

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
September 10, 2019  
7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

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

Mr. Spaan called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and upon roll call, the following were present:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Stange, Mr. Beerheide, Mr. Dreher, Dr. Greene,  
Dr. Sukenik, Mr. & Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Widdes, Mrs. Bell

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**2.1 Minutes of the Board Meeting – August 13, 2019**

**2.2 Bills and Salaries**

Mr. Welch moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Alpert Knight seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Dr. Stange referred to Chicago Magazine's annual ranking of area public schools, on which Middlefork and Sunset Ridge were ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> respectively of suburban Cook County's elementary and middle schools. Dr. Stange shared thank-you notes from several staff members whose work anniversaries were celebrated at the staff luncheon that took place in August. Also shared was a note of appreciation from teachers and staff for the Board's support during a challenging first week of school.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**4.1 Update: Capital Improvement**

**Middlefork School:** The library was opened for Middlefork students in grand style and they were thrilled! Some punch list items remain, which will be addressed during non-school hours when possible. Dr. Stange reported that Wight & Co has offered to subtract 10% off the cost of the additional plumbing work and the sliding door header installation that they mistakenly left off the original plans. All in all, the library renovation went approximately \$10K over budget. Now that the project has been completed, the District has a chance to identify and evaluate other, if any, facility needs the building has, how to prioritize them, and how to engage families in that process.

**Sunset Ridge School:** The final drawings regarding the water main vault located underneath the parking lot have been received from Wight & Co, as has the insurance policy from Lenny Hoffman Excavating covering any repair or damages incurred due to the vault's incorrect placement. That information has been sent to the Village of Northfield for their review.

**4.2 Board Policy Revisions**

**4.2a Board Policy 710.06 (Student Conduct)**

Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approve the policy as presented. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**4.2b Board Policy 710.07 (Student Appearance)**

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

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**4.2c Board Policy 200.00 (Legal Status)**

Mrs. Peterson moved to approve the policy as presented. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**4.2d Board Policy 200.03 (Qualifications)**

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

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**4.2e Board Policy 203.00 (Uniform Grievance Procedure)**

Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approve the policy with minor editing changes. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**4.2f Board Policy 230.01 (Unexpired Term)**

The Board tabled this item for further clarification on the process.

**4.2g Board Policy 235 (Code of Conduct)**

The Board tabled this item for further clarification on the process.

**4.2h Board Policy 236 (Communications)**

Mr. Hayes moved to approve the policy as presented. Mr. Subeck seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**4.2i Board Policy 237 (Self-Evaluation)**

The Board tabled this item.

**4.2j Board Policy 240 (Conflict of Interest)**

Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approve the policy as presented. Mr. Subeck seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**4.3 Board Self-Evaluation**

The Board discussed the option of participating in a Board self-evaluation process. Board member Mr. Spaan agreed to collect more information on the process.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**5.1 Audience Comments**

Community member Mrs. Jackie Pick addressed the Board regarding the Sunset Ridge student-led club PRISM, expressing her endorsement of this opportunity for students to learn from and support each other with respect to LGBTQ issues, presenting statistical evidence of the need for this type of support in pre-adolescent children, and communicating her appreciation for the District's allowance of this student-led club.

**5.2 Board Open Discussion**

Mr. Spaan commended the teachers and staff on their poise and perseverance during recent events surrounding Mr. George Gemeinhardt's arrest.

**5.3 Discussion: Scope and Time of Review of Hiring and Supervision Practices**

The Board discussed conducting a review of our current hiring and supervision procedures. Dr. Stange agreed to collect information in order to further the conversation, and will provide a report before the end of the calendar year.

**5.4 First Reading: Board Policy Revisions**

The Board had a first reading of proposed revisions to the following Board of Education policies:

- 5.4a Board Policy 520.02 Hiring Process
- 5.4b Board Policy 625.21 Avoidance of Abduction and Abuse
- 5.4c Board Policy 241.05 Gift Ban
- 5.4d Board Policy 245 Board Officers
- 5.4e Board Policy 245.01 President
- 5.4f Board Policy 245.02 Vice President
- 5.4g Board Policy 245.03 Secretary
- 5.4h Board Policy 245.04 Treasurer
- 5.4i Board Policy 246 Recording Secretary
- 5.4j Board Policy 247 Representations

**REPORTS:**

**6.1 Finance/Facilities Committee**

**6.1a Public Hearing: FY20 Budget**

At 7:56 p.m. Ms. Alpert Knight moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the FY20 proposed budget. Mrs. Detlefsen seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

At 7:58 p.m., after no public comments was made, Mrs. Peterson moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the FY20 proposed budget. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**6.1b Discussion and Possible Approval: FY20 Budget**

Mr. Welch moved to approved the FY20 proposed budget as presented. Mr. Spaan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**6.1c Next Meeting: October 15, 2019**

## **6.2 Education Committee**

### **6.2a Report From September 10, 2019 Meeting**

Mrs. Peterson reported that Dr. Stange had provided a deep dive into District data, which includes IAR, MAP, IL 5 Essentials, and the New Trier High School Freshman survey results.

### **6.2b Next Meeting: November 12, 2019**

## **6.3 External Relations**

### **7.3a IASB**

Dr. Stange asked that if any Board members would like to attend the IL Joint Annual Conference they should let him know.

