



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes

May 24, 2018

The Board of Education met in regular session on May 24, 2018 and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium 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
Jessica Hutchison, Avoca West Principal
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:

Diane Bilcer
Kristi Byrd
Nell Cunningham
Stacey Deemar
Philip Fogelson
Carrie Gibori
Jennifer Greenberg
Beth Haugeberg
Kelli Lane
Heather Lara
Brigid Ohlwein
Patti Patrick
Elaine Pearlman
Lori Sandler
Daira Tramontin
Rachel Wilson

STUDENT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Students from both Avoca West Elementary School and Marie Murphy School were recognized for their contribution to and achievement in the following clubs or activities:

Assembly Ambassadors
Avoca Central News
Breakout EDU Club
Concert Choir
French Exchange Program
iOnAvoca Presenters
iOnAvoca Writers Club
Scholastic Art and Writing Awards
Social Media Interns
Spring Play Cast and Crew
Student Ambassadors
Student Council

VISITOR COMMENTS

Philip Fogelson, an Avoca parent, addressed the Board regarding the use of the book *My Name is Bilal* as a resource in the 5th Grade to support the Social Issues unit. Mr. Fogelson took exception to some of the content regarding religion that is present in the book.

Stacey Deemar, an Avoca parent, addressed the Board regarding the use of the book *My Name is Bilal* as a resource in the 5th Grade to support the Social Issues unit. Ms. Deemar took exception to some of the content regarding religion that is present in the book. She also felt that some of the content was too violent for 5th grade students. Ms. Deemar requested a response to her comments at the next Board meeting.

Elaine Pearlman, an Avoca parent, addressed the Board regarding the use of the book *My Name is Bilal* as a resource in the 5th Grade to support the Social Issues unit. Ms. Pearlman took exception to some of the content regarding religion that is present in the book and felt that some of the content was too violent. She also felt that the concerns raised were not received well by the superintendent.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVES THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

◆ APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES- April 16, 2018
- BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES- April 19, 2018
- BOARD OF EDUCATION CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES- April 19, 2018
- SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES- April 27, 2018
- SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES- April 27, 2018
- COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES- April 30, 2018
- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES-May 7, 2018
- CLOSED SESSION MINUTES-May 7, 2018

◆ FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- APRIL TOTAL FUND BALANCE OF \$ 13,174,843.94

● APRIL PAYROLL	\$	871,613.40
● APRIL FIXED CHARGES	\$	163,551.15
● MAY EDUCATION FUND	\$	214,575.79
● MAY O&M FUND	\$	46,071.00
● MAY TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$	11,592.06
◆ MAY PERSONNEL REPORT		
◆ APRIL ENROLLMENT REPORT		

Ms. Dechovitz 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. Technology Refresh and Review

Avoca West Principal, Jessica Hutchison, District Technology Coordinator, Beth Haugeberg, District Technology Integration Specialist, Kelli Lane, and Members of the 2nd Grade Team, Kristy Byrd, Jennifer Greenberg and Heather Lara, presented the Board with a review of their request for 1:1 iPads in the 2nd Grade for the 2018-2019 school year. The review reiterated that the iPads would be an additional tool for the classroom and not used to replace good instructional practices. The members of the Board were led through an example lesson to show how the teachers plan to use the iPads to understand how students think, learn and problem solve while increasing efficiency and effectiveness of student assessment in the classroom. The 2nd Grade Team believes that the deployment of iPads will improve creativity, computational thinking, digital citizenship, and increase collaboration both within and beyond classroom walls, while growing 21st century learners who know iPads are a tool for learning. The Team also presented information regarding the assessment of the deployment and how they will know whether or not it was successful.

The Board asked several questions to clarify if the request is a need as opposed to a want in light of the district's current budget deficit. Mr. Gibori, Ms. Swibel, Mr. Raynes and Ms. Dechovitz all commented that this may not be the right time to purchase these devices. Ms. Dechovitz noted that there is research on the draw backs regarding use of technology in primary grade and believes those should be considered. She also inquired into the greater vision beyond this year. Ms. Taylor commented that the instructional aspect of this recommendation should be entrusted to the administration and teachers, and that they should be the ones to develop and gauge success of the use of iPads as a tool for learning at 2nd grade. She noted her support of the recommendation knowing the budgetary impact.

