

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

July 17, 2023

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

George Karagozian
Paul Torres
Mark Thannert
Kate Pichon
Jeremy Wilson
Claudia Popielarczyk

Absent:

Pamela Alper

Erin Majchrowski, Director of Business Services; John Wawczak, Principal; Alana McCloskey, District Data Manager; Nikki Kerr, Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum; Matt Condon, Superintendent; and Deirdre Koehler, Board Secretary were in attendance. The following people were also in attendance: Alan Armbrust from STR Partners (Architect Firm), and Bari Singer from the Niles Township Treasurers Office.

Audience

To
Visitors None

Approval of
Minutes
Regular Mtg
6/20/2023

Copies of the minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on June 20, 2023 were included in the Board Packet. A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 20, 2023.

Roll Call: Members Pichon, Thannert, Torres, Popielarczyk, Wilson, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Recommendation
For Closed
Meeting
Minutes***

There was a recommendation to keep the Closed Session Minutes from February 22, 2023 closed. A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Thannert to keep these minutes closed.

Roll Call: Members Pichon, Thannert, Torres, Popielarczyk, Wilson, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Approval of
Deposits***

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Torres to approve the deposits for the month of June 2023.

Preschool Tuition	\$600.00
Student Lunch	\$2,862.80
Adult Lunch	\$5.00
School Fees	\$2,731.00
Summer School	\$1,180.00
Taxi Reimbursement	\$2,080.00
Library Grant	\$850.00
NTDSE Rental Fee	\$30,800.00
Rebates and Refunds	\$5,639.14
TOTAL	\$46,747.94

Roll Call: Members Pichon, Thannert, Popielarczyk, Torres, Wilson, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

***Approval of
Payables***

A motion was made by Member Karzgozian and seconded by Member Torres to approve the payables for the month of June 2023.

Fund 10 – Education	\$116,882.88
Fund 20 - O&M	\$96,561.42
Fund 40 – Transportation	\$53,704.27
Fund 60 – Capital Projects	\$97,470.00
TOTAL	\$364,618.57

Roll Call: Members Pichon, Thannert, Popielarczyk, Torres, Wilson, and Karagozian voted aye. Nays none. The motion carried.

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

Mrs. Majchrowski reviewed the Treasurer's Report. She also presented the tentative budget. She cautioned that the budget is very tentative because she is still waiting for the 2022 tax extension, the callable bonds decision, CPPRT estimate, NTDSE tuition estimates, and insurance rates. The projected revenue for all funds is \$16,805,672 and the projected expenses for all funds is \$18,422,843. The expenditures include \$1,000,000 in capital projects. The total projected revenue for the operating funds (which includes Education, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash) is \$16,266,366 and the projected expenditures for all the operating funds is \$16,073,245.

The district is proposing a balanced tentative budget when looking at the operating funds. However, the overall expenditures do exceed the revenues largely due to capital projects, the NTDSE construction bonds, and paying off the district's callable bonds. To note, fiscal year 2023 will not be officially closed until the audit is completed. The tentative budget will be adjusted as more information is obtained. The final budget will be adopted in September following a public hearing.

***Education
Report***

John Wawczak, Principal, reported that he is getting to know the community and is very excited to be here. He and Jacqui Le-Mon, Assistant Principal, are working on the Kindergarten orientation on August 15th. Also, on August 15th there will be an incoming 6th grade orientation. He is working on this with Mark Schwarz, Assistant Principal. This will focus on what it is like to be a middle school student. Also, on August 15th is the back to school bash and he is looking forward to the dunk tank. He has met with about half the staff. He asked them what they love about Park View, what they want to accomplish, and how he can support them. He is impressed by their passion and excitement for the community and families.

Nikki Kerr, Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum thanked everyone for the warm welcome and gave a report about mxINC at Park View. mxINC provides future ready experiences for any students interested in exploring becoming an entrepreneur. The current model is starting with 6th through 8th graders, with the intent to explore implementing this at the elementary level over time. It is a semester long course and is already very popular among students. It is standards based. It leverages community and stakeholder involvement through mentorship opportunities. The program feeds directly into the Business INC program at Niles West. Mrs. Paskiewicz is excited for the course and visited

Lake Zurich to see the “Pitch Day” in action. “Pitch Day” is the day the student entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to their peers.

mxINC involves learning by doing and creative problem solving, critical thinking, and public speaking. It involves teamwork and collaboration, and resilience (if their idea is not amazing, how can they make it better). The steps in the process are to explore the entrepreneurial mindset; discover a problem, want, or need; design a solution, pitch a business idea, create the solution, sell the solution, and analyze the learning.

***Special
Education
Report***

There was no meeting this month.

***Super-
Intendent
Report***

Mr. Condon informed the board that the district is exploring the idea of renting out the building to outside groups. He also mentioned that he sent an email to staff similar to how he did when he started as Principal. He is asking the staff what they love about Park View and what areas the district need to grow.

Mr. Condon presented Park View School goals, projects, and initiatives for 2023-2024. The goals are that all students will meet or exceed expected growth on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), the percentage of 8th grade students in each graduating class who will be placed in honors/advanced courses during their freshman year will increase each year, and all eighth grade students will meet or exceed the expected growth on the social and emotional learning assessment each year.

The projects are the district will develop and implement a process to ensure regular alignment between the state standards and our grade and content promise standards, and the district will develop and integrate new health and wellness initiatives to support the social and emotional learning needs of students.

