

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Minutes

June 22, 2017

The Board of Education met in regular session on June 22, 2017 at 5:33 p.m. in the Library 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:

Louise Dechovitz, Vice President  
Dan Garbis  
Gil Gibori  
Joel Raynes  
Sheryl Swibel  
Jamie Taylor  
Rick Zelinsky, President

Also Present:

Debbie Cotter, Videographer  
Beth Dever, Chief School Business Official  
Suzanne Harris, Board Recorder  
Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent/Board Secretary  
Matthew Palcer, Marie Murphy Principal  
Terry Sofianos, Director of Pupil Services  
Jennie Winters, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator

Registered Visitors:

Scott Ginsburg  
Beth Haugeberg  
Kelli Lane  
Carrie Stotz  
Rosanne Ullman

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### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVES THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

◆ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES- MAY 8, 2017
- COTW CLOSED SESSION MINUTES- MAY 8, 2017
- FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES- MAY 18, 2017
- BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES- MAY 18, 2017
- CLOSED SESSION MINUTES- MAY 18, 2017

- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES- JUNE 5, 2017
- COTW CLOSED SESSION MINUTES- JUNE 5, 2017
- ◆ **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**
  - MAY TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF \$ 13,349,478.55
  - MAY PAYROLL \$ 847,653.03
  - MAY FIXED CHARGES \$ 158,070.66
  - JUNE EDUCATION FUND \$ 321,905.67
  - JUNE O&M FUND \$ 70,444.93
  - JUNE TRANSPORTATION FUND \$ 67,519.27
  - JUNE FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY FUND \$ 2,450.00
- ◆ **JUNE PERSONNEL REPORT**
- ◆ **MAY & JUNE ENROLLMENT REPORTS**

Mr. Garbis seconded the motion. Upon roll call, members voted as follows: Mr. Garbis, aye; Ms. Taylor, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; Mr. Gibori, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; and Ms. Dechovitz, aye.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Technology Innovation Plan Report

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, Avoca Technology Coordinator, Beth Haugeberg, and Avoca Technology Integration Specialist, Kelli Lane, presented the Board with the Technology and Innovation Plan for 2017-2021. The presentation highlighted the development process, key points of the Technology and Innovation Plan, how to navigate the document in which the plan is outlined and the outlook for implementation.

The plan was developed to align with the Avoca 2017-2021 Strategic Plan and lends itself to both student and teacher learning. It was developed by assessing the current educational and technological landscapes while addressing the skills and attributes students will need in the future. The process to arrive at the goals of the plan was bolstered by preliminary research through surveys to students, staff and parents, site visits, literature review and interviews with students, staff and parents. These efforts were facilitated by educational technology consultant, Lucy Gray. After this phase, the effort to develop the plan was spearheaded by the formation and work of the Technology and Innovation Committee.

The strategic priorities of the Technology and Innovation plan rose out of the research conducted. The strategic priorities are as follows: 1. Explore New Opportunities: Bringing in new ideas and innovations that do not currently exist within the Avoca district; 2. Enhance Instructional Practices: Improving our current teaching practices to include greater technology integration; 3. Prepare and Support Implementation: Provide and facilitate the professional development, planning, training and support teachers need to integrate technology effectively; and 4. Optimize Investments in Technology: Addressing the effectiveness and efficiency of how we use resources, including dollars and personnel, to provide staff and students with what they need to make learning happen.

The representatives of the committee gave a succinct overview of each strategic priority, the aligned strategies developed to address each goal and the observable and deliverable measures to monitor the progress of each goal. Key components of the Technology and Innovation Strategic Plan center on aligning the district's current resources with best technological practices while addressing the needs of the classroom teachers, which will in

turn, enhance student learning. For the 2017-2018 school year, the plan was designed to operate within the projected budget for technology by conducting in-house professional development and maintaining the regular device refresh schedule. The current technological resources will be assessed and a gradual and thoughtful recommendation for updating resources is planned to be presented to the Board in January 2018.

The Technology and Innovation Committee is confident of the direction of the plan and will be implementing it over the next three years. In preparation for the coming year of the plan, the Technology and Innovation Committee has begun communication with staff to form 3 teams to lead the implementation of the plan. These committees include a Refresh and Device Team, Website Revamp Team and the Technology Innovation Leadership Team.

