

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting held on November 15, 2018

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The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018, 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 7:02 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  
Richard Berk  
Meghan Espinoza  
Una McGeough  
Joseph Ruffner

Absent: Katrina Bell-Jordan

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

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests to address the Board of Education.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

##### 2017-2018 Student Achievement Data Report and School Improvement Process Update

Dr. Eden Olson, a consultant who works with the District, presented an overall picture of District 68 student growth and achievement using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) data from the 2017-2018 school year.

Dr. Samojedny, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, presented on the SMART School Improvement Process (SSIP) which is built on the premise of a cycle of inquiry, shared leadership, data, and research-based strategies and solutions. The SMART process will be implemented for the 2019-2020 school year. She showed examples of the five-step process that starts with building capacity in an organization for professional dialogue about current practices, beliefs about student learning, and alignment with a district's strategic plan.

##### New Illinois Report Cards and Summative Designations

Dr. Garwood, superintendent of schools, stated that all of District 68's schools received the summative designation of Commendable for 2017-18. He went on to explain the indicators and their corresponding weights used to determine the school rating system designations of Exemplary, Commendable, Under-Performing, and Lowest-Performing which are as follows:

- Student Growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math (50%)
- Chronic Student Absenteeism (20%)
- ELA Proficiency (10%)
- Math Proficiency (10%)
- English Learner (EL) Progress to Proficiency (5%)
- School Climate (5%)

The new accountability system still uses the student sub-group (20+ students in a school from a sub-group) system established under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The expectation is that 90% of all students will Meet or Exceed standards in ELA and Math by 2032.

### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Garwood, reported on the following:

- Dr. Garwood noted that November 15 is Board Member Appreciation Day and thanked the board members for their dedication to the children of our district. He also congratulated the Board on receiving the Illinois Association School Board Governance Recognition award.
- The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has issued new mandates regarding school calendars which includes two additional student attendance days, and also changed the definition of a school day. Once these mandates are reviewed and applied, an updated draft calendar for the 2019-2020 school year will be brought to the Board for discussion.

### READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

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

- October 18, 2018, Board of Education Regular Meeting
- October 18, 2018, Board of Education Closed Session

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Anson 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
- B. Financial Reports
- C. Approval of Pay Orders and Expenditures
- D. Destruction of Audio Recordings from Board of Education Closed Sessions: 3/16/17 and 4/20/17

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

### REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Financial Projections 2018-2024

Mr. Berry, assistant superintendent for business and CSBO, gave a presentation to the Board on the financial projections for 2018-2024. The highlights were 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
  - The tax cap is projected at 1.44% for 2018 and future years (average of last five years)
  - The Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) of existing property in the district is projected to increase of 3% in triennial reassessment years and 0% in non-triennial year

- New property growth is estimated at \$1.5 million per year, which is an increase from the recent low of \$1 million in 2012 but a dramatic change from the high of \$58.6 million in 2007
- 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
  - Evidence Based Funding was voted into law in September 2018
  - Funding to stay level for 3 years and then dip each year starting in FY 2021
- 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 2018-19 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 2019-20 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 2018

Mr. Berry informed the Board that based on projections of needed revenue for the 2019-2020 programs, the 2018 levy is proposed at a level to sustain access to the maximum tax revenues under the tax cap.

Based on projections of needed revenue for the 2019-20 programs, the 2018 levy is proposed at a level to sustain access to the maximum tax revenues under the tax cap.

The 2018 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 2017 extension by the 2017 consumer price index (cpi) of 2.1%, and then dividing it by the 2018 EAV of the district minus any new property.

Since information on the 2018 new property amount will not be available until after May 2019, 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 \$2,500,000 for the 2018 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 2018

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.

Board of Education Policy

Policy 4:80 – Accounting and Audits

*Additional language was proposed for the policy per 105 ILCS 5/10-20.19(2); 23 Ill.Admin.Code §100.70.*

Policy 6:60 – Curriculum Content

*A unit of study, cursive writing, is added to mandatory curriculum content required by Public Act 100-548.*

**ACTION ITEMS**

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

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

The closed session minutes for the following meeting date was approved for release: April 19, 2018.

The closed session minutes for the following dates will be kept closed in part, and opened in part: February 15, 2018, and May 17, 2018.

The closed session minutes for the following meeting will be remain closed: December 21, 2018.

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

**COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION**

School Report Cards 2018

School Report Cards were presented to the Board and made available to the public as required by state law (105 ILCS 5/10-17a).

**CLOSED SESSION**

Dr. Anson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Espinoza, to go into closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried. The Board recessed at 9:05 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 9:41 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Alkyer, and seconded by Dr. Anson.

The motion carried unanimously by the members present.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Anson, Berk, Espinoza, McGeough, Ruffner

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

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Richard Berk, Secretary  
Board of Education

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Una McGeough, President  
Board of Education