The initiatives include collaboration: the district will provide training, support, and focus for curriculum teams and their use of research-based collaborative protocols; evidence-based practices: the district will support each curriculum team and each teacher’s development and implementation of evidence and research-based curriculum, assessment, and grading practices; and student engagement: the district will support curriculum teams and teachers in their efforts to create classroom environments and develop instructional strategies that promote high levels of student engagement.

Mr. Condon also presented a new credo to the board in which wellness replaces character and collaboration replaces stewardship. Wellness involves innovating and consistently promoting best practices in the social emotional curriculum,

expanding leadership and learning opportunities, providing experiences to advance leadership skills and practices, promoting volunteerism and citizenship, and providing a safe, secure, and clean environment to learn and grow. Collaboration involves providing training, support, and focus for curriculum teams and their use of research-based collaborative protocols. The new credo also changes the vision from striving to become the premier district in Niles Township to becoming the premier district in Northern Illinois.

Alan Armbrust from STR Partners, an architect firm explained that the last portion of the roof project was supposed to begin right after July 4th. However, it became clear that was not going to happen. He is concerned that the project would not be completed by the time school starts. It is a portion of the roof where it is not safe to complete when students and staff are in the building. He assured the board that the roofing company is a reputable company but is suffering from labor shortages. Therefore, he reached out to the roofing firm and was able to negotiate with them that they would hold the materials, which have already been paid for, and complete the project next summer for the same price. This is a good deal because prices keep increasing. Next summer Park View will be the first school they work on. Summer school will be happening but those classes can be moved to other parts of the school. There will be some patching this summer but the roof is fine to wait another year. This is the last part of the roofing project and the district should be good with the roof for about 20 years. Park View's roof may have more wear and tear than other schools though because of the proximity to the forest preserve, which causes damage.

Mr. Condon and Mr. Armbrust also talked about options if Park View's enrollment keeps increasing. Enrollment is almost 900 students now and if it gets to 1,200 students it would be difficult to accommodate without reallocating some space. This would be especially true with the growth of Early Childhood classes and full day Kindergarten. The district would reach out to the community to see what they want.

Informational Items

FOIA Requests

Guiding Question: What have been the most recent Freedom of Information Act requests since the last report to the Board of Education?

Policy Reference: 2:250 – Access to District’s Public Records.

Description: Included are the most recent FOIA requests. Please know the District has responded appropriately for all requests or is in the process of responding.

REQUEST - received via email on June 15, 2023 from Katy Smyser at katy.smyser@nbcuni.com.

Dear Mr. Voehringer:

This is a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. I am making this request of several hundred public agencies and entities in Illinois – mostly in the Chicago area – and including Morton Grove School District 70 -- as part of a project I am working on, on the costs of challenges to the release of public records.

Please provide me with the following material:

- 1) All settlement agreements resolving any Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits;
- 2) All judgments or other court orders requiring you to pay attorney fees, costs, and/or civil penalties in any FOIA lawsuits;
- 3) All invoices from law firms for work on any FOIA lawsuits or Public Access Counselor reviews, where the lawsuit or the PAC review was ultimately decided in favor of the requestor;
- 4) All claims made to an insurance company for coverage involving a FOIA action;
- 5) All studies, reports, or other records calculating or referencing the cost of FOIA lawsuits or PAC reviews on an annual or other time-period basis.

I am requesting all such records from January 1, 2013 to the present.

Because I am a journalist, and because this request is in the public interest, I ask that you waive all fees. And if you choose to deny any part of this request, please tell me why.

I would be happy to help, in any way possible, as you look into this request – including coming to your offices to look at any responsive documents there. If I can do so, or if you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at katy.smyser@nbcuni.com.

Thanks, in advance, for your help with this request!

Katy Smyser

Senior Producer, Investigations

NBC Chicago and Telemundo Chicago

454 North Columbus Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60611-5555

RESPONSE – Sent via email on June 16, 2023.
RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board.

Guiding Question: What have been the most recent Freedom of Information Act requests since the last report to the Board of Education?

Policy Reference: 2:250 – Access to District’s Public Records.

Description: Included are the most recent FOIA requests. Please know the District has responded appropriately for all requests or is in the process of responding.

REQUEST - received via email on June 23, 2023 from Josiah Chatterton at foia@prairiestatewire.com

To whom it may concern,
I am a news reporter from Prairie State Wire, a media organization committed to providing comprehensive and accurate news coverage on local government and community affairs. I am requesting the following records under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140, preferably in electronic format:

Employee Information with the following data points for the current year:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Position/Job Title
- Department
- School name
- Pay Rate
- Year to Date Gross Pay

As a member of the media, I am involved in gathering and reporting news to the public. Access to public records is essential for me to fulfill my professional responsibilities, which include holding public institutions accountable and providing transparency to the public. Given my role in disseminating information, I believe I am eligible for a fee waiver as a media professional.

Please let me know if you have any questions,
Josiah Chatterton
Prairie State Wire

RESPONSE – Sent via email on June 27, 2023.
RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board.

**Action
Items**

**Approval
Of
FY24
Tentative
Budget**

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the FY24 Tentative Budget.

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

**Approval
Of
New Hire**

A motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Pichon to approve the hire of Jane Berg as an ELL teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new position.

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

**Old
Business**

None

**New
Business**

None

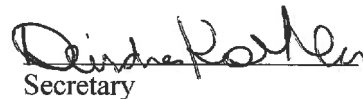
**Audience
To
Visitors**

None

Adjournment At 7:57pm, a motion was made by Member Karagozian and seconded by Member Thannert to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor.

Approved by:


President


Secretary