

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 11, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

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

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

Present: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck

Absent: None

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Welch moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Zeidler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange reported that there was one FOIA request from J Doe related to salary and benefits of non-certified staff. Dr. Stange confirmed with legal counsel that D29 is obligated to respond to anonymous requests and provided the requested documents.

OLD BUSINESS:

4.1 Strategic Planning

The Board discussed the options for an external facilitator to support strategic planning and noted that they felt the District is at an inflection point, and recommended that the District pursue Battelle over CEC as an innovator/transformational vendor who will be helpful in gathering stakeholder input (including student), and looking at excellence nationwide. Options will be examined to contain and/or spread cost across fiscal years.

4.2 Full-Day Kindergarten

Dr. Stange reported that planning is fully underway for full-day kindergarten starting August 2021. An option will be offered for two weeks of half-day (pickup at lunch, just through Labor Day weekend).

NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Audience Comments

Dr. Stange read two submitted email communications. The first was a

petition signed by 196 District 29 community members supporting the inclusion LGBTQ+ subject matter in District 29's health curriculum, noting it has been part of the curriculum for many years, is a requirement/guidance/best practice per many governmental organizations, and aligns with D29 mission. The second was submitted by Jackie & Erik Johnson and asked for clarification between Title IX and Illinois HB 246 (Inclusive Curriculum Law), expressing support for the LGBTQ community, expressing concern about the District overstepping into a parent's role, and asking the community to remember similarities versus differences with the common goal of encouraging kindness, respect, and recognition

District 29 community member Anne Peterson read a letter expressing hope and confidence that the future of the district will measure up to its past, leading through sometimes difficult conversations related to inclusivity in the same way it did previously with character education and then with social-emotional learning.

District 29 parent Sarah Crawford expressed a history of feeling welcome in this community, not experiencing discrimination here until the last board discussion, and hoping we will acknowledge those who feel they must hide their differences.

5.2 Board Open Discussion

Ms. Joseph recognized it is brave to submit public comment. Mr. Subeck noted the Board is not considering the omission of any required curriculum and is committed to improving communication on sensitive subjects. The Board supports the training of staff on LGBTQ+ topics, equal access to facilities and programs for all students, and gender-support plans for LGBTQ+ students. All students and staff are welcome and respected, differences are to be celebrated, and all public comments are appreciated.

REPORTS:

6.1 Return to School Task Force

Dr. Stange reviewed the local and regional metrics, noting that it appears the COVID-19 metric are trending down. He reviewed the discussion at the recent Task Force meeting regarding potential mitigations to reduce the impact of quarantine situations (recess & PE are the pinch points). He summarized that the consensus of the Task Force was to not change any policies for the remaining four weeks of the school year (7th grade PE separation now in place, 5th/6th grade PE separation would require band/orchestra changes). He noted that for the fall, participation in remote learning would likely be based on specific eligibility requirements. He also summarized the Task Force discussion that in short-notice quarantine situations, sick days do help reduce classroom complexity.

6.2 Finance and Facilities Committee Report

Mr. Beerheide reviewed the IMRF audit finding related to Social Security levy vs IMRF (IMRF has a balance that is too high), noting that it was recommended to split the Fund 50 expense account into two funds (50/51) and over-levy social security for a period of time going forward until the balances are aligned, as recommended by the auditor.

6.3 Education Committee Report

Ms. Joseph summarized the report from the May 11, 2021 Education Committee meeting which included a review of the work from District Committees and Strategic Plan goals during the 2020-2021 school year.

6.4 Policy Committee Report

Mr. Welch moved to approve the new Board Policy 706 related to Student Data Privacy and Security. Mr. Zeidler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

6.5 External Relations

6.5a IASB

Ms. Alpert Knight reported that HB 7, which passed in the House, did not move past committee in the Senate. The bill had called for referendums on district consolidation in small districts. The Board also discussed other noteworthy bills relate to a structured play mandate, and teacher safety walk-outs.

6.5b PTO

Ms. Joseph reported that the PTO budget was finalized (minus 8th grade dues), and new officers/committees were also approved.

6.5c NSSD

Mr. Spaan noted the NSSD update included in the Board packet.

6.5d Northfield Park District

Mr. Welch reported on before/after care, previously provided by both Wesley Child Care and the Northfield Park District. The Board directed the administration to gather data from previous Wesley participating families to determine whether the Northfield Park District can meet all needs.

