

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

August 21, 2023

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

Paul Torres
Mark Thannert
Pamela Alper
Kate Pichon
Jeremy Wilson
Claudia Popielarczyk

Absent:

George Karagozian

Erin Majchrowski, Director of Business Services; Alana McCloskey, District Data Manager; John Wawczak, Principal; Mark Schwarz, Assistant Principal; Jill Astbury-Brocar, Secretary; Matt Condon, Superintendent; and Deirdre Koehler, Board Secretary were in attendance.

Audience

To
Visitors None

Approval of
Minutes
Regular Mtg
7/17/2023

Copies of the minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on July 17, 2023 were included in the Board Packet. A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 17, 2023.

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

***Approval of
Deposits***

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

Preschool Tuition	\$600.00
Student Lunch	\$865.45
School Fees	\$1,979.00
Taxi Reimbursement	\$520.00
Rebates and Refunds	\$72.86
TOTAL	\$4,037.31

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

***Approval of
Payables***

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

Fund 10 – Education	\$377,874.19
Fund 20 – O&M	\$158,626.44
Fund 40 – Transportation	\$8,910.00
TOTAL	\$545,410.63

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

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

Mrs. Majchrowski reviewed the Treasurer's Report. She also reported that back in June, she and Mr. Condon met with the finance committee about paying off the district's callable bonds and they felt that it was the right decision at the time. She was planning to do a presentation for the board at this meeting, but after the building walk-through we just had with the facilities committee and the architect, as well as the meeting she had with the bond counsel (Elizabeth Hennessy at Raymond James), she wants to take a step back and meet with the finance committee one more time to determine if this is the right decision for the district as well as the taxpayers. She sent an email to the finance committee earlier this afternoon to try to find a date for a meeting soon and then she will update the whole board.

**Education
Report**

Mr. Condon spoke about a book that he shared with the staff called *The Lighthouse Effect* by Steve Pemberton. He was taken in by a teacher named John Sykes when he was 16 years old. Even though lighthouses are no longer needed due to technology, they still exist as symbols of guidance. People can be lighthouses that guide others. Mr. Condon encourages staff to be “lighthouses”.

Mr. Condon spoke about the teacher institute days. Our school was fortunate to have Todd Whitaker come to speak to staff. He is the author of several books and shared his experiences with staff motivation and leadership.

Mr. Condon presented the goals, projects, and initiatives for the 2023-2024 school year. Goals remain the focus of the organization and are the collective responsibility. They endure. Park View graduates are the result of each grade level, and each staff member that helped them along the way. Projects may come, but they will be accomplished and new ones will be created. Initiatives are the focus work towards achieving the goals.

The goals are: all students will meet or exceed expected growth on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR); the percentage of eighth-grade students in each graduating class who will be placed in honors/advanced courses as freshman 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 develop and integrate new health and wellness initiatives to support the social and emotional learning needs of students.

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

Mr. Condon then reported on IAR. IAR is our state assessment that measures student growth and proficiency on grade level standards in both ELA and math. The Park View Promise Standards are aligned to the Illinois State Standards, which are aligned to Common Core State Standards. A summative designation is provided to each school and school district. Park View is designated as a “Commendable School”. In order to be a “Commendable School”, a school must have no underperforming student groups at or below the “all students” group of the lowest performing 5 percent of schools.

Mr. Condon then shared the results of the IAR tests. In Spring 2023, students exceeded their projected benchmark by 18 points in ELA and 10 points in mathematics. In Spring 2022, students missed their projected benchmark by 1 point in ELA and exceed it by 6 points in mathematics. In Spring 2023, every grade exceeded their projected benchmark in ELA and mathematics.

ECRA is a group that analysis data. Overall growth summaries are based on a combination of assessments. The assessments include (depending on the grade) Spring IAR, Spring MAP, Spring FAST CBMmath Automaticity, and Spring FAST CBMreading. Based on this, Park View had overall expected growth in mathematics and higher than expected growth in ELA.

