

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
June 9, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL: (7:05 p.m.)**

Mr. Spaan called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 (arrived at 7:16 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Stange, Mr. Beerheide, Dr. Greene, Dr. Sukenik, Mrs. Styczen, Mr. Dreher, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Furman, Mrs. Stonequist

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

After discussing specific policies, Mrs. Alpert Knight moved to approved the consent agenda and Mrs. Peterson second 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:**

There were no communications.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Stange reported on the District's efforts to follow-up on a previous recommendation by the Board to review the District 29 Human Resources practices. He reported that Chief School Business Official Mr. Tom Beerheide, Payroll and Benefits Director Ms. Colleen Faber, and he met with NSSED Director of Human Resources Mr. Andrew Piper and members of his team to review District 29 practices and protocols and determine areas for growth. The Board discussed options regarding fingerprinting daily visitors and volunteers, taking in to account that the results of the new on-site fingerprinting system may not be immediately available.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**5.1 Audience Comments**

There were no audience comments.

**5.2 Board Open Discussion**

The Board praised the teachers, staff, and administration for their herculean efforts towards pulling off two very meaningful graduation ceremonies. Both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade events were incredibly heartfelt, and very much appreciated by district families. The Board also recognized District 29 parents Seong McGarry, David Wallach and

the Northfield Police Department for the orchestration of the car parade in honor of Middlefork Principal Dr. Mary Frances Greene's retirement, which provided a wonderful opportunity for district families, past and present, to say farewell. And last but certainly not least, the Board thanked Dr. Greene for her 19 years of service to our schools. Her legacy of child centered education and fierce love for all of our students truly embodies our one-child-at-a-time mission, and she will be deeply missed.

**5.3 Discussion and Possible Approval: 2020-2021 Board Meeting Calendar**

The Board discussed changes to the 2020/21 Board Meeting Calendar, Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approved the calendar of meetings as presented and Mrs. Peterson 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

**5.4 Discussion: 2020-2021 District Calendar**

The Board also discussed the new mandate that Election Day be a non-attendance day. In order to maintain our required number of in-school days, the Board discussed the option of adding a student attendance day at the beginning of the school year. The 2020-2021 District Calendar will be placed on the agenda for approval at the July Board meeting.

**REPORTS:**

**6.1 Finance/Facilities Committee**

**6.1a Moody's Financial Report**

Mr. Beerheide presented the Moody's Financial Report, done annually as a way to rate the District's creditworthiness. District 29 received a Aaa rating, the highest achievable.

**6.1b Discussion and Possible Approval: Transportation Contract**

The Board discussed the new contract for transportation services. Mr. Spaan moved to approved the 3-year contract as presented and Mr. Hayes 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

**6.1c Discussion and Possible Approval: Food Services Contract**

The Board discussed the new contract for food services. After going to bid for food services and receiving bids from two companies, it was determined that Organic Life was the lowest

responsible/responsive bidder. The Board discussed the fact that food costs are rising due to the pandemic and are expected to stay high. Therefore, the cost of plate lunch may have to be increased. Also discussed were considerations for food staff should the need arise to close due to viral outbreaks. Mr. Beerheide added that our relationship continues to be positive with Organic Life and the students have very much enjoyed the food they provide. At the conclusion of this discussion, the Board approved a 1-year renewable contract. Ms. Alpert Knight moved to approved the 1-year contract as presented and Mrs. Peterson 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

**6.1d Discussion and Possible Approval: Voluntary Employee Benefits Renewal**

The Board reviewed the Voluntary Employee Benefit Plan Contract, which includes United Healthcare for vision and Delta Dental for dental. Mr. Spaan moved to approved the contract as presented and Mr. Hayes 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

**6.1e Discussion and Possible Approval: Custodial Services Contract**

The Board discussed the new contract for custodial services. The Board also went to bid for custodial services, for which it received six bids. The lowest responsible/responsive bidder was GDI Services, Inc, a company that also services NorthShore University Health Systems. The Board felt confident that GDI is well positioned to handle the stringent cleaning demands associated with COVID-19 and approved a 1-year renewable contract. As part of that contract, GDI understands that we are interested in retaining two custodial employees previously employed by our past service provider. Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approved the contract as presented and Mrs. Peterson 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

**6.1f Discussion: Temperature Detection Devices**

The Board discussed the use of temperature detection devices for use as part of our COVID-19 response protocol for next year. There are essentially three types of devices: Mounted systems that can scan a large number of people at one time, standing kiosks that can scan several people at one time, or handheld devices that scan one person at a time. Each one has its functional limitations and financial commitments. After some discussion of which might be best suited for our district, and keeping in mind that guidance from ISBE may change over the summer, it was decided to purchase a small number of handheld devices so that we will be well prepared should ISBE require their use.

**6.1g Discussion: Middlefork Driveway Repairs**

The Board discussed options surrounding the resurfacing and repairing of the Middlefork driveway, curbs, and sidewalks. It was generally felt that the driveway has a couple more years of life left in it, as does the sidewalk, but that the curbs might need immediate attention.

**6.1h The next meeting is July 14, 2020, at 6pm.**

**6.2 Education Committee**

**6.2a The next meeting will be held on July 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

**6.3 Policy Committee**

**6.3a First Reading: Board Policy Section 400 (Operational Services)**

The Board had a first reading of Board Policy sections 400 (Operational Services).

