

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
July 14, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

ROLL CALL: (7:03 p.m.)

Mr. Spaan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and upon roll call, the following were present:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Stange, Mr. Beerheide, Mts. Kiedaisch, Dr. Sukenik, Mrs. Styczen, Mrs. Malan, Ms. Laughlin, Mr. Zeidler Mr. Dreher, Ms. Dunham, Mr. Iverson, Mrs. Corral, Mrs. McGarry, Approximately 150 staff and community members participated via Zoom teleconference.

CONSENT AGENDA:

After discussing specific policies, Mrs. Alpert Knight moved to approved the consent agenda and Mrs. Peterson 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:

Dr. Stange shared a thank-you note from Sunset Ridge teacher Mrs. Heather Johnson, a letter from Sunset Ridge teacher Mrs. Michele Widdes urging the Board to reflect on its policies and procedures in order to eliminate any areas of implicit bias, an email from District parent Mr. Charlie Pick suggesting that there be an option to “opt out” of in-person learning in the fall, an email from District parent Mr. Bob Goldstine asking if the District had considered using outdoor tent classrooms, an email from District parent Mr. Nino Miceli requesting the District go to full remote learning in the fall, and an email from District parent Mrs. Maria Mastroianni asking for information on appropriate masks for school. Dr. Stange also shared a draft copy of the quarterly Board Newsletter that will be arriving in mailboxes later this month.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed the Board Meeting calendar, noting that the June 2021 meeting may be changed so as not to conflict with the last days of school. Also noted was the fact that the July 21, 2020, Education Committee meeting has been changed to be a special Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Audience Comments

District parent Mr. Kyle Iverson urged the Board to consider going with a

full-remote plan for opening school in order to avoid bouncing back and forth between in-person and remote if the District starts to see COVID-19 cases in its student body. District parent Mrs. Heather Corral advised the Board to open in-person at least to start in order to establish student-to-student and teacher-to-student relationships.

5.2 Board Open Discussion

The Board discussed making the monthly Board Meeting Packets available to the public. It was decided to consult legal counsel to gather more information.

5.3 Discussion and Possible Approval: 2020-2021 District Calendar

The Board discussed changes to the 2020/21 District Calendar, Mr. Subeck moved to approve the revised calendar as presented and Mr. Spaan 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

REPORTS:

6.1 Return to School Task Force

Board Member Mr. Adelbert Spaan thanked the Task Force members for their thoughtful and comprehensive work creating the continuum of learning plans in support of a safe and healthy return to school for both staff and students. Recognizing that while no plan could possibly please everyone, he urged all stakeholders to exercise flexibility and patience as we refine a plan that is best for District 29. Dr. Stange started by describing the structure of both the Task Force (comprised of Board members, teacher union leadership, teachers, staff, and administration) and the Advisory Committee (comprised of District parents and local experts in related fields). Dr. Stange described the resources the Task Force used to guide the creation of the back-to-school plan, which include guidance documents from leading institutions, current updates from the CDC, ISBE, and the IDPH, collaborative work with leadership from surrounding districts, and survey data collected from our school community. Dr. Stange emphasized the key principles that guided the Task Force's difficult work, which are:

1. To promote a healthy physical learning and working environment.
2. To provide meaningful academic engagement.
3. To address social/emotional needs.
4. To facilitate connections with students and families.
5. To provide appropriate training and resources.

Dr. Stange reiterated that while we cannot predict how the opening of school will go, the District remains committed to providing a plan that mitigates known risks, is implemented logically and systematically, is continually evaluated for efficacy, and is driven by data.

Dr. Stange presented the proposed Back-to-School Plan, which is made up of 4 stages:

Stage I, Full Remote

- 8:30-3:15, all instruction is provided remotely through eLearning

Stage II, Partial In-Person Learning (28 days)

- 8:30-12:30, in-person instruction at school, lunch is not included
- 1:30-3:15, remote instruction provided through eLearning

Stage III, Graduated In-Person Learning (14 days)

- 8:30-1:30, in-person instruction at school, including lunch and an Elective class
- 2:00-3:15, remote instruction provided through eLearning

Stage IV, Full In-Person Learning (evaluated on a 14-day schedule)

- 8:30-3:15, all courses are taught in person at school.