Later during this meeting, the Board decided by vote to hold further discussion on this topic prior to voting on the recommendation.

B. ELA Committee Update

Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, Jennie Winters, and members of the ELA Steering Committee, Diane Bilcer, Nell Cunningham, Heather Lara, Patti Patrick, Daira Tramontin and Rachel Wilson presented the Board with an update of the work of the ELA committee. The steering committee has been working with subcommittees in the ELA content areas of Foundations, Writing, Literature, Informational Text, and Vocabulary. The committee reviewed its work for the 2017-2018 school year. The committee also presented a timeline over the next five years for implementation of their recommendations, noting their intentional slow role out to ensure they are assessing and supporting their plan.

Mr. Zelinsky inquired how the Board can support the implementation of the plan. Ms. Tramontin noted that most importantly, the committee would need support for time allocated to meetings and professional development to ensure that resources are being integrated and understood with consistency.

Mr. Zelinsky also inquired as to when the Board will receive an update. Dr. Jauch stated he would be

including updates with his strategic plan standing agenda item and can inform the Board when the committee will be ready to share more information.

Ms. Taylor inquired regarding how the resources were selected. Most of the resources were already being used in the district in some settings, but the committee completed interviews to assess gaps or needs in terms of ELA resources.

Ms. Taylor also inquired how the committee is planning to achieve horizontal and vertical alignment. The committee explained the matrix of support that has been woven between schools, grade level bands and content areas to ensure consistency and alignment across those areas.

Ms. Dechovitz inquired how grammar would be incorporated into the ELA curriculum. Grammar will be part of the writing component of ELA. The Writing Subcommittee will be devoting summer hours to realign the scope and sequences for grammar.

Mr. Zelinsky concluded by commending the ELA committee for their work and leadership.

c. MTSS Committee Update

Director of Pupil Service, Terry Sofianos, ELS Coordinator, Brigid Ohlwein, and Intervention Specialist, Lori Sandler, presented the Board with a report and the recommendations of the Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) Committee. Ms. Sofianos reviewed the MTSS model and its relation to the current strategic plan. During the 2016-2017 school year, the MTSS committee conducted research into MTSS practices and Avoca's current reality. Throughout 2017-2018, as a result of their research, the MTSS committee was able to identify the areas for improvement and develop action plans to address them moving forward. For the 2018-2019 school year, the MTSS committee plans to address a lack of an integrated assessment system. This committee will collect data, make an assessment schedule and work to ensure assessment matches instruction. The MTSS committee will also address the need for time and personnel to deliver systematic interventions by reviewing the master schedule and developing intervention blocks, as well as providing dedicated training to support staff. The MTSS committee will also work to develop a manual of tiered interventions and determine training needs during the 2018-2019 school year. The intervention manual will include an array of intervention techniques for improved differentiation. They believe that these recommendations will ensure the district is using public education best practices, aligning systems across and between grade levels, and changing the orientation of interventions from reactive to proactive and allocating resources mindfully. Ms. Sandler shared that the immediate next steps are reviewing benchmark assessments to determine their delivery and application as well as reviewing the interventions available and the resources needed to deliver them.

D. Avoca Center Update

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, gave the Board an update on the current status of the future of Avoca Center. On May 11th, the Avoca Center Committee met with representatives from North Shore Country Day School (NSCD) to further discuss priorities and options for Avoca Center. NSCD noted that their current top priorities are to construct a turf field on their existing property and the renovation their current gymnasium. Due to these priorities, NSCD noted that any potential development of sports amenities on the Avoca Center parcel would not transpire for a couple of years. Through this discussion, NSCD recognized they would need to utilize another space while their facilities are being renovated. A potential remedy could be for NSCD to assist with razing the Avoca Center building in exchange for land use. The district will continue discussions with NSCD and continues to investigate mutually beneficial partnerships. Dr. Jauch confirmed that there is interest from other organizations to potentially rent Avoca field space that NSCD does not need or at times when NSCD is not utilizing the field space.

