



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes

February 16, 2017

The Board of Education met in regular session on February 16, 2017, at 6:32 p.m. in the Joseph M. Porto Community Room in 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
Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent/Board Secretary
Brigid Ohlwein, EL Teacher
Matthew Palcer, Marie Murphy Principal
Terry Sofianos, Director of Pupil Services
Jennie Winters, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator

Registered Visitors:

Gil Gibori
Joel Kurzman

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Zelinsky moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVES THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

❖ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX LEVY MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 15, 2016
- BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 19, 2017
- BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES JANUARY 19, 2017
- BOARD OF EDUCATION CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FOR JANUARY 19, 2017
- COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2017

❖ **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

● JANUARY TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF	\$	10,618,346.18
● JANUARY PAYROLL	\$	842,288.31
● JANUARY FIXED CHARGES	\$	150,836.37
● FEBRUARY EDUCATION FUND	\$	115,478.04
● FEBRUARY O&M FUND	\$	40,899.04
● FEBRUARY DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$	475.00
● FEBRUARY TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$	14,197.68
● FEBRUARY FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY FUND	\$	13,330.80

❖ **FEBRUARY PERSONNEL REPORT**

❖ **JANUARY ENROLLMENT REPORT**

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. Dechovitz aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; and Mr. Greengoss, aye. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS I

◆ **MAP Data**

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, presented winter MAP data gathered from testing that took place at Avoca West in January 2017. The presentation included charts that compared cohorts of children across the previous 3 years of testing, areas of strength and opportunities for improvement in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The data shared is formative, as it will be used to make midcourse adjustments and students are still in the process of learning the standards for the current grade level.

Students at Avoca West and Marie Murphy continue to show high achievement levels across all grade levels. Marie Murphy Principal, Matt Palcer, presented information regarding the areas of strength and opportunity for growth regarding ELA. Data was presented that reported the percentage of students that met their target growth. At Avoca West, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding their growth goals was consistently higher in ELA compared to math. The fact that AW is studying its math program and experimenting with several new programs is most likely a contributing factor. At Marie Murphy students demonstrated slightly better growth in math compared to ELA.



Currently, grade level teams are analyzing the data by grade level and by classroom and discussing how to address opportunities for improvement.

Jennie Winters, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, discussed current and future trends in education assessment by breaking down the relationship between the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the data collected from the MAP Assessment. MAP is limited in its ability to measure the analytical aspect of instruction that aligns with CCSS. The district is currently working on building assessment rubrics to measure the analytical learning taking place in the classroom. As the shift in assessment focus from achievement to growth to complexity continues, Avoca is striving toward aligning with the CCSS and developing assessment systems to track progress on this deeper level of knowledge.

◆ **English Learner Program Update**

Director of Pupil Services, Terry Sofianos and English Learner coordinator and instructor, Brigid Ohlwein, presented an update of the English Learner (EL) program at Avoca. The program currently services 84 Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students. In order to qualify for services, students are screened upon entry to the district when a student's guardian indicates that there is more than one language experienced in the home. Screening is done in preschool but is repeated in Kindergarten or at any point a student enters the district. Each year, LEP students are assessed as mandated by the state through the Assessing Comprehensive Communication in English State to State (ACCESS) test each winter. ACCESS is comprehensive and time consuming often taking over a month to complete. ACCESS results are returned in May, at which time the EL department can make with recommendations for students for the following year. Once a student has been recommended to exit program, if they have not already received 3 years of service, the parents can request they continue to receive service. EL instructors are mandated to monitor students for up to 2 years.

EL services are typically delivered in one of three ways: co-teaching in a typical classroom, pushing in to the classroom for added support, or pulling students out of the classroom for individualized support. Title 3 grant funds support professional development for EL and general education instructors, specialized educational materials, an after school homework club and a summer reading club to further support EL students beyond the classroom.

The current staffing for LEP students consists of 4 full-time teachers. Three are located at Avoca West, and one splits time between Marie Murphy and Avoca West and serves as the coordinator for the program. ISBE guidance recommends that a ratio of one EL teacher per no more than 90% of an average class size, which translates to a goal of a ratio of not greater than 18-20 students per teacher, or 72-80 students. Avoca's EL program is facing several challenges due to an increase in enrollment of LEP students. With the current caseload and the prospect of increasing numbers, there are several considerations that need to be addressed in order to ensure support of each EL student.

At this time, the Pupil Services department, which oversees the EL program, suggested options regarding the future of the EL department at Avoca. One option, to increase FTE by .5, would ensure compliance with the state's student-instructor ratio, better support general education teachers, and improve the combination of co-teaching, pull-out, and push-in that reflects instructional best practices. Another option would be to forego increasing staffing but maintain compliance with state mandates and change the delivery model. A third option would be to hire a teaching assistant (TA) to provide targeted support to graduated students and increase overall support.



This matter will be further discussed at later Board of Education meetings to determine the best plan of action for the 2017-2018 school year.

VISITORS' COMMENTS

Joel Kurzman introduced himself to the Board and Administration and shared information about his candidacy for the Wilmette Village Board of Trustees.

