



## Board of Education

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### Call to Order and Roll Call

President Eileen Kowalczyk called the Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of July 15, 2021, to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Corrin Bennett-Kill, Kevin Bull, Vicki Chung, Kimberly Fay, Jennifer Kobus, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Absent: Jennifer Ciok.

### Communications

#### Board of Education

- NSSEO: No report.
- Education Foundation: No report.
- PTO Reports: No report
- Board President Report: President Kowalczyk asked board members to sign up for various meetings and reminded the Board of the Triple I Conference held November 19 and 20 in Chicago. This conference is highly recommended and very informative. President Kowalczyk reminded the Board of the facilities' walkthrough on August 12, beginning at Lions Park School.

### Community Comments

President Kowalczyk advised the audience that the community can address the board for one hour at this time and one hour later in the meeting. Of the nine parents who spoke in the first hour, four families favored keeping the masks mandatory. One parent does not think we can make masks optional until all kids can be vaccinated. The following comment acknowledged that health professionals and scientists show that masks protect; therefore, we should keep them mandatory. The families that would like masks to be optional or removed discussed the difficulties in learning with masks in school. A parent explained that their student has speech delays and would like it to be optional for masks. Another family discussed getting back to normalcy and that it is time to make masks optional. Finally, a family shared that schools should be the same if stores and churches do not require masks.

### Staff Reports

- Fall 2021 Back to School Update: Superintendent Gorr introduced the new District 57 team; Roberta Flack as, Secretary to the Board of Education and to the Superintendent, Kristin Vonder Haar as the new Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Jason Kaiz, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations. Jason Kaiz then discussed new findings with The Kids Corner program. An email went out to all new families for enrollment for 2021/22 school year, and all families did not receive the email. Mr. Kaiz advised we will need to hire two new Kids Corner staff assistants to keep the required 15:1 ratio. Superintendent Gorr noted that this is difficult to fill, and finding the right people is very important. Mr. Kaiz shared that he would keep families updated.

Superintendent Gorr proceeded with the back-to-school update. She noted that the Board packet went out last Friday, and shortly after that, the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE all made revisions in the guidance. The CDC continues to recommend social distancing as a mitigation strategy to reduce the spread of Covid 19; however, it is no longer required to be 3-6 feet (if it means that students cannot attend school in-person.). Superintendent Gorr believes we should get more clarification soon from ISBE and IDPH regarding close contacts and quarantining. The subject of masking is a complex topic. The CDC recommends that those that are not vaccinated still wear a mask. Superintendent Gorr advised that District 57 will no longer have families fill out the Raptor system tracking because this is not recommended as a mitigation measure. Frequent handwashing, encouraging staff and students to stay home when sick, correct mask-wearing are all mitigation measures that prevent the spread of Covid 19. The Board then had a discussion and asked Superintendent Gorr questions. One Board member began with our local area having low positive cases of Covid-19, kids are not at risk for this disease, and that masks are not needed. Superintendent Gorr was asked about distancing in the schools and relayed it will be difficult at Lincoln. The discussion continued with a Board member's opinion that masks should be worn at Lions, Fairview, and Westbrook and the possibility of being optional for 7th and 8th grade with those vaccinated. President Kowalczyk asked to get a vote on K-5 all masked and optional masks for those vaccinated. Superintendent Gorr relayed that there are different scenarios of clubs, social and emotional situations, speech therapy, and other exceptions that would be looked at since this is not a policy. All but one member picked mandated masks for those not vaccinated. Superintendent Gorr will update and communicate with District 57 families, evaluate the data and positive cases, and update the board at each meeting. The decision was to mask all those not vaccinated and an optional mask for those vaccinated at all schools in our district. All individuals will need to verify their vaccination status before they can be maskless.

- Remote Learning Plan Information

Dr. Vonder Haar, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, gave a presentation on remote learning plan, which would take effect if the Board approves to adopt this new policy. Due to the number of families requesting remote learning, the instruction would occur concurrently. The administration recommends that if the Board elects to adopt a policy to allow for a remote learning program, to limit the program to students that meet the criteria and also ineligible for the vaccine. Dr. Vonder Haar discussed this program's implications, including adding staff, seeking additional technology, teachers' stipends, and professional development costs. As the Board discussed this plan, members expressed their support of the remote learning plan and available to those who are both eligible and ineligible for the vaccine. Superintendent Gorr reminded the Board that this policy is associated with Covid 19 pandemic. One Board member disagreed with this policy due to limited funds and how the policy would require additional costs for a small number of students.