The full draft document of the Back-to-School plan is available on our website at

https://www.sunsetridge29.org/news/what_s_new/d29_return_to_school_plan

The Board discussed the plan, agreeing that the Task Force did a thorough and thoughtful job under impossible circumstances. The Board agreed that, at this time, the District is unable to provide a parallel fully remote program that students could choose to opt in to, instead of attending in-person school, due to staffing needs and efficacy concerns. Dr. Stange added that the draft plan and an accompanying survey would be sent to District families on Wednesday.

6.2 Finance/Facilities Committee

6.2a Report from July 14, 2020 Meeting

Mr. Subeck reported that GDI has started custodial services in our buildings, and regularly scheduled maintenance, along with a deep cleaning, is almost completed. The Board discussed the potential project of replacing all or some of Middlefork's mini blinds with roller shades. Director of Buildings and Grounds Mr. Dreher described the PPE, and other necessary equipment, that the District has either procured or has been ordered. This includes disposable and washable facemasks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, touchless towel dispensers, touchless soap dispensers, face shields, and desk shields.

6.2b. Discussion and Possible Approval: Referee Pay Rates Contract

The Board discussed the pay rates for referees and proposed increase to bring the District in line with other Township schools. Mrs. Peterson moved to approved the new rates as presented and Mr. Spaan 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

6.2c. Discussion and Possible Approval: 2020-2021 Tentative Budget

Chief School Business Official Mr. Tom Beerheide presented the Tentative 2020-21 budget. Mr. Hayes moved to approved the budget as presented and Mr. Spaan 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

The next meeting is October 13, 2020, at 6pm.

6.3 Education Committee

The next meeting will be held on September 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

6.4 Policy Committee

6.3a First Reading: Board Policy Section 600 (Instruction)

The Board had a first reading of Board Policy sections 400 (Instruction), with special attention to policies 640 (Curriculum Research, Development, and Adoption), 650 (School Wellness), 667 (Teaching about Controversial Issues), 681 (Remote Educational Programs), and 682 (Extra Curricular Activities).

The next meeting is July 17, 2020, at 9am.

6.5 External Relations

6.5a IASB

Ms. Alpert Knight reported that the Board employed a representative from IASB to mediate a Board Self-Evaluation, during which best practices were discussed. The process is ongoing.

6.5b PTO

Mrs. Peterson reported that she will be reaching out to leadership regarding the concerns mentioned by Mrs. Michele Widdes' in her letter to the Board.

6.5c NSSD

Mr. Hayes reported that their teacher union agreements have been approved, and they are making their back-to-school plans.

6.5d Northfield Park District

Dr. Stange reported that they are interested in partnering with the District in order to fill the need for childcare as we move slowly to in-person school.

6.5e Village of Northfield

Dr. Stange reported that he has been in communication with the Village Manager regarding our back-to-school plans.

6.5f Foundation Fund

There was no report.

6.6 Administrative Reports

6.6a Enrollment Update

Dr. Stange reported that registration was completed for 59 Kindergarten students.

6.6b Staffing Update

Dr. Stange reported that the District is currently advertising for available positions.

6.6 c School Reports

Dr. Stange welcomed Mrs. Jennifer Kiedaisch officially as Middlefork Principal!

Dr. Sukenik: We are reviewing our snack policy and procedures in preparation for going back to school in the fall, and evaluating how our student cohorts will be formed.

Mrs. Kiedaisch: Everyone is working hard towards the goal of opening school and collaborating on plans.

Ms. Emily Dunham: The staff is reviewing our food allergy prevention and response practices.

Mrs. Sheri Styczen: Work continues on the new online parent resource site.

CLOSED SESSION: At 8:57 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Detlefsen and seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes June 9, 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 9:35 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

10.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – June 9, 2020

Mrs. Peterson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Hayes 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: Resignation of Amanda Martinsen

Mr. Hayes moved to approve the resignation as presented. Mrs. Peterson 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

10.3 Approval: Resignation of Nisa Fayyaz

Mr. Welch moved to approve the resignation as presented. Mr. Hayes 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

10.4 Approval: Maternity Leave Request (S. Dengsevang)

Mr. Subeck moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Peterson 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

10.5 Approval: Employment of Margaret O'Brien

Mr. Welch moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Hayes 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

10.6 Approval: Employment of Jillian Wiedrich

Mr. Welch moved to approve the request 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

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ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Ms. Alpert Knight seconded by Mr. Subeck to adjourn the meeting at 9:40p.m. All were in favor.



President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Approved  , 2020
