



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 August 19, 2021, to order at 7:01 p.m. Board members present: Corrin Bennett-Kill, Kevin Bull, Vicki Chung, Kimberly Fay, Jennifer Kobus, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Absent: None.

Communications

Board of Education

- NSSEO: Member Chung reported on the August 10 meeting. This month's Shining Star was SLOEC, Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center, located in Bartlett, which our administration office recently attended. The NSSEO Board will be attending in the near future. NSSEO is a co-op of school districts and look to other districts for guidance and direction and deal with the special population. Member Chung relayed their mission; To propel students with special needs to be actively engaged citizens through dynamic family school and community partnerships, and their vision is to enhance student's talents and dreams for a promising future. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 1.
- Education Foundation: None
- PTO Reports: None
- Board President Report:
 - President Kowalczyk asked the community to please join the PTO and become a volunteer, it is a great way to give back.

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk explained there will be a change in the process during community comments to make sure we hear from as many community members as possible and also be consistent. There are two opportunities to address the Board, one hour at the beginning of the meeting and one hour at the end of the meeting. At our next meeting, we will adhere to the 1 hour for each time, and each speaker will have a 3-minute time limit.

- The first speaker addressed the Board regarding her disappointment in the decision to mandate masks. With this vote, she felt the Board has taken away the rights and our children's freedom.
- The next parent to speak has three students at Lincoln Middle School. She mentioned this Board has a history of acting without a sense of urgency. She voiced her concern over our children being far behind once they attend Prospect High School as compared to District 25 students.
- The third speaker wanted to thank the administration and custodial staff for all the work to get our schools ready. The question asked to the Board is whether a student waiting to receive a covid test would qualify for remote learning. If they are not allowed, this parent questions this. Her other comments are if metrics change and we need to go back to 6-feet, or if we must go back to remote learning, she is asking if we are prepared for these circumstances.
- The next speaker wanted to thank the Board and administration for the mitigations and safety measures to allow the kids back to school. She appreciates the decision for universal masking. She would like the district to look into better ventilation and masking measures made for band members and thanked the Board.
- The next person is part of a newly formed group to advocate for District 57 students. He discussed his refusal to subject his child to mask hysteria and is not justified by the area's current caseload. He believes parents should have a choice.
- A parent relayed she has two students in this district and is happy to keep everyone safe and approves the mask mandate. Her concern is having so many students unmasked during lunch and with the new variant being highly transmittable.

Staff Reports

- Superintendent Report

Superintendent Gorr congratulated District 57 kids, staff, and families. We were thrilled to welcome kids back to school. We had 60 concurrent students to start the year. Dr. VonderHaar is working closely with those families.

- Back to School Update

Superintendent Gorr discussed the layered mitigation strategies required in all buildings and buses, regardless of vaccination status, as outlined by the Governor's Executive Order. The strategies are 3 feet distancing as much as possible, washing and sanitizing hands, masks required for all regardless of vaccination status (masks are optional outdoors), contact tracing, optional SHIELD Covid-19 screening testing, regular cleaning, and improved ventilation. Daily COVID-symptom reporting will not be required of D57 parents this year.

SHIELD testing will be optional but strongly encouraged. It is saliva-based testing used at the University of Illinois and very successful. We are currently working with SHIELD to develop the procedures and schedules that will be least disruptive to learning. Parents receive their child's results within 24 hours of the sample being delivered to the SHIELD lab. Dr. Gorr provided charts with Covid Data in our local areas as well as the current Covid Metrics. We are currently in the High Transmission level based on CDC/IDPH Metrics. Superintendent Gorr discussed the Covid-19 quarantining guidelines, which ultimately fall into guidance from the health department. Those students that are in remote learning have received their child's individualized learning plan. Students who are required to quarantine due to Covid19 will have access to live streaming remote learning. Superintendent Gorr addressed the social-emotional impact of the past year and a half. The district is focused on academic growth through things like supporting strong transitions and strengthening relationships. At this time the Board had questions starting with Member Chung asking about Shield procedures. Superintendent Gorr outlined that it will be done discreetly and that they will have a better understanding of the procedures as they walk through the buildings with the SHIELD representatives. Member Chung also brought up the contact tracing on the bus and asked if someone on the bus would need to quarantine. Superintendent Gorr relayed the importance of seating charts and the guidance of the health department. Member Chung asked if teachers can take their students outside for lunch and Superintendent Gorr it is a challenge with having enough supervisors, but it is a possibility. Member Kobus would like to know more about improved ventilation and Jason Kaiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations gave an update. He is working closely with HVAC providers we are using. Last year we put in place Photohydroionizations, which have UV rays to help kill germs, in air handlers. There are Ionizers, in certain rooms at Lincoln in areas where improvements were needed. Mr. Kaiz discussed air filters and possibly testing the air in the future. Member Kobus asked if certain masks have been banned and if we have clear masks. Superintendent Gorr advised we have been supplying masks and those types of accommodations are happening at the schools. Vice President Fay discussed the concern of unintentional consequence an increase in quarantine with the SHIELD testing.

