

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

October 16, 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; John Wawczak, Principal; Nicole Cardillo-Kerr, Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum; Katie McKee, Student Services Coordinator; Deirdre Koehler, Payroll & Business Office Specialist; Matt Condon, Superintendent; and Jill Brocar, Board Secretary were in attendance. The following staff members were also in attendance: Michelle Brodsky and Lauren Robak.

Audience

To
Visitors None

Approval of
Minutes
Regular Mtg
9/18/2023

Copies of the minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on September 18, 2023 were included in the Board Packet. A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Alper to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 18, 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 September 2023.

Preschool Tuition	\$27,000.00
Student Lunch	\$12,281.35
Adult Lunch	\$143.10
School Fees	\$48,325.00
Taxi Reimbursement	\$860.00
Rebates and Refunds	\$412.68
iPad Sales	\$14,172.25
Donations	\$750.00
TOTAL	\$103,944.38

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 September 2023.

Fund 10 – Education	\$129,124.93
Fund 20 – O&M	\$109,460.07
Fund 40 – Transportation	\$80,310.45
Fund 60 – Capital Projects	\$58,300.00
TOTAL	\$377,195.45

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

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

Director of Business Services, Erin Majchrowski, reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Revenue through September totals \$1,155,758. Expenditures through September total \$2,850,763. Monthly expenditures for September total \$1,248,145. The current fund balance, which is as of the end of September 2023, is \$20,057,983 and the fund balance in September of 2022 was \$19,722,476.

Mrs. Majchrowski also presented the tentative levy information. Funds must be levied by the district. Property taxes account for approximately 79% of the district's revenue. Tax collections are typically received in the spring and fall. The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) limits the tax increase from year to year to the lesser of 5% or the Consumer Price Index (excluding new property).

The truth in taxation law states that the determination is established through the adoption of the tentative tax levy at the October board meeting. If the taxing agency's current year's tax levy request is greater than 5% of the prior year's extension, a proper notice must be published in the newspaper and a public hearing must be held prior to adoption.

The tax levy is the request for revenue to meet operating needs for the current and future budgets. The tax extension is the actual revenue appropriated to the district based on statutory PTELL limits.

If the levy is set too low, lost money is foregone in the first year and compounds significantly in every future year. The district can never catch up because the annual increase is limited by PTELL. The limiting rate formula under PTELL begins with last year's actual tax extension.

The district is asking for a 6.5% increase to capture all new property. The district is levying less than actual expenditures in IMRF to decrease the fund balance and continuing to levy more in operations and maintenance to fund capital projects.

The final levy approval will occur at the November board meeting after a public hearing. Levying more than 5% over the 2022 aggregate extension requires a public hearing.

Mrs. Majchrowski also discussed the School Maintenance Grant. The School Maintenance Grant is a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant program providing awards up to \$50,000 to grantees exclusively for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational building. Applicants are required to provide a match from local funds equal to the grant amount requested. All project activities must be expended or legally obligated within two years of disbursement by the state.

The district is in the process of applying for the school maintenance grant to be used toward the next phase of the roof project that is scheduled to begin this summer. Board approval is required in order for the application to be submitted.

Education Report

Superintendent Condon stated that their reports will tie to the district Credo. The four parts of the Credo are Excellence, Collaboration, Community, and Wellness. Mr. Condon and Director of Professional Learning and Curriculum, Nicole Kerr presented information regarding using IAR data to drive reflection on scope and sequences of instruction and refine the district's Promise Standards with staff teams. This data is used to drive classroom instruction as well as curriculum and programming decisions. The Credo connection is Collaboration and Excellence.

Mrs. Kerr further elaborated on the Yellow Sheet Days that she is leading the staff through using a recalibration process, looking through lenses of endurance, leverage, readiness, and complexity. This work is aligned with the district's PLC professional development goals and stems from the work with Solution Tree consultant Julie Schmidt. From October 10th through 20th, 14 teams met (combination of grade level and content areas) to realign the Promise Standards (K-8 Math, 6-8 Reading, 7-8 Writing, 7-8 Social Studies, 7-8 Science, and physical education). Grade level teachers, LBS1 (Learning Behavior Specialist) teachers and EL (English Language Learners), math, and reading specialists collaborated around the standards. She thanked Assistant Principal, Ms. Le-Mon for the help as well. The Credo connection is Collaboration and Excellence.

