



BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes

December 15, 2016

The Board of Education met in regular session on December 15, 2016, at 6:32 p.m. in the Joseph M. Porto Community Room at Marie Murphy School, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, Illinois. The President called the meeting to order and asked the Board Recorder to call the roll.

The following members were present:

William Bazianos
Louise Dechovitz
Jeffrey Greengoss, President
Joel Raynes
Sheryl Swibel
Rosanne Ullman
Rick Zelinsky, Vice President

Also Present:

Debbie Cotter, Video Recorder
Beth Dever, Chief School Business Official
Suzanne Harris, Board Recorder
Jessica Hutchison, Avoca West Principal
Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent/Board Secretary
Matthew Palcer, Marie Murphy Principal
Jennie Winters, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator

Visitors:

Gil Gibori
Jamie Taylor

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA

Board Members, Louise Dechovitz and Sheryl Swibel, requested adding a discussion item for an update regarding the work of the Communication and Engagement Committee. The Board agreed to add this item as Discussion Item C and move the FOIA Request to Discussion Item D.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Dechovitz moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVES THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

❖ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2016
- BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MINUTES- NOVEMBER 15, 2016
- BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2016
- BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2016
- BOARD OF EDUCATION CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2016
- BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 1, 2016
- BOARD OF EDUCATION CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 1, 2016

❖ **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

● NOVEMBER TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF	\$	12,673,050.28
● NOVEMBER PAYROLL	\$	862,899.19
● NOVEMBER FIXED CHARGES	\$	155,398.60
● DECEMBER EDUCATION FUND	\$	129,778.32
● DECEMBER O&M FUND	\$	99,053.01
● DECEMBER TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$	13,644.72
● DECEMBER FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY FUND	\$	34,499.15

❖ **DECEMBER PERSONNEL REPORT**

❖ **NOVEMBER ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Mr. Raynes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Bazianos, aye with an abstention as to the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes for December 1, 2016; Mr. Zelinsky, aye with an abstention as to the Special Communication and Engagement Committee Minutes for November 15, 2016; Ms. Swibel, aye; Ms. Dechovitz aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye and Ms. Ullman, aye. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

◆ **Avoca Center Update**

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, gave an update regarding the current status of affairs regarding Avoca Center. Dr. Jauch began with an overview of the closed session discussion held on December 1, 2016. Topics discussed in closed session pertained to the feasibility of renovating Avoca Center, what a renegotiated lease would need to include to be considered viable and potential mutually beneficial options between Avoca and the Wilmette Park District.

It was also shared that in closed session on December 1 the Board discussed the cost and feasibility of renovating Avoca Center and the amount of interest that would need to be paid on the bonds sold to fund the renovations. The Board determined they would need to have a binding 20-year tenant lease. The Board also considered the impact of a bond sale and how that would affect the ability to raise funds for capital improvement projects at Avoca West and Marie Murphy. The Board weighed the implications of renovation at all three school facilities and the human resources required to oversee and assist in the process. The Board then discussed raising the rent significantly to cover the cost of renovating Avoca Center and negotiating a lease that would relieve the district from the responsibility of maintenance and upkeep. After this discussion, the Board agreed that renovating Avoca Center was not a responsible decision for the Avoca community. Board Vice President, Rick Zelinsky, noted his appreciation for the input the Board received from the community and stated that several important points, which will be considered moving forward, were brought to the attention of the Board. Mr. Zelinsky also contended that while this is an arduous decision, the Board feels it is moving in the right direction and at the right time.

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, then discussed the current conditions regarding the heat at Avoca Center. Ms. Dever indicated that it was timely that the district replaced all the tubes in boiler



two, as boiler one is in need of repair to continue functioning. The maintenance to these boilers is difficult due to their age and the availability of replacement parts. Preventative maintenance is being performed to prevent frozen pipes.

Since the Board was at a consensus not to renovate Avoca Center, the next topic of discussion was in regards to serving notices of termination of the lease agreements with the current tenants, Arlyn Day School and One Hope United, which would be effective December 31, 2017. This termination of the lease agreements does not necessarily mean that the tenants will have to vacate Avoca Center in one year; it does mean that the terms of the current lease will expire. This gives the Board the ability to investigate different options for the property. The Board will be asked to approve serving the notices of termination as an action item at this meeting.

Dr. Jauch then shared some key points from a letter to the Board written by Judy Goldstein, the Director of Arlyn Day School. The letter asked the Board to consider the length of her school year, which operates through most of the summer.