### **7.3b PTO**

Mrs. Peterson reported that they are still working on collecting dues and filling lunchroom volunteer spots. Approximately 94% of district families participated in the school kits program. Upcoming events include the New Family Ice Cream Social, the Book Fair to be held at Middlefork, and Sunset Ridge's first author visit in just a couple weeks. Mrs. Peterson also reported that both Chief Lustig and Dr. Stange spoke at the meeting regarding the recent arrest of Mr. Gemeinhardt, which was appreciated by the attendees.

### **7.3c NSSED**

Mr. Hayes reported that they are continuing their review of their program financing, and are reaching out for input from member districts. They are also seeking outside leadership to guide their financial reflections. They have a new information system for collecting student data, and are looking into rebranding possibilities, including changing their name.

### **7.3d Northfield Park District**

Mr. Welch reported that their proposal for a bandshell installation at Clarkson Park was rejected by the Northfield's Architectural Commission. They still plan to present their drawings at the upcoming Village meeting.

### **7.3e Village of Northfield**

Mrs. Detlefsen reported that the District's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee is exploring plans to host the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation party in a tent on school grounds. The discussion of the proposed bike path is ongoing. A long-term Library plan is coming out next week. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan process is wrapping up and will be presented soon to the Village committees.

### **7.3f Foundation Fund**

There was no report.

## **6.4 Administrative Reports**

### **6.4a Freedom of Information Act Requests**

Dr. Stange reported that there was one FOIA request from The Northbrook Patch requesting information regarding Mr. Gemeinhardt's employment and resignation.

**6.4b Enrollment Update**

Dr. Stange reported that enrollment is holding steady at 201 at Middlefork and 260 at Sunset Ridge, for a total enrollment of 461 students.

**6.4c 2019-2020 Staffing Projections**

Dr. Stange reported that the District is still looking to fill one Teaching Assistant position, mentioning how challenging it is to find good candidates.

**6.4d Compensation Reports**

The Board reviewed the FY 2020 Compensation Reports, which will be posted on the website as required by law.

**6.4e SMP Field Rental Proposal**

The Board discussed the concessions that SMP (Sports Made Personal) agreed to concerning their proposal to rent of Sunset Ridge's athletic fields. However, the Board continues to find the terms of the agreement disagreeable.

**6.4f Strategic Plan Update**

Dr. Stange provided a brief update on the 2019-2020 District 29 Strategic Plan Goals, highlighting the focus on a) the implementation of new curriculum in English/Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science b) a comprehensive review of special education services and supports, c) a review of the District's disciplinary policies and procedures, d) professional development supports for staff and, e) the financial management of the District.

**6.4g School Reports**

**6.4g1 Middlefork School:** Principal Dr. Mary Frances Greene reported that the Library opening ceremony was a fun event for the students. Their reactions were priceless! The back-to-school-packet was sent to families, which had been redesigned in order to not be repetitive. Staff and families alike are getting used to the new entryway, but so far so good. The NSSD classroom is going very well so far, with 2 students enrolled. Spanish, now taught from a cart in individual classrooms rather than a specified room, is working through the transition.

**6.4g2 Sunset Ridge School:** Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik reported that students received an overview of available clubs. Soccer has started, but, unfortunately, field hockey was not able to field a team due to lack of players and a coach. Dr. Sukenik commented that dwindling interest in field hockey seems to be a township-wide trend. New Exploratory classes include Civil Discourse, which every 7<sup>th</sup> grader will take at some time over the year, and Debate, which every 8<sup>th</sup> grader will take. Service Leagues will have their kick-off on Wednesday, with students able to have more input into their field trip destinations. Dr. Sukenik noted that there is a nation-wide movement to make September 11<sup>th</sup> a day of service, which Sunset Ridge plans to embrace in addition to Martin Luther King, Jr Day.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 8:53 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Detlefsen and seconded by Mr. Welch that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes from August 13, 2019; 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. Peterson, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Welch, Mr. Hayes  
Ms. Alpert Knight, Mrs. Detlefsen, Mr. Subeck

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING:**

Upon resumption of the open meeting at 9:45 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

**9.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – August 13, 2019**

Mr. Subeck moved to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2019 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.2 Acceptance: Resignation of Traci Weiss**

Mr. Hayes moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Subeck seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.3 Approval: Employment of Katherine Augustin**

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

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.4 Approval: Employment of Nisa Fayyaz**

Mrs. Peterson moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Hayes seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.5 Approval: Employment of Jessica Speck**

Mrs. Peterson moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.6 Approval: Employment of Liam Kirwan**

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

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.7 Approval: Employment of Christina Phillips**

Mr. Subeck moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.8 Approval: Employment of Stephanie Gelber**

Mr. Subeck moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.9 Approval: Employment of Seepa Saraiya**

Mr. Welch moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Detlefsen seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.



**9.10 Approval: Employment of Delma Mancio**

Mr. Hayes moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.11 Approval: Maternity Leave Request**

Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

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

Absent: None

Nay: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

**9.12 Approval: Request to Tuition-In Non-Resident Student**

No motion to approve the request was presented.

THE MOTION WAS NOT APPROVED.

**DELEGATIONS/PETITIONS:** No delegations or petitions were presented

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Mrs. Peterson seconded by Mr. Hayes to adjourn the meeting at 9:47p.m. All were in favor.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

Approved 15 OCTOBER, 2019

---

