

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

September 18, 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; Katie McKee, Special Education Coordinator; Alana McCloskey, District Data Manager; Deirdre Koehler, Business Office Specialist; Jesse Chatz, Communications Director; Jaquelyn Le-Mon, Assistant Principal; John Wawczak, Principal; Matt Condon, Superintendent; and Jill Brocar, Board Secretary were in attendance. The following staff members were also in attendance: Johanna Arias-Pinto, Katlin McBrien, Sydney Starwalt, Sydney Esp, Shaiyna Gulati, Sarah Nelson, Vera Ratner, Lauren Robak, Brynn Schwab, and Kelli Murphy.

Audience

To
Visitors None

Approval of
Minutes
Regular Mtg
8/21/23

Copies of the minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on August 21, 2023 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 Meeting on August 21, 2023.

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

***Approval of
Deposits***

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

Student Lunch	\$12,110.00
Adult Lunch	\$5.00
School Fees	\$1,795.60
Donation	\$500.00
Refunds	\$3,736.99
TOTAL	\$18,147.59

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 August 2023.

Fund 10 - Education	\$176,945.66
Fund 20 - O&M	\$101,911.31
Fund 40 - Transportation	\$40,204.92
TOTAL	\$319,061.89

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. The revenue through August totals \$914,292; expenditures through August total \$1,602,618; and monthly expenditures for August total \$873,650. The current fund balance, which is as of the end of August 2023, is \$21,064,662 and the fund balance in August 2022 was \$20,576,601.

Mrs. Majchrowski reported that the finance committee met on August 28th to review the district's debt, and it was determined that it wouldn't make sense to pay off the debt early, mostly because the 2% interest rate that is being paid is significantly less than the 3.95% interest rate that is being earned on investments.

Also, the finance committee discussed planning for potential future construction. The goal is to avoid spending the fund balance paying off the debt and then having to ask taxpayers for even more money when the time comes for new construction.

Mrs. Majchrowski also went over the budget. School districts must adopt a budget by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. Prior to adoption, a School Board must place the tentative budget on public display for at least 30 days; schedule a date and time for a public hearing on the proposed budget; publish a "Notice of Public Hearing" in a newspaper of general circulation within the district; and conduct a public hearing on the date and at the time specified in the "Notice of Public Hearing".

Revenues are allocated to district funds based on accounting standards. Revenues are derived from three sources: local (taxes, payments in lieu of taxes, tuition, fees, earnings on investments, food service, activities, textbooks, and other); state (evidenced based funding and categorical aid); and federal (title, ESSER & IDEA grants).

The major revenue sources are property taxes 79%, other local revenue 11%, evidenced based funding 5%, federal revenue 4%, and other state revenue 1%.

Expenditures are allocated to district funds based on accounting standards. Expenditures are classified by one of eight objects: salaries, benefits, purchased services, supplies, capital outlay, other objects including debt and tuition payments, non-capitalized equipment, and termination benefits.

The major expenditures are salaries 50%, purchased services 15%, other objects 12%, benefits 11%, capital outlay 7%, supplies and materials 4%, and non-capitalized equipment 1%.

Some considerations for the budget regarding expenses include the following: there is an 18.08% increase in medical benefits, there are NTDSE building bonds, and there are roof and other capital projects. Some considerations for the budget regarding revenues are the ESSER III Grant and that the 2022 tax extension is unknown.

In summary, the budget is balanced in the operating funds. The total budgeted expenditures exceed revenues by \$895,202 (including \$1,087,394 spent on capital projects and NTDSE construction bonds). There is an estimated FY24 ending fund balance of \$20,837,657.

The cash balance and outstanding debt are as follows:

Fund	Cash Balance as of 6/30/23 (FY23)	Cash Balance as of 8/30/23 (FY24)
Education	\$14,440,042	\$13,867,629
Operations & Maintenance	\$965,408	\$686,129
Debt Service	\$291,741	\$299,716
Transportation	\$2,140,251	\$2,175,829
IMRF/SS	\$218,249	\$190,090
Capital Projects	\$1,221,902	\$1,225,213
Working Cash	\$2,459,830	\$2,468,392
Life Safety	\$653	\$654
Total	\$21,738,076	\$20,913,652

Outstanding debt totals \$895,000 for district bonds & \$599,704.50 for NTDSE construction bonds. The debt payment for FY24 will be \$344,600 for the district bonds and \$87,394 for the NTDSE construction bonds.

