

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

November 15, 2021

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

Pamela Alper
Jeremy Wilson
Paul McGivern
Mark Thannert
John Przekota
Paul Torres

Members Absent:

George Karagozian

Erin Majchrowski, Director of Business Services; Dr. Matthew Mayer, Assistant Superintendent; Brian Galuski, Director of Technology; Matt Condon, Principal; Katie Douglas, Coordinator of Special Education; Brad Voehringer, Superintendent; and Deirdre Koehler, Board Secretary were in attendance. The following staff members were also in attendance in person: Cheryl Menke, Jennifer Summers, and Laura Hansen. Also in attendance in person were Marissa Thompson, Malaika Khan, and Marianne Rogenski from the Kenneth Young Center. The following community members were in attendance in person: Ticia Ashcoft, Kate DeWitt, Beth Joyce, and Rory Foley. The following people attended virtually: George Karagozian, board president; Laura Dounis, Kelli Murphy, Jody Shelist, Alana McCloskey, Jane Melnick, Debbie Wiggins, and Tracy Paskiewicz; staff members. Also attending virtually were Stephanie Wilson, Jacob Seal, and Yvette Borrego; community members.

Pledge of Allegiance

***Audience
To
Visitors***

Mr. Rory Foley of 8610 School St, Morton Grove spoke to the board about his concern that the students should not have to wear masks or do Shield Testing. He was also concerned about the tone of an email about religious singers that were outside when the students were at recess.

***Approval of
Minutes
Regular Mtg.
10/18/21***

Copies of the Minutes from the Board of Education Meeting on October 18, 2021 were included in the Board Packet.

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on October 18, 2021.

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

***Approval of
Deposits***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the deposits for the month of October 2021.

Preschool	\$900.00
Adult Lunch	6.00
Textbooks	3,810.00
Refunds	350.37
TOTAL	\$5,066.37

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

***Approval of
Payables***

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

Fund 10 - Education	\$927,514.51
Fund 20 - O&M	58,624.92
Fund 30 - Debt Services	74,445.01
Fund 40 - Transportation	101,066.29
Fund 60 - Capital Projects	7,200.00
TOTAL	\$1,168,850.73

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

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

Mrs. Majchrowski went over the Treasurer's Report. She also gave an update about the roof project. The bid opening will be December 17th. The district does not have to accept the bid if it is too high. The architects said it can wait another year if necessary.

***Education
Report***

Ms. Douglas, Mrs. Menke, Mrs. Summers and the Kenneth Young Center student mentors gave an update on social emotional supports. They reported that in surveys, 30-40% of young people say they feel anxious, depressed and/or stressed. They reported that at Park View, we are seeing a higher need as well: there are 4 hospitalizations, 6 students undergoing outside mental health evaluations, 1 student in a diagnostic placement, 6 separation support plans, 15 suspensions, and increased attendance concerns. There are 96 students in student mentor groups in 5th through 8th grade as well as 1st grade. In preparation for the 2021-2022 school year, the foundations team met and planned beginning-of-year professional development for teachers, reached out to many outside agencies and formed a partnership with the Kenneth Young Center, created morning meeting/advisory time for all students, purchased digital licenses for building wide use of Second Step, and planned to assess students social/emotional needs upon their return to school. The morning meeting is a designated time in the master schedule and provides staff with multiple examples and resources such as discussion questions, greetings, share time, and reflections. Second Step is a research based program which promotes the social emotional development, safety, and well-being of children. Elementary units focus on growth mindset, emotional management, empathy and kindness, and problem solving. Middle school units focus on mindset and goals, bullying and harassment, thoughts, emotions, decisions, and managing relationships and social conflict.

The Kenneth Young Center has 21 groups, students in grade 1 and grades 4-8. They see 110 students. Topics they cover include mindfulness, social skills, boundaries, emotional regulation, etc. Students have positive things to say about the groups. The Kenneth Young Center will continue to support the social emotional learning and community building with Second Step and morning meetings. Students will be rescreened in December. Data review meetings will be held with grade level teams. New groups will be created and will expand to include lower elementary grades.

Mr. Condon reported that the Halloween parade was a huge success even though it had to be held indoors due to the weather. The orchestra and band were wonderful and it had over 1,000 views on social media. Mr. Condon also reported that Parent-Teacher conferences went well with over 80% of the families signed up. That is a record. A different platform than Zoom was used and it went well

but there were a couple of minor problems. In the future, the district may continue to offer the virtual conference as an option.

Dr. Mayer reported that our staff is currently in the first phase of the math pilot process. This phase will conclude at winter break. Following winter break the district will begin piloting another set of materials for the duration of the year. Dr. Mayer is hopeful that by the end of this year the district will have a consistent set of materials for use across the district. Dr. Mayer also reported that the district is actively involved in an audit of our English Language Learning department. The purpose of the audit was to have objective experts provide guidance on the next steps the department needs to take to support our students. This audit included staff and parent interviews, a review of programmatic documents and observations of practices. The district is expecting the audit to be completed before the end of the year with specific recommendations.

***Special
Education
Report***

Mrs. Alper reported that the NTDSE board approved policies, had a lot of new hires, finalized calendars, and had a presentation from the CFC committee.

***Super-
Intendent
Report***

Mr. Voehringer reported that this week is the annual board conference.

He also reported that Shield Testing has only produced four positive cases. Students who are close contacts of someone who tests positive can test to stay unless they opt out of Shield testing.

Mr. Voehringer reported that the TIF district that included Moretti's and the townhouses will be coming off the books in 2023 but there is a new TIF district west and south of there. This TIF may include an apartment with 24 units. However, the developers claim it is more for commuters than families since it is planned to be near the train station.

Mr. Voehringer stated that it is national School Board Appreciation Day. He brought cake and thanked the board members for their time and hard work.

***Informational
Items***

***Enrollment
Report***

The total enrollment as of October 31, 2021 is 852 students broken down as follows:

PreK-5	546
6-8	292
PreK-8	838
Total (including NTDSE)	852

***Lunchroom
Report***

8014 lunches were sold during the month of October 2021.

***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 October 21, 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 any contracts and documents relating to business with Panorama education, specifically:

- (1) a copy of the signed contract with Panorama
- (2) a list of all payments made to Panorama
- (3) copies of all materials used by Panorama in training/curriculum per the contract
- (4) a list of all teachers and classes (students) who have been exposed or instructed to Panorama materials

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 October 21, 2021

RECOMMENDATION – No action is needed from the Board

***Action
Items***

***Approval of
Tax Levy***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Alper to approve the tax levy.

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

***Approval of
Resignation
Teacher
Assistant***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Alper to accept the resignation of Natalie Zak.

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

***Old
Business***

None

***New
Business***

There will not be a December board meeting.

***Audience
To
Visitors***

None

***Move to
Closed
Session***


At 7:58pm, a motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to move to closed session. All members were in favor.

***Move to
Open
Session***


At 8:28pm, a motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member McGivern to move to open session. All members were in favor.

Adjournment At 8:29pm, 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