- Financial Projections and Budget Assumptions

Jason Kaiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations presented on the FY22 Budget assumptions. Auditors will be coming in the next few weeks to finalize the FY21 budget. This is a tentative budget and in September the budget will be approved. The budget process starts in March when the Board approaches a staffing plan for FY22. Mr. Kaiz said that 85% of the district's revenue comes from property taxes and 6% from Evidence Based Funding, 6% from other Local Funding, and 3% from Federal Revenue. Some anticipated expenditures include technology, NSSEO, capital projects and PPE. Mr. Kaiz advised we budgeted \$400,000 on PPE last year and for FY22 anticipates less, closer to \$100,000. The most significant amount of expenditures is salaries and benefits at 73%. Mr. Kaiz discussed the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) which include \$338,163 (ESSER II) and \$759,098 (Esser III).

- Update of Summer Facilities

Mr. Jason Kaiz gave the Board an update of the most significant projects currently being worked on.

- ✓ Westbrook: N/A
- ✓ Fairview: N/A
- ✓ Lions Park: Met with Foreman and construction is going well, waiting on new windows in the multipurpose room.
- ✓ Lincoln: Floors replaced and going well.
- ✓ Administration Building: N/A

Mr. Kaiz said there would be a walk-through of the buildings for the Board on August 12.

Consent Agenda

President Kowalczk entertained a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. Member Chung moved, seconded by Member Kobus, to approve the items of the Consent Agenda as follows:

Item 1. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of June 17, 2021 – Open Session

Item 2. Personnel Transactions

Approve the administrative contract for the following individual:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Elise Dean	Assistant Principal	Lions Park	8/2/21	\$86,500

Approve the employment of the following certified individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Julia Clarke	Teacher – Music .5 FTE	Westbrook	8/16/21	* \$22,791/year
Amanda Fouch	Teacher – Grade 2	Fairview	8/16/21	* \$50,534/year
Monica Komperda	Teacher – LA	Lincoln	8/16/21	* \$51,302/year
Ryan Nielsen	Teacher – PE .2 FTE	Westbrook	8/16/21	* \$10,260/year
Hannah Picciola	Teacher – Grade 5	Fairview	8/16/21	* \$48,357/year
Daniel Tedeschi	Teacher – Band	Lincoln	8/16/21	* \$52,842/year

\*Salary includes Board paid TRS

Approve the employment of the following ESP employees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Timothy Benka	Instructional Assistant	Lions Park	8/16/21
Betty Moustakas	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	8/16/21
Ryan Nielsen	Instructional Assistant .8 FTE	Westbrook	8/16/21
Alexander Straczek	District BTA	Admin	7/1/21

Accept the resignations of the following ESP employees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Danielle Gattuso	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	6/30/21
Sonali Patil	Purchasing Assistant	Admin	6/30/21

Item 3. Financial Reports – June 2021

Item 4. Accounts Payable Bills Totaling \$662,115.14

Item 5. Approve Donations Report

Item 6. Approve Tuition Reimbursement

Item 7. Approve Review of the Closed Session Minutes for the Period of January 2020 through June 2021  
Destruction of Closed Session Audio Tapes prior to December 2019

Roll call vote resulted as follows on Consent Agenda:

Yes: Bull, Chung, Fay, Kobus, Bennett-Kill, Kowalczyk  
No: None Motion carried.

#### Unfinished Business

Superintendent Gorr introduced the new Assistant Principal of Lions Park, Elise Dean.

#### Community Comments

This was the second time for community comments, but there were none.

#### New Business

1. Approve Policy 6:185 Remote Educational Program

President Kowalczyk made a motion to approve the above policy with pending changes in the wording to reflect the specific statutory language seconded by Member Chung.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Yes: Chung, Fay, Kobus, Bennett-Kill, Kowalczyk  
No: Bull Motion carried.

2. First Read of Board of Education Policies

- 1:10 – School District Legal Status
- 1:20 – District Organization, Operations and Cooperative Agreements
- 1:30 – School District Philosophy
- 2:10 – School District Governance
- 2:20 – Powers and Duties of the School board; Indemnification
- 2:30 – School District Elections
- 2:130 – Board Superintendent Relationship
- 2:240 – Board Policy Development
- 3:30 – Chain of Command
- 5:10 – Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:30 – Hiring Process and Criteria
- 6:100 – Using Animals in the Educational Program
- 6:145 – Migrant Students
- 6:160 – English Learners
- 6:170 – Title I Programs
- 6:235 – Access to Electronic Networks

- 6:255 – Assemblies and Ceremonies
- 6:260 –Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials and Programs
- 7:220 – Bus Conduct
- 7:230 – Misconduct by Students with Disabilities
- 7:280 – Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
- 8:90 – Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

Closed Session

President Kowalczyk advised a need for a Closed Session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Board action would not follow closed sessions. Member Bull made a motion to go into closed session and Member Chung seconded the motion. Board convened into Closed Session at 10:45 p.m.

Regular Session

Member Bull made a motion, seconded by Member Chung, to return to open session. All members voted yes and the Board reconvened into open session at 10:54 p.m.

Adjournment

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

Yes: Bennett-Kill, Bull, Kobus, Chung, Fay, Kowalczyk

Absent: Ciok

No: None

Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.



Roberta Flack, Secretary



Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President

Date of approval: August 19, 2021