Student Services Coordinator, Katie McKee communicated that the MySAEBRS (My Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener) was administered to students in grades 4-8. Small groups will be formed with our school psychologist and social worker and students focusing on emotion regulation, coping skills, and social problem solving. Currently, there are ten groups of students, with 3-6 students in each group. The topics include emotional regulation, self-esteem, perspective talking, stuck thinking, growth mindset, executive functioning skills, self-regulation, mindfulness, respect, empathy, perspective taking, social filter, friendship, verbal/non-verbal communication, communication skills, problem solving, and conflict resolution. The Credo connection is Wellness.

Principal Wawczak reported that committees are beginning to meet this month. Each certified staff member is signed up for at least one committee. The committees have different goals, such as curriculum, wellness, or school improvement. The Credo connection is Collaboration, Excellence, and Wellness.

Additionally, the Mentor Program met to focus on the upcoming parent-teacher conferences. Mr. Wawczak messaged families to look for conference sign ups this week. Clubs are currently happening at school and there are many students signed up. It is hoped that the district will have more clubs to offer families soon, especially at the elementary level. Also, Mr. Wawczak and the building administration are working on plans for Halloween. The Credo connection is Community.

Mrs. Brodsky, orchestra teacher, reported that band and orchestra numbers are up since the pandemic with about 2/3 of the fourth-grade class participating. Mr. Wawczak reported that the 7th and 8th grade girl volleyball teams did very well. The 7th grade girls were undefeated and won their tournament. The 8th grade girls won their tournament as well. He thanked Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Harrison for their hard work and for teaching the students good sportsmanship.

***Special
Education***

Member Alper reported on the ribbon cutting ceremony at the remodeled Molloy Center. There was a great turnout, including Member Alper, Mr. Condon, Mrs. Majchrowski, Mrs. McKee, and Communications Director Jesse Chatz. It was catered by Will's Place, which is a nonprofit café which creates meaningful jobs for adults with disabilities. Tarin Kendrick can set up a tour for members who are interested. The updates to the building are functional and will serve the community for many years.

***Super-
Intendent
Report***

Mr. Condon gave updates regarding the School Safety Task Force meeting he attended at the police station focused on swatting, active shooter training, hard lockdowns, and Stop the Bleed Training. He also reported that the administrative team participated in Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit organization empowering volunteers to pack meals for the malnourished in nearly 70 countries. It is hoped that this sense of volunteerism will lead to the district's students moving toward volunteering. The Credo connection is Community. Mr. Condon talked about the new signage at the front of the building so people can see out but not see in. There are also new exterior doors by the middle school and MPR which are more secure.

***Informational
Items***

***Enrollment
Report***

There were 872 students enrolled as of September 30, 2023.

***Lunch
Report***

There were 8,703 lunches sold in August and September 2023.

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

REQUEST – received via email on September 11, 2023 from Janine Asmus at libraryfoia@gmail.com

Dear District FOIA Officer:

If you are not the FOIA officer, please forward this request to the District FOIA Officer or reply to this email with the correct contact information.

Please identify (by employee name and work email address) each and every District employee who is certified as a school librarian (meaning they have the school library licensure and/or endorsement in library media) and who is *currently* working in that capacity in your District's library/libraries/media centers this academic school year.

Please note that a "certified school librarian" may also be called a "District Librarian," "certified media specialist," or an "information specialist." *This request is NOT seeking parent volunteers or support staff members who are non-certified and working in a school library.* The purpose of the request is to identify the number of certified school librarians working in Illinois Public School Districts. Please send your response to me electronically. This request is not for commercial purposes. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Janine Asmus
541 81st Street
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

RESPONSE – Sent via email on September 14, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board.

***Action
Items***

***Approval
Of
Tentative
Tax Levy
Resolution***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the Tentative Tax Levy Resolution.

Roll Call: Members Alper, Pichon, Torres, Popielarczyk, and Wilson voted aye. Member Thannert voted nay. The motion carried.

***Approval
Of
School
Maintenance
Grant***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Alper to approve the School Maintenance Grant.

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 Debra Lapasso, school receptionist, effective October 6, 2023.

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 Alper to approve the hire of Evelyn Oppenheimer as a recess monitor and PE substitute.

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 Wilson to approve the resignation of Shmoune Paulina Iramiya, teacher aide, effective October 11, 2023.

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 Alper to approve the hire of Amy Burnham as the school receptionist.

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 Alper to approve the hire of Lauren Murphy as a kindergarten teacher aide.

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

***Old
Business***

None

***New
Business
Audience
To
Visitors***

None

None

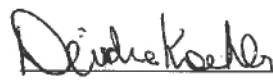
***Adjourn-
ment***

At 8:13pm, 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