6.5e Village of Northfield

Mr. Subeck reported new leadership is in place.

6.5f Foundation Fund

Ms. Alpert Knight reported a new meeting coming up.

6.6 Administrative Reports

6.6a Enrollment

Dr. Ed Stange noted that the current Kindergarten enrollment stands at 36. He reported 68 students in upcoming 1st grade. He also reviewed options to support the instructional needs of the incoming 8th grade cohort. After a brief discussion, the Board the Board articulated their support for hiring an additional 0.5 FTE using CARES funds to reduce potential 26 student math section to 13.

6.6b Staffing Update

Dr. Ed Stange reported on current posted positions and recommendations for employment that were included in the Board packet.

6.6c Summer 2021 Bridge Program

Dr. Stange recommended to change course relative to the proposed Summer 2021 Bridge Program. Alternatively, he recommended the use of funds during the 2021-2022 school year for supplemental instruction as better cost benefit when compared to a bridge program. Board articulated their support for the change in direction.

6.6d School/Department Reports

Dr. Sukenik reported that MAP testing starts next week. She noted that the IAR was scheduled first to get more instruction time before MAP. She noted that 8th grade Graduation plans are in progress, and will be similar to last year with dedicated family parking/sitting spots. She noted that 8th grade students had requested one last final cafeteria lunch of pizza and Bosco sticks. She noted that the 3rd to 4th grade transition meetings would be limited to 1 parent per family. She noted that Evening with Eagles (June 1) and the annual Awards ceremony will occur in virtual format.

Mrs. Kiedaisch noted that 3rd grade graduation plans were in progress, and that she hopes to include pleasant surprises with school, siblings and parent sendoffs. She noted that the indoor ceremony will be restricted to students and teachers. She noted that the search for a new Middlefork School Nurse was in progress. She noted the upcoming staff training with Dr. Deborah Penny using the Intercultural Development Inventory (a vendor used by the state department) to help guide work of Social Justice committee.

Mrs. Dunham noted that the year-end wrap ups of IEPs and class lists were in progress. She noted that the student services staff are seeing an increase in support needs with the longer school day.

Mrs. Styzcen reviewed the device collection process for this year. She noted that new infrastructure and new device security software was planned for the summer. She noted the new policy to be communicated to parents (no take home fee of \$55, pay for repairs as incurred).

Mr. Dreher noted that the grass restoration at SRS was underway. He noted that a new tree was planted at Middlefork School by the Village for Arbor Day. He noted that the HVAC issues at SRS were finally resolved.

Mr. Beerheide noted that the three rounds of CARES funds totaled \$800,000. After allocations to the ISBE, Christian Heritage Academy, and NSSD, he noted that the remaining allotment to District 29 was approximately \$675,000. He noted that District 29 had already spent approximately \$275,000 for a variety of COVID-19 issues. He also reviewed the District financials.

CLOSED SESSION: At 9:52 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Alpert Knight and seconded by Mr. Welch that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting; to discuss the release of closed session minutes; 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:	Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler, Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck
Absent:	None
Nay:	None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**RESUMPTION OF
OPEN MEETING:**

Upon resumption of the open meeting at 10:30 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

9.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – April 13, 2021

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

Aye:	Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler, Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck
Absent:	None
Nay:	None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

9.2 Employment of Jon Bingaman (2021-2022)

Ms. Alpert Knight moved to approve the employment as presented. Mr. Zeidler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck
Absent: None
Nay: None
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

9.3 Employment of Meghan Moorman (2021-2022)

Mr. Zeidler moved to approve the employment as presented. Mr. Spaan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck
Absent: None
Nay: None
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

9.4 Employment of Jennifer Hope (2021-2022)

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

Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck
Absent: None
Nay: None
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

9.5 Maternity Leave (Employee A)

Ms. Alpert Knight moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Zeidler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

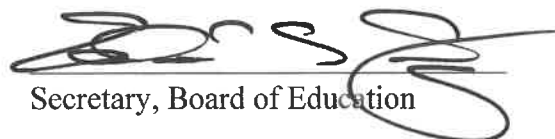
Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Subeck
Absent: None
Nay: None
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mr. Welch and seconded by Mr. Subeck to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m. All were in favor.



President, Board of Education



Secretary, Board of Education

Approved  , 2021