Vice President Fay asked specifically who is notified for a positive case, and it was clarified that the family, school district, IDPH, and the school nurse are the only staff notified. Member Bull asked about how quarantine works with the health department and most are done through email. Member Bull asked about our reasoning for keeping the community dashboard in a vaccinated environment. Superintendent Gorr said agreed that we are in a much different place now as compared to last fall, and it is up to the Board to decide if we should keep up with this. Member Bull would like to focus on how to fix what happened in the last year and discuss other things rather than metrics. Possibly promoting programs and getting extra help to those that need it. Member Bull recently had a meeting with the Union and they discussed the teacher amplification system, wanted all to know that if your student has a difficult time hearing teacher because of the mask, there are options out there and to talk to your teachers. Member Bull asked how often remote learners are assessed and Dr. VonderHaar (Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning) advised at least once each trimester/quarter and looking at each student's individual needs. We have meetings scheduled. Member Ciok thanked Dr. Gorr and asked for the procedure for a vaccinated student that tests

positive with SHIELD if it is the same protocol, and Dr. Gorr confirmed a positive either way would require the same protocol. President Kowalczyk asked about partitions at lunch, and Superintendent Gorr advised they are still an option, but not mandatory. President Kowalczyk believes we should keep the internal metrics and they are what truly matter. Superintendent Gorr discussed the need for substitute teachers and substitute instructional assistants with Covid and even prior to Covid, it has been an issue. We will continue advertising to our community and families to please apply and become a substitute. Vice President Fay asked if a vote is needed to decide on the metrics. Member Bull is ok with the Metrics but we should be clear with the purpose. All Board members agreed.

o Staffing Plan

Superintendent Gorr reviewed the tentative staffing plan that is considered preliminary until the final approval in March. She highlighted the addition of .5 FTE for LRC directors with information technology and a high-quality curriculum being used is an important addition. The district has an increase with our interventionist and PE, also with Kids Corner. Member Chung asked if the addition in Kids' Corner allowed all families that were on the waitlist to be added to the program, and Superintendent Gorr confirmed that indeed all were added. Member Bull asked if the plan included the new concurrent assistants that will be added. Superintendent Gorr said these positions have not been added as of yet because we have not filled all of the current instructional assistant positions.

o Enrollment Update

Superintendent Gorr reported the enrollment numbers shown are current students enrolled as compared to this time last August. Early childhood is not included in these numbers which are approximately 85 students. We have an additional section in Kindergarten. Member Bull asked how this compares with the projections, and Superintendent Gorr said she will go over projections versus the actual during her enrollment study presentation to the Board at the September Board Meeting.

• 2021 Construction Update

Mr. Jason Kaiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, said the Board did a walk-through of the buildings last week. Lincoln looks great with the new floors. Lions Park still has a big punch list, painting and finishing touches have been completed, and a few things are on backorder, but rooms are ready for teaching. Mr. Kaiz informed the Board that we are estimated to be under budget approximately \$270,00.

• Report of the 2021-2022 Tentative Budget

Mr. Jason Kaiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, reported on the 2021-2022 Tentative Budget. The Board is required by Illinois School Code to adopt a budget by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year which is September 30. The second phase of the budget process is for the Board to pass a tentative budget which then must be placed on public display for public inspection for 30 days prior to the required public hearing at the September 23 Board meeting. Mr. Kaiz said there were two large changes with revenue, one being Kids' Corner because we are back to regular enrollment as to prior Covid years, and there is an increase of approximately \$300,000. Another addition is the Esser Funds (Federal Funds) that have been added to the tentative budget. The overall revenue looks to be \$33,309,897. On the expenditure side, some accounts are being adjusted, but a large increase added is the salaries of 17 concurrent instructional assistants to support in the classroom. The salaries are estimated at \$321,000. The tentative expenditures is \$32,357,158. Member Chung noted that in the future to improve the spreadsheet to see total numbers and Mr. Kaiz agreed and would like to simplify as well.

Consent Agenda

President Kowalczyk said it was necessary to pull the Minutes from the Consent Agenda because all members were not present at the July 15 meeting. Member Chung reviewed the bills and said everything was in order. President

Kowalczyk entertained a motion to approve the Regular and Closed meeting minutes on July 15, 2021. Member Chung moved, seconded by Member Kobus.

Item 1. Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings

- Regular Business Meeting of July 15, 2021 – Open and Closed Sessions

Roll call vote resulted as follows

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

No: None

Abstain: Ciok Motion Carried

President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to approve the remaining items of the Consent Agenda. Member Chug moved, seconded by Member Bennett- Kill.

