to the mini libraries, where people can put nonperishable foods in them and people in need can take the food. Park View has one of the mini pantries in the east lot.

The district is proposing a contract with CESO for a school climate audit. This involves a company coming in to do a climate study. There will be focus groups by grade and also by union and support staff. There will also be one-on-one audits with random employees. The union leadership has been working with the district on this.

***Informational
Items***

***Enrollment
Report***

The total enrollment as of September 30, 2021 is 854 students broken down as follows:

PreK-5	546
6-8	293
PreK-8	839
Total (including NTDSE)	854

***Lunchroom
Report***

8072 lunches were sold during the months of August and September 2021.

**FOIA
Requests**

A FOIA request was received via email on September 16, 2021 from Vince Espi of LocalLabs. "To whom it may concern: I am writing to you on behalf of LocalLabs which is an online publication that reports on and informs the public about local government activities. If you are not the FOIA officer please report it to the FOIA officer or reply to this email with the correct FOIA contact. Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records (preferably non-PDF such as CSV, Excel) of the following:

A list of all materials in your district that fall under the 1619 project. For reference, the 1619 project contains works with the following titles and authors:

"America Wasn't a Democracy Until Black Americans Made It One", essay by Nikole Hannah-Jones

"America Capitalism is Brutal. You Can Trace That to the Plantation", essay by Matthew Desmond

"How False Beliefs in Physical Racial Difference Still Live in Medicine Today", essay by Linda Villarosa

"What the Reactionary Politics of 2019 Owe to the Politics of Slavery", essay by Jamelle Bouie

"Why Is Everyone Always Stealing Black Music?" essay by Wesley Morris

"How Segregation Caused Your Traffic Jam", essay by Kevin Kruse

"Why Doesn't America Have Universal Healthcare? One Word: Race", essay by Jeneen Interlandi

"Why American Prisons Owe Their Cruelty to Slavery", essay by Bryan Stevenson

"The Barbaric History of Sugar In America", essay by Khalil Gibran Muhammad

"How America's Vast Racial Wealth Gap Grew: By Plunder", essay by Trymaine Lee

"Their Ancestors Were Enslaved by Law. Now They're Lawyers", photo essay by Djeneba Aduayom, with text from Nikole Hannah-Jones and Wadzanai Mhute

"A New Literary Timeline of African-American History", a collection of original poems and stories

Clint Smith on the Middle Passage

Yusef Komunyakaa on Crispus Attucks

Eve L Ewing on Phillis Wheatly

Reginald Dwayne Betts on the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793

Barry Jenkins on Gabriel's Rebellion

Jesmyn Ward on the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves

Tyehimba Jess on Black Seminoles

Darryl Pinckney on the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863

ZZ Packer on the New Orleans massacre of 1866

Yaa Gyasi on the Tuskegee syphilis experiment

Jacqueline Woodson on Sgt. Isaac Woodard

Joshua Bennett on the Black Panther Party

Lynn Nottage on the birth of hip-hop

Kiese Laymon on the Rev. Jesse Jackson's "rainbow coalition" speech

Clint Smith on the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina

A list of all books written by authors Ibram X Kendi (aka Henry Rogers) or Robin DiAngelo that are used in curriculum or libraries in your school district.

The purpose of the request is to access and disseminate information as a matter of public interest and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. I qualify as media under the definition in Section 2 (c-10) ("Commercial purpose"), Section 2 (f) ("News media"), Section 2 (g) ("Recurrent requester"), and Section 2 (h) ("Voluminous request") of the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of being exempt to the provisions of Section 3.1 (Requests for commercial purposes), Section 3.2 (Recurrent requesters), Section 3.6 (Voluminous requests), and Section 6 (Authority to charge fees). Therefore, I request you furnish any responsive documents and items without charge.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Please let me know if you have questions.

Vince Espi

LocalLabs

RESPONSE – Sent via email on September 17, 2021

RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board

REQUEST – received via email on September 28, 2021 from Vince Espi of LocalLabs. "To whom it may concern: I am writing to you on behalf of LocalLabs which is an online publication that reports on and informs the public about local government activities. If you are not the FOIA officer please forward it to the FOIA officer or reply to this email with the correct FOIA contact. Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records of the following: All data of any faculty or student with (a) COVID-19 positive test results, (b) COVID-19 like symptoms or (c) close contacts to a confirmed COVID-19 case that were reported to the local health department over the previous seven days. Please provide all details that were provided to the local health department.

The purpose of the request is to access and disseminate information as a matter of public interest and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. I qualify as media under the definition in Section 2 (c-10) ("Commercial purpose"), Section 2 (f) ("News media"), Section 2 (g) ("Recurrent requester"), and Section 2 (h) ("Voluminous request") of the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of being exempt to the provisions of Section 3.1 (Requests for commercial purposes), Section 3.2 (Recurrent requesters), Section 3.6

(Voluminous requests), and Section 6 (Authority to charge fees). Therefore, I request you furnish any responsive documents and items without charge.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Vince Espi

LocalLabs

RESPONSE – Sent via email on September 30, 2021

RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board

REQUEST – received via email on September 30, 2021 from Vince Espi of LocalLabs. “To whom it may concern: I am writing to you on behalf of LocalLabs which is an online publication that reports on and informs the public about local government activities. If you are not the FOIA officer please forward it to the FOIA officer or reply to this email with the correct FOIA contact.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records of the following: (1) how much money has the district received under the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant program, otherwise known as ARP ESSER? Please provide totals and dates of receipts along with a grand total of money received for this program. (2) Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act requires any district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on its website, within 30 days after receiving its allocation, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Prior to making the plan public, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into consideration when developing the plan. Where is this plan available currently on your district web site? When did you publish the plan? Did you seek public comment on the plan? When/where/how? Please provide all documents relating to the communication of this plan to the general public. (3) Also under the ARP act, every district that receives ARP ESSER funds must develop a plan for its use of them and submit it to the Illinois State Board of Education within 90 days. Did you provide this plan to the Illinois State Board of Education? When? Please provide a copy of what you provided to ISBE. (4) ARP ESSER also requires enhanced reporting on spending of these funds from districts and the ISBE. Have you provided any reporting thus far? If so, please provide all reports.

