

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

ROLL CALL: (7:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Detlefsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and upon roll call, the following were present:

Present: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Hayes, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Welch,
Ms. Alpert Knight, Mr. Subeck

Absent: Mr. Spaan

Also Present: Dr. Stange, Mr. Beerheide, Dr. Sukenik, Mrs. Kiedaisch,
Mrs. Styczen, Mr. Dreher, Ms. Dunham

**VOTE TO ALLOW
VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION:**

Mrs. Peterson moved to approve the virtual participation of Mr. Spaan. Mr. Hayes second the motion, The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Ms. Alpert Knight, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Welch,
Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Subeck

Absent: Mr. Spaan

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Welch moved to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Subeck second the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Welch,
Ms. Alpert Knight, Mr. Subeck, Mrs. Peterson

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange reported one FOIA request for a list of District 29 names and contact information.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed the revised Board Meeting Calendar, which includes all Board and Committee meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Audience Comments

There were no audience comments.

5.2 Board Open Discussion

The Board discussed the process by which committees are formed. After the elections, it is generally accepted practice for Board members to inform the Board President of any interest in, or skill set that may lend itself to, certain committee positions, after which the Board President makes the final assignments.

5.3 Discussion: 2021-2022 District Calendar

The Board discussed the 2021-2022 District Calendar. As outlined in the District 29 Collective Bargaining Agreement, our school year consists of 182 staff work days (177 student attendance days, 3 institute days, and 2 parent/teacher conference days). Next year, several of the religious holidays fall on weekdays rather than weekends, which gives the appearance that the year is longer than usual.

5.4 Discussion and Possible Approval: Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Vaping Litigation

The Board discussed a Resolution authorizing our legal team to represent District 29 in a mass action lawsuit seeking to recover damages from Juul Laboratories for costs incurred from the vaping epidemic that has affected middle and high school aged children across the nation.

After Dr. Stange read the Resoltuion in full, the Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Alpert Knight,
Mr. Subeck, Mrs. Peterson

Absent: None

Nay: Mr. Spaan, Mr. Welch

THE RESOLUTUION WAS APPROVED

REPORTS:

6.1 Return to School Task Force

After reviewing the latest local, regional, and District metrics, Dr. Stange reported that the Task Force reevaluated its purpose and methods, and explored new ways to continue to constructively serve the District in the second half of the year. He also noted the addition of two parent members on the Task Force (Mrs. Seong McGarry and Mrs. Caroline Murokh).

6.2 Finance and Facilities Committee Report

6.2a Discussion: 2020 Tax Levy Public Hearing

At 7:52 p.m., Mr. Welch moved to open the Tax Levy Public Hearing.. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Alpert Knight,
Mr. Subeck, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Welch

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

After no comments were received, Mr. Hayes moved and Mr. Spaan seconded to close the Tax Levy Public Hearing at 7:54 p.m. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Alpert Knight,
Mr. Subeck, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Welch
Absent: None
Nay: None
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

6.2b Discussion and Possible Approval: 2020 Tax Levy

After a brief discussion, Mr. Hayes moved to approved the 2020 Tax Levy. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Alpert Knight,
Mr. Subeck, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Welch
Absent: None
Nay: None
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

6.2c Discussion and Possible Approval: Resolution

Authorizing a Supplemental Tax Levy to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Outstanding Limited Bonds of the District.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Hayes moved to approved the Supplemental Tax Levy. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Alpert Knight,
Mr. Subeck, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Welch
Absent: None
Nay: None
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

6.3 Education Committee Report

Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that administration led a thorough presentation comparing remote learning as it was in the spring to present day, highlighting lessons learned and continued areas for growth. The next meeting is March 9, 2021, at 6pm.

6.4 Policy Committee Report

The next meeting is January 5, 2021, time TBD.

6.5 External Relations

6.5a IASB

Board member Mr. Scott Subeck reported that he attended the virtual Annual Conference, and all of the Resolutions that the IASB Resolutions Committee recommended to adopt were

adopted. However, the proposed resolution supporting advocating for improved gun storage laws in the state of Illinois, which the District 29 Board had voted to support, was not approved.

6.5b PTO

Dr. Stange reported that their fundraising campaign has been very successful, and that the PTO Gifts proposals are in their last stages of review. The Northwestern Settlement House gift project was a huge hit with families, and both schools are looking forward to upcoming author visits. The next Parent Connections Committee meetings will profile the Advanced Learners Program and our Kindergarten program.

6.5c NSSED

Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that they have gone remote through mid-January, but remain available to provide services to in-person districts if needed. They are working closely with individual schools to work on the logistics of providing services in any scenario.

6.5d Northfield Park District

There was no report.

6.5e Village of Northfield

There was no report.

6.5f Foundation Fund

There was no report.

6.6 Administrative Reports

6.6a Enrollment Update

Dr. Stange reviewed the latest enrollment data noting that five new students are joining the District in the new year and two students have recently left.

6.6b Staffing Update

Dr. Stange reported that the District is seeking to fill a maternity leave substitute and teaching assistant position.

6.6c School and Department Updates

Dr. Ivy Sukenik and Mrs. Jen Keidaisch thanked the District 29 families for the generosity displayed during the Northwestern Settlement House project. The Social Justice Committee is providing meaningful activities for staff to engage in during small group meetings that provide opportunities to dive deep into the experience of personal identity. After winter break, it is expected that more students will be returning to in-person school. In preparation, staff is exploring ways to expose students to different Exploratories, and will communicate any changes in the schedules to families as plans become finalized. The partnership with the Park District regarding their afterschool program has been very successful. Thank you to all the teachers and staff for rising to every occasion and exceeding every expectation.

Mr. Beerheide reported that the application for \$53,000 reimbursement of COVID expenses that was promised by FEMA has been denied. However, we are working on an appeal. It seems only a fraction of expenses nationwide have been reimbursed. We are likely to receive some payment from the state, but anticipate it will be very small. Mr. Dreher reported that we are working on getting estimates to modify classroom space, but it is unlikely we will be able to do any meaningful work towards that before the year ends.

CLOSED SESSION: At 8:39 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Subeck and seconded by Mrs. Peterson that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes of the November 10, 2020 Board meetings; to consider information regarding employment, compensation, discipline, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel; to discuss the placement of individuals in special education programs or matters related to individual students; and to discuss potential litigation. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Alpert Knight,
Mr. Subeck, Mr. Welch, Mrs. Peterson

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**RESUMPTION OF
OPEN MEETING:**

Upon resumption of the open meeting at 9:12 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

10.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – November 10, 2020

Mr. Welch moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Subeck seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Alpert
Knight, Mr. Subeck, Mr. Welch, Mrs. Peterson

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mr. Hayes and seconded by Mr. Subeck to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. All were in favor.



President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Approved  2021

