



Board of Education

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Call to Order and Roll Call of Closed Session Meeting

President Eileen Kowalczyk called the Closed Session Meeting of the Board of Education of February 18, 2021, to order at 6:03 p.m. via Zoom conferencing. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Board members present were Vicki Chung, Kimberly Fay, Jennifer Kobus, Brian Maye, Gerald McCluskey, Rachael Rothrauff, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Absent: None.

Adjournment of Closed Session

President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to adjourn Closed Session. Member Kobus moved, seconded by Vice President Chung, to adjourn Closed Session. All members voted yes and the Board adjourned Closed Session at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call of Open Session

President Eileen Kowalczyk called the Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of February 18, 2021, to order at 7:02 p.m. Board members physically present at Fairview School were Vicki Chung, Brian Maye, Gerald McCluskey, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Attending through Zoom conferencing were Kimberly Fay, Jennifer Kobus, and Rachael Rothrauff. Absent: None.

Communications

Board of Education

- NSSEO: No report
- Education Foundation: Member Fay attended the February 16 meeting and said there was a lot of discussion regarding what types of grants there should be for the money that was raised from the square fundraiser. They also discussed maybe moving to just one fundraiser per year.
- PTO Reports: Member Kobus (Lions Park), Member Rothrauff (Westbrook) Member Fay (Fairview), and Member McCluskey (Lincoln) reported on PTO meetings.
- Board President Report:
 - President Kowalczyk thanked the PTOs, MPEA, and MPESPA for participating in the search for the new superintendent. She said Dr. Craig Winkelman, currently at Barrington District 220, and Dr. Mary Gorr were the two finalists. The new superintendent will be announced at the March 4 meeting.
 - She thanked everyone for all the community comments. She said some people are saying that next fall the students will return hybrid. She stated that there has been no discussion about that.

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk said those wishing to share comments, who were not in attendance at the meeting, were to email their comments using the Board feedback form on the district's website. The emails were seen by each of the Board members and district administration. The comments were posted on the website at noon that day. She said there would be two times on the agenda for those in-person to comment including those present in the gym. She stated each time would be allotted one hour for comments. Nineteen people, which included three students, commented. The comments urged the Board to allow students who wanted to return to full time in-person learning to do so. President Kowalczyk thanked everyone for their comments and for being respectful of one another.

Staff Reports

- Back to School Task Force Report

Superintendent Aumiller introduced the presenting members of the Task Force, Mr. Chris Hoff, Mr. Mike Murtagh, and Mrs. Jill Morgan. She said the Board of Education directed administration last October to form a Task Force with representatives from District 57 parents, staff, and administration. She said it was a very diverse group who had different opinions about the reopening of school. The goal of the Task Force was to provide a recommendation to the Board regarding reopening schools. The Task Force said they all want students back as soon as possible but safely. They explained that they broke into teams for research, spring learning models, and communication. The whole group met seven times and there were additional meetings with the teams.

The Research Team said COVID-19 most commonly spreads during close contact of less than six feet of distancing for 15 minutes. Continuing to wear masks and hand washing are very important. They shared that as of the day of the meeting, the area of Mount Prospect was still in the orange or Substantial Transmission zone. They commented that you can usually find research to support anything but they were following the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines who all recommend six feet of distancing.

The Communication Team worked with Mark Fijor, Director of Technology, to update the district's website to ensure that all COVID-19 information was in one spot on the website so families and staff had access to the district's metrics, COVID-19 dashboard, previous communications, mitigation efforts, current learning models, and health and safety procedures. They reviewed the results of the recent survey and would also like to survey students to hear their voice.

The Spring Learning Models Team shared what they found out about what other districts were doing. They also looked at what a full time model would look like for District 57 and addressed challenges with the current hybrid model. The factors that impact any district are unique to each district and are budget, enrollment numbers, physical classroom size, and unique learning needs of the population. Out of the local districts, eight are hybrid, five are full-time, and one district is a combination of hybrid and full-time for the different grade levels. Four of the six districts are not guaranteeing six feet of distancing. They explained the pros and cons of live-streaming. Lack of space in District 57 is the biggest issue and the Task Force shared ways to address the issue by reducing the distancing, adding live-streaming, hire more teachers or find alternative spaces for classrooms. They considered switching the elementary hybrid to two full days instead of five half days. It is not that simple to increase the time for the half days and be in accordance with the teachers' contract. They shared a model where the students could be four feet apart. Their conclusion was big changes in the learning model would not be worth the upheaval it would create if they did not actually increase the in-person learning time. The Task Force said the current hybrid model has need for improvement and the Task Force would like the opportunity to continue to work on and implement new strategies.

The Task Force made four recommendations.

- Recommendation 1: The Board of Education continue the current hybrid and full-remote learning models that are currently in place for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year unless significant changes occur in the COVID-19 landscape such as recommendations from the CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Cook County Department of Public Health supporting an in-person model with less than six feet of social distancing.
- Recommendation 2: The Board of Education implement an adaptive pause after spring break which would mitigate the risks associated with travel. This would mean hybrid students participate in remote learning for two weeks until April 12.

