

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

ROLL CALL: (7:05 p.m.)

Mr. Spaan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and upon roll call, the following were present:

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

Absent: None

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mrs. Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Mr. Hayes seconded 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 from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association soliciting information on District 29 teachers that are retiring this year, of which there were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board Orientation Session

The Board discussed the logistics regarding new Board member orientation meetings. These take place before new members are seated in order for them to be well informed when their term starts.

Strategic Planning Update

The Board reviewed several consultants as possibilities for Strategic Planning facilitators.

Discussion and Possible Approval: Technology Fees

Director of Technology and Innovation Mrs. Sheri Styczen reviewed our practice of charging a \$55 technology fee, proposing that we discontinue it in favor of charging for repairs and replacements as they arise. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Alpert Knight seconded 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

NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Audience Comments

Community member Mrs. Bridget Kennedy and Mrs. Rosemary Wormley each contributed an emailed statement in support of moving towards safe, full in-person instruction.

5.2 Board Open Discussion

The Board discussed moving towards a biannual, rather than a quarterly, community newsletter. Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson agreed to provide a written summary of the newsletter's history, goals, content patterns, etc., in order to better guide the discussion.

REPORTS:

6.1 Return to School Task Force

Board member Ms. Alpert Knight opened the discussion by commending the staff, administration, and families on their collective efforts towards our success, noting that we should all be very proud of what we have accomplished thus far. Superintendent Dr. Stange reported that the Task Force reviewed regional and local metrics, recognizing the steadily improving trends. District 29 continues to work with New Trier Township districts on creating a vaccination site at New Trier's Northfield campus. While some area districts have been able to negotiate "deals" through local contacts, our group is working through a public application process with authorities and pharmacy companies. Dr. Stange was happy to report that approximately 90% of our staff have received, or will in the next two weeks, at least one dose of the vaccine. The Task Force reviewed our mitigation strategies, understanding which ones could be loosened or tightened. Their recommendations were:

- Temperature checks will be discontinued, although staff will remain on site for arrival to assure that students are approved for attendance
- Desk shields will be kept in place
- Face masks will continue to be required
- Face shields will be allowed but not required

The Board discussed the logistics of moving towards a full in-person school day. There are many factors that inform that decision, such as metrics, vaccination rates, mitigations, recommendations from CCDPH, and the Collective Bargaining agreement with our teacher's union. Some considerations moving forward are:

- The logistics of having PE, lunch, and other specials given space and capacity limitations
- The need to provide a duty-free lunch and planning periods for teachers, as per the Collective Bargaining contract
- Understanding how instructional minutes are being used most effectively during a day that may require several breaks or transitions

The Board agreed that our goal is to move towards a full day of in-person school as soon as possible in an environment that is safe for both students and staff. Considering vaccination rates and weather, and understanding that conditions can change, it is most likely that District 29 will extend the in-person day after Spring Break. The next meeting is March 8, 2021, at 3:30 pm.

6.2 Finance and Facilities Committee Report

The next meeting is April 13, 2021, at 6pm.

6.3 Education Committee Report

The next meeting is March 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

6.4 Policy Committee Report

The next meeting is March 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

6.5 External Relations

6.5a IASB

Dr. Stange reported that there is some debate from the public over their new Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Standards.

6.5b PTO

Board member Mrs. Peterson reported that they have found a new vendor for their school supplies orders, the annual Book Fair will be held before spring break at/through Barnes and Noble, and their benefit fundraising efforts are still going strong with 193 families participating.

6.5c NSSD

Board member Mr. Hayes reported that the impact on other districts of the intergovernmental agreement between Districts 27, 28, 30, and 31 to provide their own early childhood services continues to be studied. NSSD is looking at future enrollment to understand what adjustments will be needed. They are applying for grants to help cover their approximately \$500K in COVID19 expenses, as they are not eligible for CARES Act funds. Additionally, their facilities review is underway.

6.5d Northfield Park District

There was no report.

6.5e Village of Northfield

Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that the Village has approved zoning amendments that would allow cannabis dispensaries within village limits in very specific locations.

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 District will be sending out a parent survey soon to collect information on how many students will be in-person or remote at the trimester. Enrollment remains steady, with 87.1% in-person at Middlefork and 87.8% in-person at Sunset Ridge.

6.6b Staffing Update

Dr. Stange reported that the we continue to interview for the Network Manager/Data Security Specialist position.

6.6c School and Department Updates

Mrs. Keidaisch: Dedicated Dolphins are working on a Family Fun Book as a fundraiser benefitting several local non-profits.

Everyone is very happy with the safe additions of in-person Specials! Crossing pods is going well, and we are better able to do evaluations and meet individual needs. Staff is finalizing plans for approaching Institute days, looking to focus on social justice activities and collaboration time.

Dr. Sukenik: SELPAC met and discussed screen time and the Netflix production The Social Dilemma. The environment at SRS has been very student centered. Students are being encouraged to build on their own ideas and flex their voices! We are working with the 8th grade chairs to create opportunities to celebrate our 8th graders.

Ms. Dunham: For the past 2 years, in partnership with NSSED, we have operated a Structured Learning Environment classroom (SLE) for area students who are higher needs with significant disabilities at Middlefork. In looking at enrollment for the 2021/22 school year, we see that we will have enough District 29 students who qualify for those services to enable us to create a class made up of just D29 students. After discussion, the Board recommended the District hire an SLE teacher, while continuing to draw on NSSED supports. Additionally, we are wrapping up our student assessments with NSSED, and providing more teacher training in working with English Language learners.

Mrs. Styzen: The Innovation Team has been incredible, with a special shout out to Jacquie Kotula! The Innovation team meets with curriculum teams every 2 weeks to better understand how they can be supportive.

Mr. Dreher: The heating system is scheduled to be fixed next week, weather permitting, and many companies will be taking part in a deep dive to figure out what caused it. We are working with our legal team to make sure we are covered for any expenses.

Mr. Beerheide: FEMA has now said they will be reimbursing districts for COVID19 expenses, of which our share is around \$52K. The delay in property tax payments will not affect us. Our food service and transportation expenses are down this year, as we are not using those services.

CLOSED SESSION: At 9:30 p.m. it was moved by Mr. Hayes and seconded by Mrs. Peterson that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting; to discuss the release of closed session minutes and the destruction of the verbatim record; 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; to discuss potential litigation; and to discuss collective bargaining. 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 10:45 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

10.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – January 12, 2021

Mr. Welch moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Detlefsen 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

10.2 Approval: Letter of Resignation (A. Handelman)

Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approve the resignation as presented. Ms. Alpert Knight 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 Mrs. Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 p.m. All were in favor.



President, Board of Education

Approved



Secretary, Board of Education
, 2021

