



# SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29

525 Sunset Ridge Road • Northfield, Illinois 60093

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*Cultivating an inclusive learning community that engages the hearts and minds one child at a time.*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 13, 2024 MINUTES

### ROLL CALL: (5:30 p.m.)

Mr. Zeidler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and upon roll call, the following were present:

Present: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick, Mr. Tideman,  
Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph

Also Present: Dr. Stange, Dr. Sukenik, Ms. Kiedaisch, Ms. Evans,  
Ms. Crabtree, Mr. Beerheide, Mr. Ohlwein, Mr. Neuman,  
Mr. Spaan, Ms. Peterson, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Logan,  
Mr. Lewis, Sunset Ridge School Music Student  
Representative and their Families.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Dotzler motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, including the minutes of the January 16, 2024 Board of Education meetings, and bills and salaries. Mr. Pick seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Present: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick, Mr. Tideman,  
Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

### SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS:

Sunset Ridge School Music Program student representatives from (and their teachers) shared their musical talents by playing instruments and singing. Board members asked questions of the student representatives and Dr. Stange thanked them for sharing their experiences.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no communications.

### BOARD BUSINESS:

#### 5.1 Audience Comments

There were no audience comments.

#### 5.2 Board Open Discussion

There was no Board open discussion.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:**

**6.1 Freedom of Information Act Requests**

Dr. Stange shared information about the one FOIA request received since the January Board meeting. Responsive documents were provided.

**6.2 Enrollment Report**

Dr. Stange noted that the administrative team continues to plan for the facility and staffing needs related to anticipated four-section fourth grade in 2024-2025. He also noted the addition of one new student at Sunset Ridge School during the past month.

**6.3 Personnel Report**

Dr. Stange highlighted the personnel recommendations to consider for the January meeting, including a contract extension for Ms. Evans (Director of Student Services, the employment of a new Middlefork School Custodian (Elias Escalera), and the employment of two new Teaching Assistants.

**6.4 District, School, and Department Updates**

Dr. Stange submitted the monthly school and department updates highlighting the high prevalence of staff and illness. Dr. Sukenik (Sunset Ridge School Principal) discussed plans to offer a 2-year “looped classroom environment” to families of incoming 4th graders during the 2024-2025 school year. She also discussed the evolution of student service leagues to give voice and agency to students in the decision-making regarding this program. Ms. Kiedaisch (Middlefork School Principal) discussed the new lunchroom waste recycling and composting initiative as well as the kindergarten music informances.

Mrs. Kiedaisch also discussed efforts to improve parent engagement opportunities including opportunities to volunteer at school. Individual Board members shared their perspectives regarding the need to balance parent volunteerism opportunities with issues of safety and security, student privacy rights, and educational benefit/disruption. They also discussed the need to address underlying trust issues between staff and parents.

**BOARD COMMITTEE  
REPORTS:**

**7.1 Policy Committee**

The next meeting is March 5, 2024 at 9a.m.

**7.2 Finance Committee**

**7.2a Moody's Annual Credit Report**

Mr. Zeidler noted that the District received a Aaa rating from Moody's Investor Service.

**7.2b Discussion and Possible Approval: Resolution**

**Authorizing Intervention in Property Tax Appeals**

Mr. Pick motioned to approve the resolution as presented.  
Mr. Dotzler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick  
Mr. Tideman, Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**7.2c Discussion and Possible Approval: Resolution**

**Authorizing Withdrawal from Township Treasury**

Mr. Pick motioned to approve the resolution as presented.  
Mr. Dotzler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick  
Mr. Tideman, Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**7.2d Discussion and Possible Approval: Hold Harmless**

**Agreement Related to the Withdrawal from Township Treasury**

Mr. Dotzler motioned to approve the agreement as presented. Mr. Tideman seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick  
Mr. Tideman, Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**7.2e Discussion and Possible Approval: Resolution Authorizing**

**Participation in the Illinois Liquid Asst Fund Plus Treasury**

Mr. Dotzler motioned to approve the participation as presented. Mr. Pick seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick  
Mr. Tideman, Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**7.2f Discussion and Possible Approval: Landscaping Contract Renewal**

Mr. Tideman motioned to approve the agreement as presented. Mr. Dotzler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick  
Mr. Tideman, Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**7.3 Education Committee**

The next Education Committee meeting is March 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
REPORTS:**

**8.1 IASB**

There was no report.

**8.2 PTO**

There was no report.

**8.3 TrueNorth**

Mr. Tideman provided an update on the TrueNorth 804 Educational Cooperative, highlighting the financial challenges to the organization associated with the potential withdrawal of member districts.

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

Mr. Pick summarized ongoing communications regarding the proposed Middlefork School and Park District capital improvement planning.

**8.5 Foundation Fund**

There was no report.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

At 7:01 p.m. it was motioned by Mr. Dotzler and seconded by Mr. Pick that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes of the January 2024 Closed Session meeting; to consider information regarding the employment, compensation, discipline, or dismissal of specific employees or independent contractors; to discuss the placement of individuals in special education programs or matters related to individual students; to discuss the release of closed session minutes and the destruction of the verbatim record and; to discuss collective bargaining. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick,  
Mr. Tideman, Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph,

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**RESUMPTION OF  
OPEN MEETING:**

Upon resumption of the open meeting at 8:11 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

**11.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – January 16, 2024**

Mr. Tideman motioned to approve the closed session minutes of the January 16, 2024 Board meeting as presented. Mr. Dotzler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick, Mr. Tideman, Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**11.2 Approval: Personnel Report Recommendations**

Mr. Dotzler motioned to approve the personnel report recommendations as presented. Mr. Tideman seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Damon, Mr. Dotzler, Ms. Ho, Mr. Pick, Mr. Tideman, Mr. Zeidler

Absent: Ms. Joseph


Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was motioned by Mr. Dotzler, and seconded by Mr. Pick, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm All were in favor and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

  
President, Board of Education

  
Secretary, Board of Education

Approved 12 March, 2024

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