

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 11, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

ROLL CALL: (6:00 p.m.)

Mr. Spaan called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Dr. Greene, Dr. Sukenik, Mrs. Styczen, Ms. Dunham, Mr. Cockrell, Ms. Roberts, Ms. Handelman, Mr. Shanley, Mr. Whittaker, Ms. Molina, Mrs. Stonequist, Mrs. Widdes

**PUBLIC STATEMENT
BY BOARD PRESIDENT:**

Board President, Adelbert Spaan, read from a prepared statement informing the audience that the Board would be discussing the internal investigation with its attorneys in that evening's Closed Session, the results of which will inform action steps taken toward improving the safety and security of the District's students and staff. Mr. Spaan thanked the community for their patience and support.

NEW BUSINESS:

3.1 Audience Comments

Community member Mr. Shanley communicated his disappointment in the media's depiction of events, and faith in the Board to work through the necessary steps to come to resolution. Community member Mr. Whittaker asked that the Board fully explore the circumstances surrounding the event in order to improve any existing security gaps, review the safety and security policies and procedures, and requested that the Northfield Police Department become more involved in the school

community.

3.2 Board Open Discussion

Mr. Spaan informed the Board that he had reached out to several local politicians regarding potential legislative change surrounding criminal background checks.

3.3 Discussion and Possible Approval: Education Committee Meeting (March 10, 2020)

After a brief discussion, Mr. Subeck moved to approve moving the next Education Committee Meeting to March 10, 2020, at 5:30pm. Mrs. Detlefsen 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

CONSENT AGENDA:

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – January 14, 2020

4.2 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting – January 26, 2020

4.3 Bills and Salaries

Mrs. Peterson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Alpert Knight 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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Spaan expressed his gratitude for the many letters, emails, and phone calls the Board received regarding this event, underscoring the importance of open communication between the community and the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

6.1 Discussion and Possible Approval: Board Policy Committee

Mr. Welch explained why he was proposing the formation of a Board Policy Review Committee. Comprised of four Board members and Dr. Stange, the committee would examine policies up for review outside of the regular Board meetings. After the members had completed their review, they would then offer the policies as a Consent Agenda for approval by the full Board, with the option to pull out any policies that required further discussion. These Policy review meetings would be posted as open meetings. Mr. Spaan moved to approve the Board Policy Committee and Mrs. Detlefsen 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:

7.1 Finance/Facilities Committee

7.1a Discussion and Possible Approval: 2020-2021 Budget Designation

Mr. Subeck moved to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Designation authorizing Mr. Beerheide to begin work on the budget for the upcoming school year and Ms. Alpert Knight 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

7.1b The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020

7.2 Education Committee

7.2a Next Meeting: March 10, 2020

7.3 External Relations

7.3a IASB

There was no report.

7.3b PTO

Mrs. Peterson reported that they are in discussions concerning their fundraising efforts this year, they would like to have their budget and slate completed by April, and are getting ready for conference meals, Middlefork Service Night, and the Sunset Ridge Book Fair.

7.3c NSSSED

Board member Mr. Bill Hayes reported that NSSSED is in contract negotiations with both of their unions, and they are in the process of planning for their member districts' yearly requested needs. Mr. Hayes attended the annual National School Boards Association's Equity Symposium in Washington, DC., assisting them with advocacy for NSSSED interests.

7.3d Northfield Park District

There was no report.

7.3e Village of Northfield

Mrs. Detlefsen reported that the 2040 Strategic Plan is up for approval at their next meeting, and she is working with Village Board members on a Safe Roads grant.

7.3f Foundation Fund

There was no report.

7.4 Administrative Reports

7.4a FOIA Requests

Dr. Stange reported on 18 FOIA requests relating to the events involving Mr. Garcia-Espinal. There was one FOIA requesting information regarding current administrative and support staff employed by the district, and one seeking information on any certified staff that are retiring this year.

7.4b Enrollment Update

Dr. Stange reported that next year's Kindergarten class is currently at 46 registered, but could possibly go as high as 60.

7.4c Discipline Practices Parental Feedback

Dr. Stange shared an initial summary of the feedback on the District's discipline practices from the Parent Connections Committee, and noted that he will be presenting a full report at the next Education Committee.

7.4d School Reports

Dr. Greene reported that the size of each of next year's Kindergarten classes depends on the make-up of each group. She also noted that the return of Middlefork Service Night is coming up on March 11th, at 6:30pm.

Dr. Sukenik shared that the New Trier registration for current 8th

graders went smoothly. The District will be working with a new photography company for school pictures after a bad experience this year. A group of randomly selected 9-year-olds will be taking the National Assessment of Educational Progress test. A Peer Jury/ Conflict Resolution Committee is being formed in direct response to students' request to resolve conflicts they are experiencing in their grade levels. The students are working out the parameters of the group with guidance from staff.

CLOSED SESSION: At 6:29 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Alpert Knight and seconded by Mr. Hayes that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes from January 14, 2020 and January 26, 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 10:28 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

10.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – January 14, 2020

Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Welch 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: Closed Session Minutes – January 26, 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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mr. Welch seconded by Mrs. Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 p.m. All were in favor.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Approved 10 March, 2020