

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting held on April 16, 2020

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met in a virtual setting on the 16th day of April 2020. Executive Order 2020-07, issued by JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, provides that Open Meetings Act provisions requiring or relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body are suspended for the duration of the Disaster Proclamation.

The virtual 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 virtually present as follows:

Present: Frank Alkyer
Katrina Bell-Jordan
Meghan Espinoza
Jinu Joseph
Una McGeough
Joseph Ruffner
Jeffrey Sterbenc

Absent: None

Also virtually 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; Crissy Mombela, director of special services; Phyllis Carlstrom, recording secretary; Derek Senn, chief technology officer; Brian Ritz, coordinator of curriculum and school improvement; and additional members of the staff and community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Matt Tomenillie, Education Association Co-President, stated his deep appreciation for the care, effort, and support that the administration and staff were putting into the change from an in-school learning environment to an online platform.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

District 68 E-Learning

Brian Ritz, coordinator of curriculum and school improvement; and Derek Senn, chief technology officer; gave an overview of the E-Learning platform that was newly developed in order to provide District 68 students with remote learning lessons and activities. Student and teacher access were demonstrated, as well as available reports generated from this software to provide data for teachers and administrators.

Special Education Learning Team Presentation

Crissy Mombela, director of special services, presented the Board with the process used during the outcomes of the two-year long Special Education Learning Team which included final recommendations on professional learning, IEP procedures, a continuum of services, family connections, and the addition of student voice.

Grades 6-8 Math Adoption

Christie Samojedny, Ed.D., assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, provided the Board with a summary of the steps taken by the Junior High team that led to the resources considered for a pilot program to help determine the best mathematics resource for our students. After reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of available resources, the team has concluded that the curriculum resource that will best serve our students, including Algebra, is Carnegie for Sixth through Eighth grade.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. James Garwood, superintendent of schools, stated that it was anticipated that the Governor would close schools until the end of the school year. He noted that the number of meals being given out rose to 400 on this day and anticipates that number will continue to rise the longer we are closed.

Dr. Garwood sent out a special thank you to Mr. Ryan Berry, assistant superintendent of business and chief school business official; Mr. Ernie Nelson, director of operations; and Mr. Cozeake Nelson, transportation coordinator; along with the drivers, teachers, and volunteers for the work they have done, and continue to do, to provide meals to our families in need. If there are leftover meals each day, they are being donated to the Village of Skokie Food Pantry. Dr. Garwood also noted how nice it was that Joanne Fuller, teacher at Jane Stenson, organized an outdoor sign campaign so that students know that teachers continue to think of them and miss them.

Many things are being considered as we navigate the end of the school year such as what 8th-grade graduation might look like, the end of the school year for all students and all that entails, summer school, and holding the district Highlights publication until late summer or fall.

READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

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

- March 19, 2020, Board of Education Regular Meeting;

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Bell-Jordan, Espinoza, Joseph, McGeough, Ruffner, Sterbenc

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Bell-Jordan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sterbenc, 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. Board of Education Policy – Second Reading
 - 1. 5:150 Personnel Records
 - 2. 5:280 Duties and Qualifications
 - 3. 6:135 Accelerated Placement
 - 4. 6:235 Access to Electronic Records
 - 5. 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
 - 6. 7:70 Attendance and Truancy
 - 7. 7:150 Agency and Police Interviews
 - 8. 7:190 Student Behavior
 - 9. 7:235 Student Fundraising Activities
 - 10. 7:270 Administering Medicine at School
 - 11. 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- E. Grade 6-8 Math Resource – Carnegie Learning

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Bell-Jordan, Espinoza, Joseph, McGeough, Ruffner, Sterbenc

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board of Education Policy – First Reading

The following polices were discussed:

2:125 Board member Compensation

105 ILCS 5/10-22.32 authorizes advancements the Board to advance to its members actual and necessary expenses to be incurred while attending: 1. Meetings sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education or by the Intermediate Service Center; 2. County or regional meetings and the annual meeting sponsored by any school board association complying with Article 23 of the School Code; and 3. Meetings sponsored by a national organization in the field of public school education. 30 ILCS 708/130 requires any travel expenses charged to federal or state grants must comply with policy 5:60, Expenses.

5:60 Expenses

Per 30 ILCS 708/130, Boards are required to follow the rules under newly added subheading “Additional Requirements for Travel Expenses Charged to Federal and State Grants” when they use grant money to reimburse employee travel expenses charged to federal pass-through grants and State grants covered by GATA.

6:280 Grading and Promotion

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64 contained the State assessment program until it was repealed by P.A. 98-972. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(b) requires ISBE to “establish the academic standards that are to be applicable to students who are subject to State assessments.” Language referring to PARCC is removed.

8:110 Public Suggestions and Concerns

The Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act requires employers to establish email policies in an effort to prohibit the use of its email system by outside sources. 115 ILCS 5/14(c-5), added by P.A. 101-620. Policy 6:235, Access to Electronic Networks, states that the district’s network, which includes its email system, is not a public forum for general use. Further, acceptable uses of the network by any party are limited to uses in support of education and/or research or for legitimate school business purposes.

ACTION ITEMS

Establish Time and Place of 2020-2021 Board of Education Regular Meetings

Mrs. Espinoza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruffner, to approve the meeting schedule of the Skokie School District 68 Board of Education for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented. This schedule allows for meetings to take place on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m., and will be held at the Skokie School District 68 Educational Service Center.

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Bell-Jordan, Espinoza, Joseph, McGeough, Ruffner, Sterbenc

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A roll call was held with the following results:

AYE: Alkyer, Bell-Jordan, Espinoza, Joseph, McGeough, Ruffner, Sterbenc

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Una McGeough, President
Board of Education

Katrina Bell-Jordan, Secretary
Board of Education