The district believes that collective effort and responsibility leads to success. The Credo for 2023-2024 is to ensure that all Park View students learn at high levels and to strive to become the premier district in Northern Illinois.

The Park View Model of Instruction is an instruction framework used by the guiding coalition team which is a group of teachers who are leaders for their teams. The framework is based on Dr. Robert Marzano's theory. He has fifty years of study experience. The instructional framework involves feedback by providing and communicating clear learning goals by providing scales and rubrics and tracking student progress and using assessment and using formative and summative assessments of the whole class. It also involves content which involves conducting direct instruction lessons by chunking and processing content and using strategies that appear in all types of lessons including reflecting on learning and organizing students to interact. Finally, it involves content by using engagement strategies such as noticing and reacting when students are not engaged, establishing and implementing rules and procedures, building relationships by understanding students' backgrounds and interests, and communicating high expectations by demonstrating value and respect to reluctant learners. When there is professional development at the district, whether it is in house or if someone else is brought in, it will tie back to this model of instruction.

Mr. Wawczak spoke about ParentSquare. It is a new communication tool that the district is using. ParentSquare also offers language translations, centralized calendars, a mobile app, and a familiar design since the high school uses it. The administration team will use it from August through December. They will use it for newsletters, mass communications, district notices, and alerts (texts and phone calls). All teachers will begin using ParentSquare in January 2024. There will be training and feedback opportunities. The intention is to make communication easier for teachers.

Mr. Wawczak also reported that he and Ms. Le-Mon dropped off yard signs to incoming kindergarteners. They were able to connect with about 60% of the kindergarten families. Their goal was to comfort the families. He also talked

about the Back to School Bash and the dunk tank. Mr. Condon reported that two board members' children dunked him.

Mr. Schwarz spoke about sixth-grade orientation. The students prepared for lockers, and were informed about expectations and social emotional learning resources. The sixth-grade teachers were there as well. About 80 of the 100 sixth-grade students attended. There was a parent meeting as well and they were told about expectations and how sixth-grade students now need to be role models. He thanked Mrs. McCloskey and Mrs. Astbury-Brocar for their help.

Mr. Condon showed photos of what the new logo in the front of the school will look like. There will also be a new banner covering a wall inside the school.

***Special
Education
Report***

Mrs. Alper reported that the construction at the Molloy Center is on schedule. There are no delays and it is in its last phase. NTDSE's Executive Director, Tarin Kendrick shared that a café in downtown Skokie called Will's Place has opened and is staffed with adults with disabilities.

***Super-
Intendent
Report***

See Education Report.

***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 that the District has responded appropriately for all requests or is in the process of responding.

REQUEST - received via email on July 11, 2023 from Vince Espi
@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 governmental affairs. I am requesting the following records under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 14, preferably in electronic format:

Total spending on substitute teachers by school, for the past five years. Please provide the expenditure breakdown by year and school.

Number of substitute teacher days by school, for the past five years. Kindly provide the number of substitute teacher days for each year and school.

Per diem/payment schedule for substitute teachers for the past five years. Please provide the per diem rates or payment schedule used for substitute teachers during each year within the past five years.

Names of all substitute teachers, total days worked, and total payments made to them for the last five years. Please provide a list of substitute teachers who have worked within the school district for each year within the past five years. Additionally, include the total number of days worked by each substitute teacher and the corresponding total payment made to them.

I understand that complete data for all the requested points may not be available for all years. In such cases, I kindly request that you provide any partial data that is available to you. I greatly appreciate any efforts made to fulfill this request, even if it involves providing partial data.

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,

Vince Espi

Prairie State Wire

RESPONSE – Sent via email on July 14, 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 that the District has responded appropriately for all requests or is in the process of responding.