Mr. Zelinsky inquired how and when the Technology and Innovation Strategic Plan would be presented to the Avoca Community. Dr. Jauch reported that the plan will be available for viewing on the website, but will also be featured in the Fall 2017 Vision. Communication has already begun among district staff as outlined above. The Board also requested timely updates regarding the progress of the Technology and Innovation Strategic Plan.

### **B. Summer 2017 Construction Update**

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, gave the Board an update regarding the summer 2017 life safety and facilities projects. At Marie Murphy, the final portion of the roof is being replaced. Thus far, they have vacuumed gravel off of the old roofs. The supplies for the roof replacement are scheduled to arrive on June 30, 2017 and the work will start on July 5th. Ms. Dever sent notice of the roof replacement at Marie Murphy to the property owners on the east side of the school.

At Avoca West, asbestos abatement has been completed in rooms 51 and 25. Those rooms have received air clearance; therefore, safety barriers can be removed. Those barriers will be moved to the 4th Grade area, where the Avoca West custodial crew has already removed furniture, the contractors have removed cabinets and secured windows. Asbestos abatement will begin directly in the 4th grade wing and is scheduled to be completed by Friday, June 30, 2017. Upon completion of the asbestos abatement, the contractor will work on cosmetic updates to the area including new cabinetry and flooring. Also at Avoca West, ceiling tiles have been removed in all the hallways to begin the work to extending the walls to the roof deck and the application of fire seal caulking around pipes.

Ms. Dever met with Carrie Matlock of DLA Architects, LTD and Brian Berg, the engineer from Berg Engineering Consultants, Ltd., to visit the buildings and outline the scope of the facilities plan update. Next week, the architects will begin updating the plan. Ms. Dever plans to present the new Facilities Plan to the Board at the September Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **C. Property Tax Appeal Board Update**

Scott Ginsburg, of Robbins Schwartz law firm, presented the Board with an overview of the process by which tax appeals through the Property Tax Appeals Board are defended. Mr. Ginsburg represents the New Trier Tax Consortium, which is a consortium of taxing districts that joined to intervene and defend school district finances in property tax assessment claims. Due to the fact that school districts receive the majority of their funding from local property taxes, the consortium formed to ensure that all of the properties within the district are paying their share, not under or over the reasonable value of the property.

When a tax payer files a Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) case, the district is notified and the consortium will intervene when the total tax money at stake for all of the districts in the consortium is greater than or equal to \$10,000. The goal of intervening in a PTAB is to save money for the school district. Mr. Ginsburg presented a report of cases that have been active in the last 3 years in which the district has intervened. The report outlines how much money has been spent in legal fees and how much the district stood to lose. Legal fees have remained steady on a per case basis of approximately \$400. This information was presented in a reduced efficiency analysis, which gives an average of the amount spent and saved for all the cases. Overall, by intervening in the PTAB's, the district is saving approximately half of the amount being sought.

#### **D. FOIA**

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch reported on two Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The first request was received on May 8, 2017 from the Illinois Retired Teachers Associations requesting the names and district email addresses of the retiring Illinois educators for the current school year and a complete list of all email addresses for all district/organizational employees. Suzie Harris, Assistant to the Superintendent, responded with the requested information on May 15, 2017.

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, received a second FOIA request from Michael Timothy of the National Association of Environmental Engineering Students Illinois Chapter requesting the name, title, cell phone and direct office phone of the transportation director for Avoca School District 37. Ms. Dever responded with the requested information on June 11, 2017, omitting the cell phone number, as that information is not required to be released under the FOIA.

## ACTION ITEM

### **A. ADOPTION OF PREVAILING WAGE ACT RESOLUTION**

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD ADOPT THE RESOLUTION COMPLYING WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE PREVAILING WAGE ACT FOR PREVAILING WAGES FOR COOK COUNTY, EFFECTIVE JUNE 5, 2017.

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

## CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Taylor moved that the Board move into Closed Session for the purpose of:

Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11);

The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6);

The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(10); and

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).

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

The Board moved into closed session at 6:40 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:49 p.m.

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

## MEETING ADJOURNS

Ms. Dechovitz moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Raynes seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Board meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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Board President, Rick Zelinsky

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Secretary, Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.