Dr. Jauch also noted that Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, clarified the numbers associated with the cost of razing Avoca Center. Demolishing the building, abating the asbestos and removal of a fuel

storage tank during the off season could cost around \$400,000, however, if the fuel storage tank has a leak, the estimate is closer to \$500,000.

Mr. Garbis noted that the meeting with NSCD was positive and while the negotiations are in the preliminary stage, both organizations are open to creative solutions.

E. Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Jauch highlighted ongoing work to achieve the 2017-2018 goals of the current strategic plan. Through the delivery of updates from the ELA Committee, the MTSS Committee and the ongoing technology discussions the Board has been given an interwoven update regarding Goal 1.

Regarding Goal 2, the administrative team developed a staff satisfaction survey, which will be facilitated by the AEA in order to maintain anonymity. The goal is to be able to report the results of the survey back to the teachers by the end of the school year. Dr. Jauch noted that he is especially interested in the responses to the 144 character maximum request for how the district can improve.

Goal 3 relates to data driven goal setting. The district finished administering the last MAP test for the school year and is in the midst of reviewing that data. Pupil Services is conducting the end of year IEP meetings to review student growth and goal setting for the following year.

Goal 4, in relation to communication and engagement, a February-April Board Brief was mailed to district residents and included a link to a survey to gather feedback regarding Avoca's communication efforts and an invitation to opt-in to district emails.

Goal 5 addresses resources in terms of personnel, space and finances. Avoca West has made some adjustments to the use of instructional spaces. At Marie Murphy, administration is reviewing the structure of the interventions for the core plus program which will result in better alignment of time and staff to increase efficiency and effectiveness of those interventions.

Mr. Gibori inquired whether the staff satisfaction survey requested input regarding the Board. Dr. Jauch indicated it did not and that while that may be beneficial in the future, there was a more internal focus to this survey.

Ms. Dechovitz commented that relating to Goal 1, when the various committees address the Board she would like to also be informed on how the committee plans to evaluate the success of the implementation of their recommendations.

F. Avoca Benefits Committee Report

Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever, presented the Board with a report on the work of the Avoca Benefits Committee for the 2017-2018 school year. This year, the benefits committee met four times to review and discuss topics that cover the districts health, life, dental, disability, flex, 403(b) and 457(b) plans. The committee reviewed benefits, enrollment, plans, renewals, providers, Affordable Care Act, benefit communication and wellness.

Ms. Dever noted that insurance premium rate renewals were approved in March by the EBC board. There was a .10% decrease for PPO, no change for life insurance, a .30% decrease for dental and a 4.0% decrease for HMO.

The EBC also launched a new wellness incentive program, which is a three tier program, which could result in a .75% premium rebate, which is used to provide wellness opportunities to the staff. The district achieved Tier 1 for a .25% rebate with a 79% participation rate in the wellness screenings. In order to qualify for Tier 2, the district needed to implement at least one wellness initiative by the end of the school

year. Avoca offered yoga sessions to staff, which were well received by those who attended. If the district qualified for both Tier 1 and Tier 2, they will receive an additional .25% premium rebate.

The Avoca Benefits Committee will meet again in the fall to plan the wellness activities for the 2017-2018 school year.

Ms. Swibel, a member of the Avoca Benefits Committee, stated that this committee had a lot of additional work to complete this year and were proactive in achieving their goals.

Brigid Ohlwein, also a member of the Avoca Benefits Committee, was in agreement that it was a productive committee and commended Ms. Dever on her leadership and knowledge.

G. Food Service: Contract and Meal Fees

Ms. Dever presented the Board with the Finance Committee's recommendations for the food service program for the 2018-2019 school year. The Finance Committee reviewed the meal pricing and recommended that the price be increased by \$.25 and the entrée only option by \$.30. This change is projected to decrease the anticipated loss to \$7,815 for fiscal year 2019, assuming flat participation and a minimum wage increase effective July 1, 2018. This pricing remains competitive with other schools in New Trier Township. Ms. Dever included a price list for each meal and a la carte option. The Board will approve these prices during this meeting.

