

**SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022  
5:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL: (5:32 p.m.)**

Ms. Alpert Knight called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and upon roll call, the following were present:

Present: Mr. Zeidler, Mr. Spaan, Ms. Joseph, Ms. Alpert Knight, Mr. Welch, Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Subeck (Arrived 5:35 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Stange, Dr. Sukenik, Mrs. Kiedaisch, Mrs. Styczen, Mr. Beerheide, Mr. Dreher, Ms. Evans, Members of the Northfield Caucus

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mr. Dotzler motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, including the June 21, 2022 Board Meeting minutes, bills and salaries and vendor checks. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**3.1 Freedom of Information Act Requests**

Dr. Stange reported on three FOIA requests.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**4.1 Audience Comments**

Ms. Buzza read a statement on behalf of the Northfield Caucus related to expectations of board member attendance at meetings. Dr. Stange read a submitted public comment submitted by Ms. Pick related to promoting gun safety in District communications.

**4.2 Board Open Discussion**

Ms. Alpert Knight apologized on behalf of the Board for the attendance issues resulting the postponement of a recent Board meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

**5.1 2022-2023 Enrollment Report**

Dr. Stange summarized the most recent enrollment data, noting that Middlefork School has the largest enrollment in over 30 years and the District has the largest enrollment in over a decade. However, class sizes remain small and consistent with historical expectations.

**5.2 2021-2022 Personnel Report**

Dr. Stange reported that the District is fully staffed with certified positions (i.e., teachers), yet is still seeking to fill five (5) non-certified (Teaching Assistant) positions. He shared Ms. Evan's (Dir. of Student Services) recommendation to advertise for a certified (LBS1) teacher to address special education needs in place of non-certified teaching Assistants. He also summarized the Personnel Report recommendations including three resignations, 3 recommendations for employment, a request for early retirement, and a maternity leave request.

**5.3 Strategic Plan**

Dr. Stange provided the final District 29 Strategic Plan and thanked Ms. Gray for her work in creating a document to share the plan publicly with stakeholders. He emphasized how the new Strategic Plan was already guiding District priorities and work this year.

**5.4 2022-2023 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan**

Dr. Stange shared the 2022-2023 District 29 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan emphasizing that individuals should stay home from school/work if they have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. The District will no longer engage in contact tracing, quarantines for close contacts, or mandatory use of face coverings without a specific directive from the Cook County Department of Public Health.

Ms. Alpert-Knight motioned to approve the plan as presented, Mr. Spaan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**5.5 Safety and Security Audit Update**

Dr. Stange provided an update on progress in addressing recommendation from the recent safety and security audit including the development of new Board of Education policies, the updating of specific District procedures related to safety, the installation of new physical security features, the implementation of new training for staff, and the initiation of new collaborations with first responders. He also discussed the development of a new District 29 Safety & Security Committee, and requested that a District 29 Board of Education member participate on the Committee. Finally, he shared that he would be providing a presentation at the upcoming Parent Connections meeting regarding Safety and Security.

**5.6 School and Department Reports**

**5.6a National Sex Education Standards**

Dr. Stange provided an overview of Public Act 102-0522 that set forth standards for teaching Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety (Grades 2-5) and Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (Grades 6-12). He provided a copy of, and reviewed, the specific standards by grade level. He reviewed District 29's Health/Sex Education Scope and Sequence and summarized that the District was not making any changes to our curriculum as a result of the new learning standards in this area, absent a specific directive to do so by the Illinois State Board of Education or the District 29 Board of Education. No District 29 Board members voiced disagreement with the approach.

**5.6b School Report**

Dr. Sukenik, Mrs. Kiedaisch, Ms. Evans, and Ms. Styczen provided an update on the reopening of school. They highlighted professional development activities implemented during institute days (e.g., math, social-emotional learning, thinking maps, and safety & security). They shared the level of excitement in both facilities and the tangible positive energy this year. Student services has been focusing on new hires (e.g., Ms. Evans and 3 new student services staff) and relationship building.

**5.6c Financial Update**

Mr. Beerheide provided a 2021-2022 year-end budget summary noting that the budget remains balanced.

**5.6d Facilities Update**

Mr. Dreher provided an update on facilities improvement made over the summer including installation of new safety/security measures, the renovation of the Middlefork School lounge, installation of a new playground fence for kindergarten, the completion of the staff bathroom at Middlefork, the transformation of the music room to a new classroom, and the creation of the new music space.