**6.3b First Reading: Board Policy section 500 (Personnel).**

The Board had a first reading of Board Policy sections 500 (Personnel).

**6.3c The next meeting is June 19, 2020, at 9am.**

**6.4 Return to School Task Force**

Dr. Stange reported that the group, made up of teachers, administration, and Board members, is taking the months of June and July to work on identifying needs and strategies for three different scenarios: Full in-person learning, full remote learning, and blended in-person/remote learning. The Task Force findings are continuously shared with an Advisory Committee, made up of local experts in their fields and district parents, to get additional input and feedback. Once the District has received final guidance from ISBE that is expected to come mid-summer, all plans will be shared with all stakeholders. The Task Force meetings are scheduled as open Board meetings. Therefore, anyone can connect through the Zoom link and give input during the public comment portion. The next meeting is June 18, 2020, at 1:30pm.

## **6.5 External Relations**

### **6.5a IASB**

Ms. Alpert Knight reported that ISBE had released guidelines supporting in-person summer school with restrictions. This should give us some data on how in-person fall learning might play out.

### **6.5b PTO**

Mrs. Peterson reported that they passed their budget and slate for 2020/21.

### **6.5c NSSED**

Mr. Hayes reported that their year-end ceremonies were virtual, union negotiations are making progress, and their financial model is slated to be approved at the June meeting. Their brand refresh process is winding up, with their new name, "True North Education Co-op 804," to be approved in July.

### **6.5d Northfield Park District**

Mr. Welch reported that they will not need to use District 29 facilities for summer camps, as they have created a scaled down model made up of four small groups of children under 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Stange reported that the District is working closely with the Park District and Wesley Childcare to determine what their needs for District facilities will be and how that will be managed.

### **6.5e Village of Northfield**

There was no report.

### **6.5f Foundation Fund**

Ms. Alpert Knight reported that they are eager to be supportive when needed, but recognize that with the economy in the state that it is, now might not be a good time for an appeal.

## **6.6 Administrative Reports**

### **6.6a FOIA Requests**

Dr. Stange that there was one FOIA requests this month seeking information on attendance during remote learning.

### **6.6b Enrollment Update**

Dr. Stange reported that registration was completed for 55 Kindergarteners students, and 8 others are in process. This means that there will most likely be four sections of Kindergarten.

### **6.6c Staffing Update**

Dr. Stange reported that the District is currently advertising for a First Grade Teacher and a Sunset Ridge School Art Teacher.

### **6.6d Discussion and Possible Approval: Consolidated Grant Application**

The Board discussed the 2020/21 Consolidated Grant Application, which outlines the plans to spend State and federal funds allocated to the District. Mr. Hayes moved to approved the application as

presented 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

**6.6e Update: School Reports**

**Dr. Mary Frances Greene:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade graduation, both virtual and the in-person delivery of portfolios, was a big hit with families. Staff has met to wrap up year-end business and will start articulation and curriculum work over the summer. Everyone is collaborating to understand our eLearning successes and find where our areas for growth are.

**Dr. Ivy Sukenik:** The virtual awards ceremonies were successful, as was 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. Thank you to the Mazur family for helping us with the video and live feed. 100% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade has turned in their Chromebooks. Staff is meeting to discuss grade level content and are working to create plans that are easy to pivot from should we need to. Books are being chosen for both students and staff for summer reading that will provide meaningful content for summer reading groups.

**Mrs. Sheri Styczen:** They are turning over systems and working on registration for next year. The tech department is looking at programs that would allow parents to customize the way they receive/send /organize school communications. Students will be keeping their Chromebooks over the summer and can contact the tech department for repairs or maintenance.

**Mr. Corey Dreher:** The SRS field is healthy and the outlook is good for the summer due to our watering booster pump. We are starting to receive our disinfecting equipment, including backpack misters and UV light machinery, which we will learn how to use over the summer in order to be ready for whatever the fall may bring.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 9:50 p.m. it was moved by Mrs. Detlefsen and seconded by Mrs. Peterson that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes May 12, 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 10:50 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

**10.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – May 12, 2020**

Mrs. Detkefsen 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

**10.2 Approval: Administrative Salary Increases**

Mr. Hayes moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Subeck 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

**10.3 Approval: 12-Month Staff Salary Increases**

Ms. Alpert Knight moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Subeck 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

**10.4 Approval: Off-Schedule Staff Salary Increases**

Mrs. Alpert Knight moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Detlefsen 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

**10.5 Approval: Request for Voluntary Transfer**

Mrs. Detlefsen moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Peterson 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


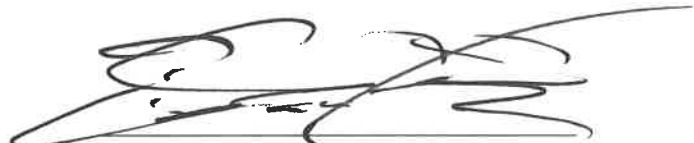
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**10.6 Approval: Request for Leave of Absence**

There was not motion to approve the request.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Mr. Subeck seconded by Mrs. Detlefsen to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 p.m. All were in favor.

  
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President, Board of Education  
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Secretary, Board of Education

Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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