

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Board of Education Meeting held on November 16, 2017

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 16th day of November 2017, in regular session at the Educational Service Center, 9440 Kenton Avenue, Skokie, Illinois, according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by the President of the Board, Una McGeough, who presided. Members of the Board were present as follows:

Present: Amy Anson
Frank Alkyer
Katrina Bell-Jordan
Richard Berk
Meghan Espinoza
Una McGeough
Joseph Ruffner

Absent: None

Also present were: James Garwood, Ed.D., superintendent of schools; Lisa Schwartz, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction; Ryan Berry, assistant superintendent of business and chief school business official; Peg Lasiewicki, Ed.D., executive director of special services; Nancy Battaglia, director of technology; Barbara Marler, Ed.D., director of EL services; Karen Bradley, Ed.D. principal; Robyn Huemmer, principal; Susan O'Neil, principal; Hal Schmeisser, principal; Greg Hanson, assistant principal; Phyllis Carlstrom, recording secretary; members of the staff and community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests to address the Board of Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Annual Audit 2017

Cheryden Juergensen, a representative from the auditing firm Eder, Casella, and Co., reviewed major points from the District's annual audit. Ms. Juergensen reported that the audit firm was issuing an unmodified opinion, which means the financial statements presented give a true and fair view, and that the district has acted in accordance with all requirements.

Ms. Juergensen stated that the school district has received a Financial Profile Score of 4.0 from the Illinois School Board of Education. This means we are in the highest category of financial strength - Financial Recognition. Any district with a 3.54-4.0 require little or no review or involvement by ISBE unless requested by the district.

2016-2017 Student Achievement Data Report

Lisa Schwartz, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, reviewed student MAP scores and student PARCC scores from the 2016-2017 school year. It was noted that most grade levels when compared to other school districts met the average RIT scores in math, all grade levels met and exceeded the average RIT score in English Language Arts.

PARCC scores show the District above the state average in all but one grade level in math, and in English Language Arts the District and the state are ranked the same. Mrs. Schwartz pointed out the many things in place to move the District forward to lead toward more student success including: using available student data, the MTSS committee, the EL program review, Math PD, special area staff, and Standards-based grading.

Additional review of available data and current curriculum will take place to help to determine focus areas for growth.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Garwood, superintendent of schools, noted that November 15, 2017, was School Board Members Day. The honorary day offers an opportunity to recognize the leadership provided by the Board of Education, and to thank them for their contribution toward building a stronger relationship between school board members, the community, faculty, and parents.

Dr. Garwood noted that the move from the MCC Academy to the new warehouse and files storage facility has begun.

READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Ruffner made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berk, that the minutes from the following meeting of the Board of Education be approved and placed on file:

- October 19, 2017, Board of Education Regular Meeting
- October 28, 2017, Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Alkyer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Espinoza, that the items on the Consent Agenda be approved, as presented, which included the items below:

- A. Personnel Report, including the recommendation by the administration for the termination of Amy Franco
- B. Financial Reports
- C. Approval of Pay Orders and Expenditures
- D. Board of Education Policy – 2nd Readings
- E. Destruction of Closed Session Audio Recording April 21, 2016, and May 19, 2016

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Niles Township District for Special Education (NTDSE) #807 Report

NTDSE does not hold a November meeting therefore there was no report.

IASB 2017 Delegate Assembly

Mr. Alkyer, District 68 board representative attending the Delegate Assembly, reviewed the items to be voted upon at the assembly with the rest of the board members to determine consensus so that he accurately represents the whole board when placing the vote for School District 68.

Financial Projections 2017-2023

Ryan Berry, assistant superintendent of business, and chief school business official, gave a presentation on the 2017-2023 Financial Projections. He noted that five-year financial projections are prepared each year to assist the Board of Education and Administration to plan for the future of the educational program and work to provide operational stability for the District. The projections are based on recent trends and the latest available information. Revenue and Expenditure assumptions were presented as follows:

Revenue Assumptions

- Tax revenues are projected within the constraints of maximum tax rates in each fund, the tax cap, and factor in estimates of new growth and tax appeals
- CPPTRR is projected to remain steady, without any increase or decrease
- Interest revenue is projected at a 1.75% rate of return on invested reserves
- Student fee revenue is projected to remain constant with fee increases offset by increases in low income waivers
- Lunch fees are anticipated to remain constant
- Reimbursements and other local revenue are projected to increase 2% per year
- State aid is projected based on the latest information available
- Federal aid is projected to remain constant as a result of changes to Title I
- Working Cash Bonds are issued as previous bonds are retired, with the proceeds transferred to the Education Fund and the Operations and Maintenance Fund each year to cover the gap between revenues and expenditures