The purpose of the request is to access and disseminate information as a matter of public interest and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. I qualify as media under the definition in Section 2 (c-10) (“Commercial

purpose”), Section 2 (f) (“News media”), Section 2 (g) (“Recurrent requester”), and Section 2 (h) (“Voluminous request”) of the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of being exempt to the provisions of Section 3.1 (Requests for commercial purposes), Section 3.2 (Recurrent requesters), Section 3.6 (Voluminous requests), and Section 6 (Authority to charge fees). Therefore, I request you furnish any responsive documents and items without charge.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Vince Espi

LocalLabs

RESPONSE – Sent via email on September 30, 2021

RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board

REQUEST – received via email on October 4, 2021 from Katherine Smyser, (NBCUniversal) “Dear Mr. Voehringer, This is a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. First, please forgive me if I have incorrect FOIA contact information. If you can let me know if I need to redirect this request to a different email or different name, I’d really appreciate it, and I promise to update my contact list for future FOIAs. I am making this request of all governmental entities across the greater Chicago area, as I gather material on all unclaimed funds held by (or due to) people and entities in our area, including Morton Grove School District 70. I am preparing a series of reports on the scope and breadth of unclaimed money due to Chicago-area individuals, government bodies, and others. This is a three-part request. If these documents are controlled by a separate office or governmental entity, it’s likely I’ve sent a similar FOIA request to them as well. Conversely, if your office handles this material for other offices or departments, be aware that I’ve probably sent a FOIA request to them as well. I’m hoping that, wherever possible, such FOIAs can be combined to avoid multiple offices having to respond with the same paperwork and data.

First, I am requesting all documents, data and/or spreadsheets sufficient to show all unclaimed funds under the control of Morton Grove School District 70 which have NOT been reported or transferred to the Illinois State Treasurer for inclusion in the state’s Unclaimed Property fund and database. This would include unclaimed money and property that is not yet old enough to be transferred to the Treasurer, including unclaimed refunds of any type; uncashed and/or “stale” checks or warrants; refunds or reimbursement for taxes, tuition, housing, incidentals, insurance payments, expenses, or any other type of refund or reimbursement; and all other unclaimed property and money which is

currently under the control of your agency. For all documents, data or spreadsheets that contain information on these unclaimed funds, I am requesting all fields of data, including the specific amount of each unclaimed fund; the name and the address of each person or entity to which each fund is due; a description of what each piece of unclaimed property or money is; any control number or property number attached to each property; and any applicable dates connected with each piece of unclaimed property.

Second, I am requesting documents, data, and/or spreadsheets showing all unclaimed property which your office HAS reported and/or transferred to the Illinois State Treasurer, in response to the requirements of Illinois' Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, from January 1, 2016 to the present. I request that these documents, data and/or spreadsheets include all available fields, including the specific amount of each parcel of unclaimed property which was reported and/or transferred to the Illinois Treasurer's office; a description of what the property or cash is; the name and address of the person or entity due the property or cash; any date associated with each parcel of unclaimed property or cash; and any control number or other reference number for the property or cash.

Third, I am requesting documents, data and/or spreadsheets showing all claims for unclaimed property DUE TO Morton Grove School District 70 FROM the Illinois Treasurer's Unclaimed Property fund, for which you have submitted a claim of documentation to the Illinois Treasurer's Office, from January 1, 2016 to the present, including the amount of each property claimed; the date your office submitted the claim, the property ID number from the Illinois State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property database, and the current status of each claim you submitted (i.e., whether you received the property or money, or whether the claim is still pending).

Because this request is in the public interest, I request that you waive all fees. And if you reject any portion of this request, please tell me why.

I would be more than happy to help, in any way possible, as you work on this FOIA request. And-again-if you are able to combine this FOIA request with others I've sent to related offices (so that you don't have to duplicate this paperwork), please do. And if you have any questions or need any further information from me, please don't hesitate to email me at katy.smyser@nbcuni.com.

Thank you in advance for your help with this request!

Katy Smyser

RESPONSE – Sent via email on October 5, 2021

RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board

**Action
Items**

**Approval of
FY21 Audit**

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Alper to approve the FY21 Audit.

Roll Call: Members McGivern, Alper, Wilson, Thannert, Przekota, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

**Approval of
Tentative
Tax Levy**

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the tentative tax levy.

Roll Call: Members McGivern, Alper, Wilson, Przekota, and Karagozian voted aye. Member Thannert voted nay. The motion carried.

**Approval of
Contract with
CESO:
School
Climate
Audit**

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the contract with CESO: School Climate Audit.

Roll Call: Members McGivern, Alper, Wilson, Thannert, Przekota, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

**Approval of
Retirement**

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the retirement of Jane Melnick, teacher for June 2025.

Roll Call: Members McGivern, Thannert, Alper, Wilson, Przekota, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

**Old
Business**

None


**New
Business**

Member McGivern expressed a desire to give the teachers another teacher appreciation lunch soon.


Audience
To
Visitors None

Adjournment At 7:47pm, a motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member McGivern to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor.

Approved by:



President



Secretary