Mrs. Majchrowski also went over the transfer resolution. At the November 16, 2020 board meeting, the board approved paying for the Molloy renovation project over 10 years. Bonds were issued by the Niles Township District for Special Education (NTDSE) on behalf of District 70 and other member districts. Because revenues or other sources of funds are pledged to pay debt service on long-term debt, the money must be transferred into the Debt Service Fund and expended out of that fund. The transfer resolution authorizes the Treasurer to transfer \$87,394.18 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund into the Debt Service Fund for the District's upcoming debt services payments in FY24.

***Super-
Intendent
Report***

Mr. Condon introduced the newly tenured staff. They are Johanna Arias-Pinto, Katlin McBrien, and Sydney Starwalt. He also introduced the new teachers hired this school year. They are Jane Berg, Mary Davlin, Sydney Esp, Shaiyna Gulati, John Lazar, Evan Lerner, Sarah Nelson, Vera Ratner, Lauren Robak, Brynn Schwab, and Katherine Stief.

***Special
Education
Report***

Mrs. Alper reported on NTDSE's (Niles Township District for Special Education) ELL (English Language Learners) audit, ESY (Extended School Year) summaries, and the Molloy Ribbon Cutting and Open House.

***Education
Report***

Mr. Condon and Mr. Wawczak shared the curriculum night feedback survey. The Panorama database was used to ask ten questions focused on barriers to engagement, school climate, and free response. There was a five point Likert scale. Favorable equals not a problem at all or a small problem. Roughly 535 people attended, and there were 134 survey responses. The results were 90% favorable for barriers to engagement, 89% favorable for school climate, 84% favorable for free responses.

Barriers to engagement are factors that can create challenges for families to interact with or become involved with their child's school. A notable area of strength is that 93% of survey-takers responded favorably to the question, "Does the school communicate well with people from your culture?" A possible growth area is that 87% of survey-takers responded favorably to the question, "Do you worry that adults at the school will treat your child differently if you raise a concern?"

School climate is the perception of the overall social and learning climate of the school. A notable area of strength is 94% of survey-takers responded favorably to the question, "Overall, how much respect do you think the teachers at your child's school have for the children?" An area of possible growth is that 80% of survey-takers responded favorably to the question, "How fair or unfair is the school's system of evaluating children" and 84% responded favorably to the question, "Overall, how would you rate your experience at Curriculum Night?"

Some open-ended responses in the survey were "Wonderful to see our kids' environment, interact with other parents, and be able to engage with the teacher." and "Teacher and all staff are all very welcoming, respectful, and professional".

Ms. Le-mon reported on the mentor program. During the September mentor/mentee meeting, they discussed PowerSchool, log entries, and email. They also discussed teacher evaluation and expectations. They also discussed

“The Power of Expectations” and jigsaw strategy, which models a high-impact strategy and read a chapter from Tom Whittaker’s book.

***Informational
Items***

***Enrollment
Report***

There were 867 students enrolled as of August 31, 2023.

***FOIA
Requests***

There were no requests received in August 2023.

***Action
Items***

***Approval
Of
2023-2024
Budget***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Wilson to approve the budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

***Approval
Of
Transfer
Resolution***

A motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Thannert to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of \$87,394.18 from the Operations and Maintenance Fund into the Debt Service Fund for the District’s upcoming debt services payments in FY24.

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 Thannert to approve the resignation of Jaime Borda as a lunchroom/recess supervisor.

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

*Approval
Of
New Hire*

This was tabled.

*Old
Business*

None

*New
Business*

None

*Audience
To
Visitors*

None

Adjournment At 7:44pm, a motion was made by Member Torres and seconded by Member Pichon to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor.

Approved by:



President



Secretary