Ms. Dever also discussed renewing Avoca's contract with Quest Food Services, Inc. (Quest) for a 3-year period. At the May Committee of the Whole meeting, representatives from Quest presented a tiered fee structure, which the Finance Committee reviewed and modified into four tiers as follows: 4% management fee should total annual program loss exceed \$10,000; 5% should total annual program loss be less than \$10,000; 7% should total annual program profit exceed breakeven but be less than \$10,000; and 8% should total annual program profit exceed \$10,000. Based on the projected loss for next year, Quest would earn a 5% management fee. This new structure was incorporated into the 3-year contract and was approved by the Board during this meeting.

H. New Board of Education Agreements from Self Governance Review

On April 27, 2018, The Board met in special closed session for a self-governance review. During that meeting, the Board discussed their Board of Education Agreements, which is a document that guides the roll and conduct of the Avoca Board of Education. The Board agreed to make some minor updates to the Agreements as well as add a section regarding their Voting Method. The revised 2017-2019 Board of Education Agreements will be made available for viewing on the district website.

I. FOIA (1)

Dr. Jauch presented information regarding a Freedom of Information Act request received by the district on April 18, 2018 to provide guidelines and history regarding Independent Educational Evaluations. The district responded on April 25, 2018.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF HUNTER HOUSE RENTAL AGREEMENT

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE PRESENTED HUNTER HOUSE RENTAL RATE AGREEMENT WITH KATIE NAGEL AS TENANT UNTIL JULY 31, 2019.

Mr. Garbis 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 STAFF TECHNOLOGY REFRESH

Ms. Dechovitz moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE STAFF TECHNOLOGY REFRESH PLAN NOT TO EXCEED A TOTAL COST OF \$ \$107,244.

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.

C. POSTPONEMENT OF VOTE TO APPROVE 2ND GRADE IPAD DEPLOYMENT

Mr. Gibori moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE POSTPONEMENT OF VOTE TO APPROVE 2ND GRADE IPAD DEPLOYMENT.

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

D. APPROVAL OF PREVAILING WAGE ACT RESOLUTION

Ms. Taylor moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION, THUS COMPLYING WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE PREVAILING WAGE ACT FOR PREVAILING WAGES FOR COOK COUNTY, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2017.

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 FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT WITH QUEST FOOD SERVICES, INC.

Ms. Taylor moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN AVOCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 37 AND QUEST FOOD SERVICES, INC. AS PRESENTED.

Ms. Dechovitz 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.

F. APPROVAL OF FOOD SERVICE FEES

Mr. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE 2018-2019 FOOD SERVICE FEES AS PRESENTED.

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

G. APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF INTEREST INCOME

Ms. Taylor moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF INTEREST FROM THE WORKING CASH FUND TO THE EDUCATION FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,256.00 AND FROM THE DEBT SERVICE FUND TO THE OPERATIONS FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,403.00.

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.

H. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ABATING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 37
Ms. Dechovitz moved that:

THE BOARD ADOPT THE RESOLUTION ABATING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF SCHOOL DISTRICT 37 OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Garbis 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.

I. APPROVAL OF INTERVENING IN A PTAB
Ms. Raynes moved that:

THE BOARD APPROVE INTERVENING IN A PTAB REGARDING THE PROPERTY AT 68 LOCUST ROAD, WINNETKA, ILLINOIS AND APPOINTING THE LAW FIRM OF ROBBINS SCHWARTZ TO INTERVENE ON THE DISTRICT'S BEHALF ON A PENDING 2017 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL AS PRESENTED.

Ms. Dechovitz 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.

CLOSED SESSION

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

THE PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS. 5ILCS 120/2(C)(10);

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 PROBABLY OR IMMINENT, IN WHICH CASE THE BASIS FOR THE FINDING SHALL BE RECORDED AND ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11); 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).

Mr. Garbis 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; and Ms. Taylor, aye; and Ms. Swibel, aye. Motion carried.

The Board moved into closed session at 10:02 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 11:28 p.m.

Mr. Raynes moved that the Board return into open session, and Mr. Gibori 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 11:28 p.m.

Board President, Rick Zelinsky

Secretary, Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.