



BOARD OF EDUCATION Minutes

December 21, 2017

The Board of Education met in regular session on December 21, 2017 at 6:31 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:

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

Visitors:

Dorothy Elfring
Roula Karcazes
Anne Nagel

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Dechovitz moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVES THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

◆ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES-NOVEMBER 2, 2017
- CLOSED SESSION MINUTES-NOVEMBER 2, 2017
- SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES-NOVEMBER 7, 2017
- SPECIAL BOARD AVOCA CENTER COMMUNITY UPDATE-NOVEMBER 8, 2017
- SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES-NOVEMBER 13, 2017
- FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES- NOVEMBER 16, 2017
- BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES- NOVEMBER 16, 2017
- BOARD OF EDUCATION CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES- NOVEMBER 16, 2017
- COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MINUTES-NOVEMBER 29, 2017
- SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES-NOVEMBER 30, 2017
- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES-DECEMBER 4, 2017

◆ **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

● NOVEMBER TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF	\$	11,348,157.71
● NOVEMBER PAYROLL	\$	892,125.50
● NOVEMBER FIXED CHARGES	\$	160,404.21
● DECEMBER EDUCATION FUND	\$	263,168.48
● DECEMBER O&M FUND	\$	84,388.74
● DECEMBER TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$	12,429.52
● DECEMBER FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY	\$	40,033.73

◆ **DECEMBER PERSONNEL REPORT**

◆ **NOVEMBER ENROLLMENT REPORT**

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. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Avoca Center Community Update and Visitor Comments

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, gave the Board an update regarding developments that have transpired with Avoca Center since the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 4, 2017. Dr. Jauch presented a letter from Friends of Avoca Park, a group of local neighbors and parents who have joined together to advocate for expanded park space in the area. This group plans to incorporate themselves as a non-profit with the mission to conserve public resources, address the water and storm drainage issues, preserve property value and ensure that the current park land is maintained by raising community awareness, building partnerships with the Village of Wilmette and the Wilmette Park District and seeking grant funds towards the development of an innovative park space that benefits the students and neighborhood.

Dr. Jauch also informed the Board that he met with the owner of Sports Made Personal (SMP) to further discuss a potential partnership. SMP is a for profit organization that provides competitive lacrosse and soccer for the children in the Northshore area. Dr. Jauch indicated that SMP was interested in using the land and that the Board will convene in closed session to discuss the potential of a sale or land lease in further detail.

Board Member, Gil Gibori, made a formal proposal to the Board to disband the current Avoca Center Committee and appoint a Board liaison to be part of a community committee. The Board would be able to return to a focus on education and the community would be responsible for conducting the necessary ground work for the decision regarding Avoca Center, which would be presented to the Board for their vote. Mr. Gibori suggested the BOE discuss using bond revenue to finance the razing of Avoca Center and give the community time to narrow options and present a recommendation to the BOE. Mr. Gibori suggested the Board prepare to discuss this topic at the Committee of the Whole meeting in January. Ms. Dechovitz is in agreement with the idea of a timeline for the decision making process. Ms. Taylor indicated she would like to discuss the option of selling the property. The Board agreed to discuss their positions on Avoca Center at the January Committee of the Whole Meeting.

B. Strategic Plan Update (SP)

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, gave the Board an update on the current status of the Strategic Plan. Dr. Jauch presented changes to Goal 1.a. for year two of the strategic plan and how those changes would impact the rest of the strategic plan. These changes were made to address challenges encountered this year as staff worked to achieve all of the goals associated with curriculum and instruction. Specifically, the changes presented allow the Curriculum and

Instruction Coordinator, Jennie Winters, to focus on the new math curriculum adoption at Avoca West and the district wide English Language Arts review. Additionally, the district will continue to build a collective understanding of formative assessment, which will be applied during the 2018-2019 school year. The strategic plan revisions also move the implementation of the NGSS scientific practices and crosscutting concepts to the 2019-2020 school year. Two other goals for 2017-2018 were aligning the C-3 social studies framework grades 6-8 and systematically implementing standards based curriculum for K-8 in Core/Encore/Allied Arts. Though moved, these goals will not be dropped but will be supported by the building principals. Dr. Jauch believes these updates will be the most effective use of time and skill for Ms. Winters and will better support teaching staff in the curriculum transitions.

Mr. Gibori suggested that the district and teaching staff invest the time into providing curriculum information for all subject areas available to parents, especially in lieu of the changes being made to the strategic plan. Mr. Gibori also inquired into the current status of science and whether delaying updates to that subject area would create a larger gap for the district to catch up to developments in content and concepts.

The Board discussed a variety of ways to help organize and systemize curriculum adoption for teachers, parents and administrative goal alignment to the strategic plan. The Board also inquired as to the financial implications of the changes to the strategic plan and how they can be monitored and reported. Ms. Swibel suggested an update regarding the fiscal impact and progress regarding these changes in the spring.

c. Update Strategies for Increasing Revenues and Decreasing Expenditures (SP5)

By reviewing both revenues and expenditures in an attempt to improve the financial standing of the district, Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, highlighted various areas which the administration has been investigating. Dr. Jauch and the Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, presented information to the Board regarding what has been done, what can be done and what are other potential areas to be studied that could move the district to realize financial gain. The district has lowered the tax rate for the O&M fund in order to increase the tax rate in the Ed fund, increased transportation fees, increased fieldtrip transportation fees, increased summer school fees, received local grants, and taken full advantage of Title 1, Title II and Title IV federal grants. To decrease expenditures, the district has reduced certified personnel by 0.25 FTE, reduced non-certified personnel by 0.5 FTE and shifted the processing fee for Mealtime credit card payments to the customer. The district is considering looking into the expenses associated with extracurricular activities and outsourced service contracts that could be put out to bid or renegotiated. The district is investigating collecting a fee from the builder of a larger planned unit development within the district to mitigate the cost of increased enrollment, collecting Medicaid reimbursements for related serviced for students with IEPs, partnering with an organization interested in assisting in the financial aspects of razing Avoca Center, as well as investigating staffing needs.

