

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

**November 9, 2020**

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 5:31 p.m. with the following members present:

Mark Thannert  
George Karagozian  
Paul Torres  
John Przekota  
Wayne Youkhana  
Paul McGivern

Members Absent:

Lori Eslick

Several people were in the audience including Erin Majchrowski, Director of Business Services; Alana McCloskey, District Data Manager; Katie Douglas, Special Education Coordinator; Brian Galuski, Director of Technology; Matthew Mayer, Assistant Superintendent; Brad Voehringer, Superintendent; and Deirdre Koehler, Board Secretary. Also in attendance were several staff members including Amalia Keane, Andy Eckhorn-Martinez, Annie Byrne, Brian Hood, Brittany Graber, Cheryl Menke, Chris Kennelly, Chrissy Botten, Connie Schroeder, Danielle Faubert, Jane Melnick, Jen Drozd-Nolen, Jennifer Hestrup, Debbie Wiggins, Liz Frake, Katerina Harrison, Olivia Hobson, Rebecca Kovacs, Jennifer Summers, Angel Loizzo, Jill Brocar, Johanna Arias-Pinto, Gina Oles, Sydney Starwalt, Julie Coyne, Norman Neihaus, Kate Mazukelli, Vicki Goldberg, Laura Hansen, Katie McShane, Laura Dounis, Laura Edelstein, Wendy Rice, Kelli Murphy, Mindy Debes, Shana Finkelstein, Maureen Levin, Krissy Lochner, Lisa Brody, Jody Shelist, Suzanne Jonota, Paul Connelly, Justine Reich, and Tracy Paskiewicz. Also in attendance were Jeremy and Stephanie Wilson and the Chicago Sun-Times.

Pledge of Allegiance

*Update on  
Return to Learn  
Plan*

Mr. Voehringer stated that the district resumed in person learning on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> after the district took an adaptive pause for two weeks due to student cases in the school. None of the cases were contracted or spread at school.

On Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, the district learned of several potential positive cases. The district consulted with the Skokie Department of Public Health as well as other school districts in Niles Township. Given the number of suspected cases and the current rates in the Township, the Skokie Department of Public Health recommends that the district take an adaptive pause. This means all students will switch to remote learning on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

As of today, there is no time limit on the adaptive pause. Teachers will continue to teach from school during this time because the Skokie Department of Public Health feels it is safe for teachers to be in the building and it is helpful for them to collaborate with each other for their professional learning communities.

Member Youkhana stated that the district is lucky to have Skokie Department of Public Health as a resource and would be remiss not to follow what they say.

Member Przekota asked what the lead time would be to come back and what is the district doing regarding advising staff and community about travel during the holidays. Mr. Voehringer stated that it's not where they go, but what they do. The community needs to follow safe practices. The district needs the community's help if students are going to come back to in person learning.

Member Thannert stated he was hesitant because there are no confirmed cases.

Member Torres stated that he thinks the district has a great model but it is just not sustainable for in person learning if the cases keep increasing.

President McGivern thanked all the staff for all their hard work during this pandemic.

Comments from the Public:

Andy Eckhorn-Martinez: Why are the teachers working from school during the remote period?

Jennifer Summers: Just to clarify, are we working from school just tomorrow? Or even when all of the students go remote? Sorry, why were we expected to bring all of our stuff home each night if we will be working in school?

Connie Shroeder: She made a statement thanking the board for their consideration.

Mindy Debes: She asked if the recommendation from the Skokie Department of Public Health included COVID and cold/flu like considerations.

Jody Shelist: Did anyone ask the teachers or union how they feel?

Amber: (did not show last name) asked about identifying contacts. Mr. Voehringer told her to contact him the next day to clarify her question.

The Board agreed that the next board meeting will be the regular meeting on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Adjournment** A motion was made by Member Youkhana to adjourn the Board Meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

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Secretary

Approved by:

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President