**BOARD COMMITTEE  
REPORTS:**

**6.1a Discussion and Possible Approval: Voluntary Employee Benefits Plan Contract**

Dr. Stange provided a high-level overview of the voluntary employee benefits plan. Ms. Joseph motioned to approve the contract as presented. Mr. Dotzler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**6.1b Public Hearing: 2022-2023 District 29 Budget**

At 6:44p.m. Mr. Spaan motioned to open the 2022-2023 Public Budget Hearing. Mr. Zeidler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

At 6:45 p.m., after no public comments were made, Mr. Dozler motioned to close the 2022-2023 Public Budget Hearing. Mr. Zeidler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**6.1c Discussion and Possible Approval: 2022-2023 District 29 Budget**

After Mr. Beerheide summarized the 2022-2023 Budget, Ms. Alpert Knight motioned to approve the budget 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. Subeck, Mr. Spaan

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**6.1d Posting of Compensation Reports**

Dr. Stange noted the state requirement to annually posted the District's Compensation Reports, and shared a copy of said

**6.2 Education Committee**

There was no report.

**6.3 Policy Committee**

**6.3a Discussion and Possible Approval: Board Policy 270 (Succession of Authority)**

Mr. Dotzler shared the draft of Board Policy 370 regarding the succession of authority for a second reading and possible approval. Ms. Joseph motioned to approve the policy 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. Subeck, Mr. Spaan

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**6.3b First Reading of New Board Policies**

Mr. Dotzler shared the drafts of two new Board Policies. The first, Policy 481 on Video Camera Surveillance, was recommended in the recent external safety and security audit. The second, Policy 764 on Anaphylaxis is a new requirement from the Illinois State Board of Education.

**6.3c First Reading of Revised Board Policies**

Mr. Dotzler shared the draft revisions of seven (7) existing Board Policies. The policy revisions are the result of personnel name changes and the change in the name of our special education cooperative (TrueNorth from NSSED).

Ms. Alpert Knight recommended that the Policy Committee consider the development of a Board Policy, or revision of an existing Board Policy, to articulate expectations for, and track attendance of, Board of Education members at meetings.

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
REPORTS:**

**8.1 IASB**

Dr. Stange noted the upcoming Triple I (IASA, IASBO, IASB) conference in November in Chicago.

**8.2 PTO**

Ms. Joseph noted the first PTO meeting of the 2022-2023 school year.

**8.3 TrueNorth**

Mr. Spaan noted the TrueNorth work on strategic planning and facilities improvements.

**8.4 Northfield Park District/Village of Northfield**

There was no report.

**8.5 Foundation Fund**

There was no report.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

At 7:03 p.m. it was motioned by Ms. Alpert Knight and seconded by Mr. Spaan that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes of the June 21, 2022 meeting; to discuss the release of closed session minutes and destruction of the verbatim record; to consider information regarding the employment, compensation, discipline, or dismissal of specific employees; to discuss matters related to safety and security; to discuss the placement of individuals in special education programs or matters related to individual students; to discuss potential litigation; to discuss the sale or lease of District property; and to discuss collective bargaining. The Board voted as follows:

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

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**RESUMPTION OF  
OPEN MEETING:**

Upon resumption of the open meeting at 8:22 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

**10.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – June 21, 2022**

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

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

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**11.2 Approval: Release of Closed Session Minutes and Destruction of Verbatim Record**

Mr. Dotzler motioned to approve the release of closed session minutes and destruction of the verbatim record as presented. Ms. Alpert Knight seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**11.3 Approval: Personnel Report Recommendations**

Mr. Welch motioned to approve the personnel report recommendations as presented. Ms. Joseph seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

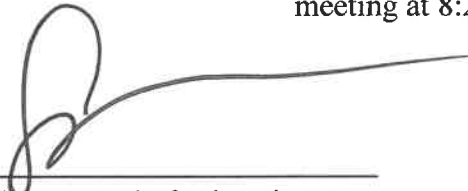
Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,  
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Subeck, Mr. Spaan

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was motioned by Mr. Dotzler and seconded by Mr. Zeidler to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. All were in favor.



President, Board of Education



Secretary, Board of Education

Approved 10 October 2022