- Recommendation 3: The Board of Education support strategic planning for fall 2021 learning models that feature full, in-person learning for students.
- Recommendation 4: The Board of Education allow the Task Force to continue its work to provide ongoing reports to the Board regarding updated research, information, or planning that will support a transition to more in-person learning opportunities for students.

President Kowalczyk and the Board members thanked the Task Force for all their time and effort working on this and said they greatly appreciated what the Task Force did. Board discussion followed with the presenting members of the Task Force, Dr. Gorr, and Superintendent Aumiller answering questions. One Board member asked if the decision was unanimous. Superintendent Aumiller said there was consensus and that a member of the Task Force resigned and said if that person wanted to share the reason for resigning, it was her choice. Zoi Giannakopoulos said she could not support what the community did not want and what she felt was not in the best interest of the students. The Board member also asked if the Task Force was influenced by the Board wanting six feet of distancing. A Task Force member responded that they looked at different distancing. There was discussion about live-streaming, the difference it would make when staff is vaccinated, about how full time learning would affect the remote students, targeted students' needs, students' mental health, length of time in-person and time in hybrid, and possible waivers from parents. Member Maye spoke in support of families having the option for their children to be in-person full time even if it was with less than six feet of distancing. President Kowalczyk said the Board would make a decision at the March 4 meeting.

- Superintendent's Report

- Preview of FY 22 Staffing Plan

Superintendent Aumiller referred to the staffing plan that was in their packet and informed the Board that the only difference in the staffing plan for next year is an increase of 1.0 certified to accommodate an extra section at Lions Park. She said circumstances could change that would affect the staffing plan for next year and answered a question regarding the timeline for fall.

- Communications Plan Update

Dr. Aumiller referenced the Communications Plan that was in their packet. Dr. Aumiller thanked Jenny Quinn for bringing this forward.

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report

Superintendent Aumiller said she had three FOIA requests to report.

- ✓ She said we received a request on January 30 from Joe Sutton requesting the provider contracts for the district's current website and/or management system, alerts and/or emergency notification, mobile app, and learning management system. She said we responded on February 4 and furnished the information requested.
- ✓ The second request was received on February 2 from Nathan Mihelich of Illinois Retired Teachers' Association requesting the names and email addresses of any certified staff who are retiring. She said we responded on February 4 and informed him that she was the only certified person retiring as of now and gave him her email address.
- ✓ The third request was received on February 8 from Jonathan Fagg of WLS-TV. He requested a breakdown of student attendance rates for both in-person and remote learning from the start of the current school year until present. He asked that the rates be broken down by school, and how attendance is being tracked. She said we responded on February 12 and sent him the rates by school for remote learning from the start of the school year until January 15 and for remote and in-person from January 19 through February 12.

Consent Agenda

President Kowalczyk said it was not necessary to pull the minutes from the Consent Agenda because all members were present at the meetings. Member Maye reviewed the bills and said everything was in order.

President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Chung moved, seconded by Member Kobus, to approve the items of the Consent Agenda as follows

- Item 1. Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings
- Special Meeting January 21, 2021 – Closed Session
 - Regular Business Meeting January 28, 2021 – Open Session

Item 2. Personnel Transactions

Accept the resignation from second year leave of absence of the following certified employee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Katie Hutz	Teacher	Lions Park	6/2/21

Approve the employment of the following ESP individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Cristina Jimenez	Health Clerical Assistant	Lincoln	2/11/21	\$16.02/hour
Lisa Sullivan	Instructional Assistant .5 FTE	Westbrook	1/25/21	\$16.02/hour

Lisa previously worked for the district from 11/13/17 until she resigned 11/13/20

Accept the resignation of the following ESP employee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Ryan Nielsen	Instructional Assistant	Lions Park	2/19/21

Item 3. Financial Reports – January 2021

Item 4. Accounts Payable Bills Totaling \$415,022.13

Item 5. Approve Attorney, Architect, and Construction Manager

Item 6. Approve Resolution 210218 Authorizing Intervention in Property Tax Appeal Cases

Roll call vote resulted as follows

Yes: Chung, Fay, Kobus, Maye, McCluskey, Rothrauff, Kowalczyk

No: None Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

None

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk said this was the second time for community comments and that the Board would hear Community Comments for one hour and again asked people to be respectful. She said people could also submit comments on the Board Submission Form and would have another opportunity to speak at the March 4 meeting. Six people addressed the Board regarding students returning full time in-person. One person suggested iPads for kindergarten and first grade students and asked that the grass be plowed at Westbrook so that parents can distance when picking up their children.

President Kowalczyk thanked those who made comments. She said Member Maye mentioned that it is the Board that gives administration direction and that administration has been doing what the Board directed. Member Maye asked for administration to give their views. Superintendent Aumiller respectfully asked him not to put them in that position. President Kowalczyk asked administration if they could have something for the March 4 meeting showing what full time in-person would look like. Superintendent Aumiller said administration would do that and that there is not an administrator or Task Force member that does not want students back full time. She thanked President Kowalczyk and said administration would do what the Board decides.

New Business

None

Board Discussion

None


Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member McCluskey moved, seconded by Member Fay, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote resulted as follows

Yes: Fay, Kobus, Maye, McCluskey, Rothrauff, Chung, Kowalczyk

No: None

Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m.



Virginia Webster, Secretary



Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President

Date of approval: March 18, 2021