REQUEST - received via email on July 26, 2023 from Katy Smyser at Katy.Smyser@nbcuni.com

Dear Mr. Condon:

This is a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. I am sending this request to more than 375 public school districts in the Chicago area, including Morton Grove School District 70. I have also already sent this request to more than 200 Chicago-area public library systems – all for a series of stories I plan to do on book-ban-requests and other challenges to material in our local public libraries, school libraries, and school classrooms.

Please provide me with documents sufficient to show all communications (emails, letters, texts, board proceedings, or notes from phone calls) received by Morton Grove School District 70, which include a request to reconsider, ban, and/or challenge any book or any other material in any of your school district's libraries or classrooms. I am hoping that any existing documents will include the following:

1. The date of each such request;
2. The title(s) of each book(s) or other material that was requested to be pulled from your shelves or classrooms, as well as any reason stated by the requestor;
3. Any response (email, letters, texts, board proceedings, or notes from phone calls) from anyone in your district, your school board, or individual school, to each request;
4. The resolution of each request (i.e.: the book or material was removed completely; the book or material was partially restricted; the book or material remains on your shelves or in your classrooms; etc.).

Please also provide me with any documented threats that have been received by Morton Grove School District 70, your school board, or any of your individual schools, librarians or teachers, via email, letters, texts, or voicemail recordings, that are related to books or other material kept in one of your libraries or classrooms.

I am requesting all such material from January 1, 2013 to the present. 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 let me know why. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, thanks – as always – for your time and attention to this request!
Katy Smyser

RESPONSE – Sent via email on July 27, 2023

RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board.

***FY23 EIS
Salary &
Benefits
Report***

The 2022-2023 EIS Salary & Benefits Report was presented to the board. It will be on our website after the board meeting.

***Action
Items***

***Approval
Of
Policies***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Pichon to approve the policy updates.

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

***Approval
Of
Change
Of Position***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the change of position for Melisa Hadzipasic for the 2023-2024 school year. She was a recess supervisor and will now be a preschool teacher aide.

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

***Approval
Of
Rehire and
Change
Of Position***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Alper to approve the rehire and change of position for Olivia Hobson for the 2023-2024 school year. She will teach middle school science. This is a one-year position.

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

***Approval
Of
Resignation***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Alper to approve the resignation of Syeda Anwarunnisa. She was a recess supervisor.

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

***Approval
Of
New Hire***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the hire of Anahys Gonzalez for the 2023-2024 school year. She will be a preschool teacher aide.

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

***Approval
Of
New Hire***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Pichon to approve the hire of Jaime Borda for the 2023-2024 school year. He will be a recess supervisor.

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

***Approval
Of
New Hire***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the hire of Jennifer Rauzi for the 2023-2024 school year. She will be a recess supervisor.

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

***Approval
Of
New Hire***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the hire of Deonna Ford for the 2023-2024 school year. She will be a recess supervisor.

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

***Approval
Of
Change
Of Position***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the change of position for Jill Astbury-Brocar. She was a front office secretary and will become the District Office Administrative Assistant.

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

***Approval
Of
Leave of
Absence***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Pichon to approve the leave of absence request for Elizabeth Teresi.

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

***Approval
Of
New Hire***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the hire of Aljbiona Djelovic for the 2023-2024 school year. She will be a teacher aide.

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

***Old
Business***

None

***New
Business***

Member Torres asked about the facilities plans. Mr. Condon responded that with potential enrollment increases and full day kindergarten starting in the fall of 2026, the district may need to look at facility utilization and possible expansion. The district is looking into options. A survey will be sent out at the end of the school year to get an idea of what the community would like if expansion is necessary. Member Alper said to keep NTDSE in mind in case more room is needed for early childhood students.

***Audience
To
Visitors***

None

***Move to
Closed
Session***

At 8:17pm, a motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to move to closed session.

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

***Return to
Open
Session***

At 8:35pm, a motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Pichon to return to open session. All members were in favor.

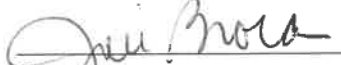
***Adjourn-
ment***

At 8:36pm, a motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor.

Approved by:



President



Secretary