Item 2. Personnel Transactions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Carol Capra	Teacher - LRC Director	Westbrook	8/16/21	* \$49,808/year
Patricia Diamantopoulos	Teacher - Spanish .50 FTE	Lincoln	8/16/21	* \$30,170/year
Laura Juliano	Teacher - Math	Lincoln	8/16/21	* \$56,876/year
Alexia Koliatsis	Teacher - Multilingual	Lincoln	8/16/21	* \$62,150/year
Darcy O'Brien	Teacher - Science	Lincoln	8/16/21	* \$60,340/year
Linda Payne	Teacher - Interventionist	Lincoln	8/09/21	* \$58,582/Year
Christopher Tsihchlis	Teacher - PE	Lincoln	8/16/21	* \$46,949/year
Mckenzie Wiedemann	Teacher - Math	Lincoln	8/16/21	* \$49,808/year

*Salary includes Board paid TRS

That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of the following certified employees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Christine Aherns	Teacher - .5 Multilingual	Lincoln	7/23/21
Christine Aherns	Teacher - .5 Spanish	Lincoln	7/23/21
Morgan Nickels	Teacher - First Grade	Westbrook	8/11/21
Samantha Yaeger	Teacher - Math	Lincoln	8/02/21

That the Board of Education approves the employment of the following ESP employees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Susan Alcazar	Instructional Assistant	Fairview	8/15/21	\$16.42/hr
Dawn Buegeler	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	8/16/21	\$17.38/hr
Andrew Diversey	*Kids Corner .64 FTE	Westbrook	8/16/21	\$16.42/hr
Natalie Fitch	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	8/16/21	\$16.42/hr
Debra Gosch	Payroll	Admin	8/02/21	\$60,000/yr
Hayden Jorgensen	*Kids Corner .64 FTE	Lions Park	8/16/21	\$16.41/hr
Stephen Moore	Maintenance	Lincoln	6/25/21	\$19.45/hr
Jacquelynne Simons	Health Assistant	Fairview	8/09/21	\$16.42/hr
Lisa Subrin	Purchasing	Admin	6/25/21	\$20.67/hr

*New position created July 2021 based on Kids Corner enrollment

That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of the following ESP employees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Maureen Beltran	Instructional Assistant	Lions Park	8/06/21
Nancy Lai-Gallagher	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	8/05/21
Amy Mick	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	6/02/21
Larry Ohannes	Payroll	Admin	7/23/21
Lisa Sherwood	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	8/13/21
Penny Urell	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	8/13/21
Mark Williams	Instructional Assistant	Lincoln	8/10/21

Item 3. Financial Reports July 2021

Item 4. Accounts Payable Bills Totaling \$1,356,666.57

Roll call vote resulted as follows on Consent Agenda:

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

No: None Motion Carried

Unfinished Business

1. Approve the following 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

Member Bull moved to approve and Member Chung seconded. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk opened up community comments for the second time.

- The first person asked if the SHIELD testing is FDA approved and wonders if it is experimental. She wanted to be guaranteed that our children's information will not be shared or stolen. She thinks it is very frustrating to address the Board and wishes that questions could be answered.
- The second speaker wanted to share that a police officer was in the back of the room, and when the parent asked the police officer why he was there, he stated that his supervisor advised him to be here. The speaker shared her feelings that the optics of this police office here shows the bias that this Board has.

New Business

President Kowalczyk asked for a motion to approve the 2021-2022 tentative budget. Member Kobus moved and was seconded by Member Chung.

1. Approve the 2021-2022 Tentative Budget

Roll call vote resulted as follows

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

No: None Motion carried.

Board Discussion

Community Engagement

President Kowalczyk asked the Board for different topics to bring the community together. Her suggestions were looking at Lincoln, as in expansion or a new building, or Board 101. Member Kobus brought up that Board 101 was done back in 2019 and there was a low turnout. She thinks there would be more value in focusing on mental health and supporting the students with the curriculum. Also, having the assistant superintendents speaking or possibly a specialist. Member Faye agrees with Member Kobus and if we discuss Lincoln it would be more funding at this time we need to be transparent. Dr. Gorr has brought up restorative practices, and maybe something in the future to air grievances. Superintendent Gorr shared that Member Ciok is an expert in restorative practices and could possibly speak. Member Ciok thinks outside facilitators would be beneficial to start that healing. If we decide to do a Board of Education 101, it would be a good idea to a webinar. Member Chung thinks to focus on community engagement and parents could share feelings and we can all hear each other and the divide in our community. Other Board members agreed.

Closed Session

President Kowalczyk said there was no need for Closed Session.

Adjournment

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

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

No: None Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roberta Flack', written over a horizontal line.

Roberta Flack, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eileen B. Kowalczyk', written over a horizontal line.

Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President

Date of approval: September 23, 2021