Expenditure Assumptions

- Enrollment is projected to remain constant at the 2017-18 level
- Total salary costs are projected to increase 2.0% to 3.70% by employee group based on average increases over the last five years
- Benefit costs are expected to increase 8% per year
- The state pension cost shift to school districts is projected to begin in 2018-19 at a cost of 0.5% of TRS salaries, increasing by 0.5% each year
- Annual capital building expenditures are projected to increase for ongoing projects such as roofing and capital maintenance equipment
- Cost increases for other expenditures are estimated based on recent trends as follows:
 - Services increase 5% per year
 - Materials increase 5% per year
 - Utilities increase 3% per year
 - Special education tuition costs increase 8% per year
 - IMRF and Social Security increase 3.25% per year
- Expenditure projections exclude contingency amounts and estimated unspent budget in each fund

The full report can be found [HERE](#).

Tentative Tax Levy 2017

Mr. Berry informed the Board that based on projections of needed revenue for the 2018-19 programs, the 2017 levy is proposed at a level to sustain access to the maximum tax revenues under the tax cap.

The 2017 total tax rate for the District (excluding the Bond and Interest Fund) is restricted to the rate limit imposed by the tax cap. The rate limit is derived by increasing the 2016 extension by the 2016 consumer price index (cpi) of 2.1%, and then dividing it by the 2017 EAV of the district minus any new property.

Since information on the 2017 new property amount will not be available until after May, 2018, the estimated levy is based on new growth of \$15,000,000 to ensure that the District's maximizes operating revenue from any new growth; however, actual new growth is estimated at \$2,000,000 for the 2017 tax year based on the impact of economic conditions on new construction in the district.

The levy will be on the December board meeting agenda as an action item. The full report on the tax levy can be found [HERE](#).

Tax Rate Information

Mr. Berry demonstrated how a homeowner's tax bill is broken down and what percentages are paid out to different governing bodies, along with an explanation of the Equalized Assessed Value. At the December board meeting, Mr. Berry will provide a further explanation for understanding of a homeowner's tax bills.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Garwood reviewed the draft strategic plan work that came out of the committee meeting that took place on October 28, 2017. An editing committee suggested some editing modifications to the document which were discussed by the Board at this meeting. Several additional edits were recommended for the document. Dr. Garwood stated that the next step in the process would be for action items to be developed with the district administrative team for each of the goal areas. These will be brought back to the Board for review and recommendations at the regular December board meeting to be held on December 21, 2107.

Board of Education Policy – 1st Reading

Policy 4:110 – Transportation

Any school district that accepts Title funds must add a statement to this policy that children in foster care will receive transportation services as required under Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Policy 5:90 – Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

Reporting contact information is updated, along with several references.

ACTION ITEM(S)

2018-2019 School Calendar

Dr. Anson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berk, to approve the 2018-2019 school calendar, as presented. It was noted that the original calendar posted with the agenda was updated to reflect a change of date for November parent/teacher conferences.

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

Dr. Anson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruffner, to approve the Board's Attorney and the Administration's recommendation for the closed session minutes from the following meetings of the Board of Education as follows:

The first and/or second review of the closed session minutes for the following meeting dates will be approved for release:

May 18, 2017
February, 2017
January 19, 2017
December 15, 2016
November 17, 2016
October 20, 2016
September 15, 2016

The first review of the closed session minutes for the following meeting dates will be approved for partial release:

April 20, 2017
March 16, 2017

No changes were recommended for any other earlier reviewed minutes.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

School Report Cards

The 2017 Illinois School Report Cards have been released, and were presented to the Board of Education as an information item. They will also be posted on the District's website, and will be available to the media or parents upon request.

Freedom of Information Act Requests and/or Responses

Mrs. McGeough reported on one (1) Freedom of Information Act requests received by the district during the period of October 14, 2017, through November 10, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Alkyer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berk, to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Richard Berk, Secretary
Board of Education

Una McGeough, President
Board of Education