DISCUSSION ITEMS II

◆ **Preliminary Staffing Plan 2017-2018**

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, presented a preliminary staffing plan for the 2017-2018 school year. The staffing plan records the overall full-time equivalency (FTE) of instructional staff recommended to meet the needs of the student population. The preliminary plan presented to the Board was similar to the 2016-2017 active staffing plan. The current plan reflects three sections of kindergarten, but that will be reviewed as the number of kindergarten students registering for 17-18 school year continues to grow. The English Learner's program in need of potential future consideration for additional staffing. The district is planning an increase in teaching assistant FTE. Dr. Jauch indicated that the administrative team will continue to discuss the staffing plan and will present more definite numbers and program specifics at the March Board of Education meeting.

◆ **Book/Material, Technology and Transportation Fees**

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, presented her recommendations for Books/Materials, Technology and Transportations Fees for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Dever offered comparisons for each of these fees from other districts in the area demonstrating that Avoca remains competitive in regard to the fees requested. Ms. Dever is recommending no change in Books/Materials for 2017-2018. Ms. Dever also recommends not changing the technology fees. Ms. Dever indicated that transportation fees are an area of concern as transportation costs continue to rise and the amount of paying riders is declining. Avoca bus fees have not been changed since 2009. Avoca is unique in having our own buses/drivers. This year, a reported 16% of the cost of our transportation service has been covered through the fees collected. Local tax dollars are being used to fund 83% of the remaining budget and 1% of revenue is received from the state. Ms. Dever is recommending increasing the bus fee by \$30 this year, a \$1 increase to field-trip fees and increasing the early bird discount to \$75 as an incentive to register and pay for transportation services prior to June 30, 2017. The Board contributed some suggestions to increase the appeal of the service to parents. Ms. Dever will make modifications as recommended. The Board will vote to approve the 2017-2018 school fees at the March Board of Education meeting.

◆ **Avoca Center Update**

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, gave the Board an overview of the activity regarding Avoca Center. On January 13, 2017, the administrative team met with the Wilmette Park District administration to discuss considerations for a mutually beneficial option for the Avoca Center parcel of land. This meeting was a brain storming session allowing for open ideas to be shared between the school district and the park district. Many ideas were brought forth addressing a variety of uses including but not limited to athletics, utilitarian, parks (playground



or nature habitat) and a fine arts amphitheater. Dr. Jauch intends to present an updated action plan for Avoca Center at the March Committee of the Whole Meeting. This plan will be a timeline for pursuing three avenues to sell, raze, or pursue an agreement with the Wilmette Park District.

◆ **Athletic Director Position**

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, presented a recommendation to the Board regarding a new stipend for the position of Athletic Director. During the collective bargaining agreement negotiations of 2015, it was determined that this position would eventually need to be addressed as the current stipend for coordinating athletics at Avoca is split between two employee's in the district, one of whom is currently in the retirement track. The hours and responsibilities to incorporate this position at Marie Murphy was closely reviewed over the past year and a comparison of duties and salaries from other area districts has been conducted. Job responsibilities would include organizing the athletics schedule, space reservations, transportation, securing necessary referees, record keepers equipment inventory and ordering and ILSC concussion paperwork, training and compliance. Ms. Dever recommends setting a 170 hour stipend at the hourly leadership rate of \$29.84 for fiscal year 2018, which is equivalent to a total of \$5,073. The Board will be asked to approve the Athletic Director position at the March Board of Education meeting.

◆ **New Trier Freshman Survey Data**

Marie Murphy Principal, Matt Palcer, presented the Board with the results of the New Trier Freshman Survey data, which is administered by New Trier and is intended for students to reflect on their elementary district experience. The data from this survey came from the graduating class of 2015. Data collected represents the overall preparedness of students across the various areas of curriculum offered at New Trier. Mr. Palcer indicated that Marie Murphy uses this data to track trends on what students are reporting to see if there are areas of curriculum content that need to be addressed. Mr. Palcer indicates some concern regarding the results in student preparedness in writing, but expects the following years results to be on the upswing with the addition of the creative writing program. Students also reported feeling less prepared for the math rigor, which the district has been addressing. Students report high levels of preparedness in science and technology use. Additionally the data reflected an overall upswing in foreign language, allied-arts and extra-curricular activities.

◆ **FOIA- McShea**

On January 30, 2017, Donna McShea contacted Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, requesting copies of the Administrator's Summary reports for the 2016 ERB/CTP4 student testing. Dr. Jauch responded on February 3, 2017 indicating that Administrator's Summary reports for the 2016 ERB/CTP4 do not exist due to the fact that sender district identification data was not sent to ERB, therefore building/district level reports were not generated.



VISITORS' COMMENTS

Gil Gibori inquired whether the Board and Administration consider interventions targeted towards particular cohorts of students to address a grade level's academic needs.

CLOSED SESSION

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

The Board moved into closed session at 9:55 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:16 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 10:16 p.m.

Board President
Jeffrey Greengoss

Secretary
Kevin Jauch