◆ **2017-2018 School Year Calendar- 2nd Reading**

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, shared a proposed 2017-2018 school year calendar with the Board that has the first day of student attendance on August 30, 2017 and an end date of June 13, 2018. This calendar varies from previous years due to the scheduling of the teacher institute/contract days, which are scheduled for August 28 and 29, 2017, prior to student attendance, October 17, 2017, following the first parent/teacher conferences of the year, November 20 and 21, 2017, preceding the Thanksgiving Holiday and March 23, 2018, following the second parent/teacher conferences. The proposed calendar is in good alignment with New Trier High School and Wilmette School District 39. The Board was asked to approve this calendar as an action item at this meeting.

◆ **Update on the Work of the Communication and Engagement Committee**

Board Members Louise Dechovitz and Sheryl Swibel gave the Board a review of the information they obtained from the IASB/IASA/IASBO 2016 Joint Conference and an update regarding the work of the Communication and Engagement Committee. Ms. Swibel shared with the Board the valuable information she gained from attending the conference. She outlined the importance of looking at the various constituents in the district, how the district approaches engagement with each of them, and how that should define the purpose and clarity of the message as it aligns to the district's mission. Ms. Dechovitz then gave an overview of the work of the Communication and Engagement Committee to date. The first committee meeting was on November 15, 2016. Discussion included the needs and wants of each research group and how to best gather information from those constituents.

Ms. Dechovitz discussed the concept of a brand for the district that would drive the communications and the way it is viewed by the community. In order to promote a brand the district would need to have a strategic method of conveying their message and drawing the community into further engagement. At the second meeting of the committee on December 6, 2016, the committee did an exercise listing the successes of the district which were comprised of many achievements that celebrate the whole child. Ms. Swibel reiterated the importance of delivering an accurate, repetitive message that is driven by the district. The committee plans to present the Board with a plan for the district's communication and engagement with the community at its April Board of Education meeting.

◆ **FOIA**

On December 1, 2016, Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, received a FOIA request from Nathan Mihelich from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association requesting the name, title and email address of any teachers or administrators who are retiring in 2017. Dr. Jauch responded on December 2, 2016 providing Mr. Mihelich with the names, titles and email addresses of the two professional staff members retiring effective June 2017.

ACTION ITEMS

◆ **Approval of 2016 Tax Levy**

Mr. Bazianos moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2016 TAX LEVY AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Zelinsky seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; Ms. Dechovitz, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; and Mr. Bazianos, aye. Motion carried.

◆ **Approval of 2017 Summer School Tuition**

MS. Dechovitz moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2017 SUMMER SCHOOL TUITION AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Raynes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Swibel, aye; Ms. Dechovitz, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; and Mr. Zelinsky, aye. Motion carried.

◆ **Approval of the 2017-2018 School Year Calendar**

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AS PRESENTED.

Ms. Ullman seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Dechovitz, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; and Ms. Swibel, aye. Motion carried.

◆ **Approval of 2015-2016 State Report Card**

Ms. Swibel moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE 2015-2016 STATE REPORT CARD AS PRESENTED.

Ms. Dechovitz seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; and Ms. Dechovitz, aye. Motion carried.

◆ **Approval to Serve Notice of Termination of Avoca Center Facilities Use Agreement with One Hope United**

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE SERVING NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF AVOCA CENTER FACILITIES USE AGREEMENT WITH ONE HOPE UNITED WITH AN EFFECTIVE TERMINATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Mr. Bazianos seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Greengoss, aye; Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; Ms. Dechovitz, aye; and Mr. Raynes, aye. Motion carried.

♦ **Approval to Serve Notice of Termination of Lease Agreement with Arlyn Day School**

Mr. Zelinsky moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE SERVING A NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ARLYN DAY SCHOOL WITH AN EFFECTIVE TERMINATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Mr. Raynes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Ms. Ullman, aye; Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; Ms. Dehovitz, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; and Mr. Greengoss, aye. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Rick Zelinsky moved that the Board move into Closed Session for the purpose of:

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

Mr. Raynes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Bazianos, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; Ms. Dehovitz, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Greengoss, aye; and Ms. Ullman, aye. Motion carried.

Following a short break, the Board moved into closed session at 7:37 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Bazianos moved that the Board return into open session, and Mr. Raynes seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried.

MEETING ADJOURNS

Mr. Raynes moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Zelinsky seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Board President
Jeffrey Greengoss

Secretary
Kevin Jauch