Board President, Rick Zelinsky, proposed to the Board to develop goals and objectives in regards to district expenditure targets and to work toward achieving balance. Ms. Taylor inquired whether the finance committee should take the lead in developing the goals. The Board agreed that parameters should be decided by the Board before the committee should begin work.

D. Potential General Obligation Bond Issuance

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, presented the Board with the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the Avoca West and Marie Murphy Facilities Plan. Since the

December Committee of the Whole meeting, the plan has been modified to add three rooms of cabinetry to the Avoca West report as well as reduced the contingency fees at both schools for the casework and flooring. The total cost of the plan remains the same at approximately \$7,580,000. The Finance Committee also recommended pursuing a bond issue at the current debt service extension base (DSEB) of \$730,780 per year for approximately 18 years, without increasing the tax burden on the community, in order to generate the \$7,580,000 to fund the recommended facilities plan. The Board will be asked to approve the facilities plan as well as approve Administration to prepare for a general obligation bond sale during this meeting.

E. Communication Committee Report (SP 4)

Board Communication Committee members, Sheryl Swibel, Louise Dechovitz, Gil Gibori and Dr. Jauch met to discuss the progress regarding the implementation of the district's communication plan. Ms. Swibel gave a brief overview of the meeting. Ms. Swibel indicated that the Board communication Committee was formed to support the Board's agreement to honor transparency. The district has a variety of constituents, 80% of which do not have children in the district. The challenge is communicating to that 80% along with the parents. The committee reviewed the external and internal communication mechanisms in place to reach the greater Avoca Community. The committee expressed satisfaction with the districts efforts to increase external distribution of information and the improvement of internal engagement.

Mr. Gibori indicated that there is a noticeable increase in engagement community wide, but that the district should continue to optimize available resources.

Ms. Dechovitz agreed that the district has done a lot of work to improve communication. She also suggested establishing new channels to reach the 80% to develop relationships for the future needs of the district.

F. IASA/IASB/IASBO Conference Report

Pursuant to their attendance at the annual IASA/IASB/IASBO Conference in November, the Board requested that Dr. Jauch, Ms. Dever, Ms. Dechovitz and Mr. Raynes provide the Board with a report containing relevant information they learned at the conference. The attendees went to a variety of topical sessions including technology, STEM, communication, referendum, effective board meeting strategies, measures of student success, finance and security. Overall, those who attended agreed that it was a valuable experience and that they gained practical knowledge to apply to their roles in the district.

G. 2018-2019 School Year Calendar- 2nd Reading

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, presented the Board with his recommendation for the 2018-2019 school year calendar. Various options for the school year calendar were vetted with Administration, the Avoca Education Association (AEA) and the Parent Teacher Council. The recommendation for the 2018-2019 calendar has Certified Staff returning to work on Friday, August 24th. The first day of student attendance will be Tuesday, August 28th. The last day of student attendance will be Thursday, June 13th, barring the need to use emergency days. This calendar aligns breaks to New Trier's calendar, considers the AEA contract, holidays and summer school. The Board will be asked to approve the 2018-2019 school year calendar during this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF 2017 TAX LEVY

Ms. Taylor moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2017 TAX LEVY AS PRESENTED.

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.

B. APPROVAL OF AVOCA WEST AND MARIE MURPHY FACILITIES PLAN AND PREPARATION FOR BOND SALE

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE FOR THE SALE OF APPROXIMATELY \$7.58 MILLION IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR AVOCA WEST AND MARIE MURPHY FACILITIES PLAN CAPITAL PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT AS PRESENTED.

Ms. Taylor 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.

C. APPROVAL OF 2018 SUMMER SCHOOL TUITION AND BUS FEES

Ms. Taylor moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2018 SUMMER SCHOOL TUITION AND BUS FEES AS PRESENTED.

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

D. APPROVAL OF 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Ms. Dechovitz moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AS PRESENTED.

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

E. APPROVAL OF INTERVENING IN A PTAB FOR PROPERTY AT 3200 LAKE AVENUE, WILMETTE

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE INTERVENING IN A PTAB AND APPOINTING THE LAW FIRM OF ROBBINS, SCHWARTZ, NICHOLAS, LIFTON & TAYLOR, LTD. TO INTERVENE ON THE DISTRICT'S BEHALF ON A PENDING 2016 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL BY CARSON PIRIE SCOTT & COMPANY FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3200 LAKE AVENUE, WILMETTE, IL.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

THE SETTING OF A PRICE FOR SALE OR LEASE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE PUBLIC BODY. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(6).

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. Garbis, aye; Ms. Taylor, aye; Ms. Swibel, aye; Mr. Gibori, aye; Mr. Raynes, aye; Mr. Zelinsky, aye; Ms. Dechovitz, aye. Motion carried.

The Board moved into closed session at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 9:44 p.m.

Mr. Raynes moved that the Board return into open session, and Ms. Dechovitz 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. Garbis seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, with all members voting aye, the motion was carried. The Board meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Board President, Rick Zelinsky

Secretary, Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.