



Board of Education

701 West Gregory Street, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056-2296
 P (847) 394-7300 / F (847) 394-7311 / www.d57.org

President Eileen Kowalczyk called the Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of October 21, 2021, held at Fairview School, to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Corrin Bennett-Kill, Kevin Bull, Vicki Chung, Kimberly Faye, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Member Jennifer Ciok attended the meeting virtually. Absent: None

Communications

Board of Education

NSSEO: Member Chung attended the October 6 meeting and shared shining star news and the positive impact on families. They also presented information on Sunrise Lake's annual report at the meeting. In addition, NSSEO shared one of its goals: to build collaborative partnerships in parent and caregiver relationships and expand their professional learning opportunities. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 3.

Education Foundation: Member Ciok attended the last meeting on September 28. They are working the grant process and getting it running. There will be an opportunity for a dine and share this weekend and a Stan's Donut Truck in November. They will not have a fall event but are planning a spring gala.

PTO Reports: Vice President Fay (Lincoln), Member Kobus (Westbrook), Member Bennett-Kill (Fairview), and Member Bull (Lions Park) reported on PTO meetings and events at the schools.

Board President's Report:

- President Kowalczyk asked if the Board had any comments regarding Board of Education Agreements. The Board was in consensus and accepted the Agreements.
- Stated the Board will go over the Resolutions Committee Report at the November meeting.

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk explained that this was the first of two opportunities for the community to address the Board. Individuals should provide their names and limit their comments to three minutes. Two people addressed the Board.

- Laura Hollis approached the Board to consider the Board Government Review and respond to emails in a shorter timeframe.
- Liz Hutchinson thanked the Board for their service. She asked why quarantine metrics are so restrictive compared to surrounding districts and our response time to change.

Staff Reports

❖ Citizens Finance Advisory Committee

Mr. Jason Kaiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, shared how the committee would focus on financial projections as we look into the future. The goal is to present these findings to the board to support making future decisions around expenditures. The committee would comprise stakeholders; Dr. Gorr, Mr. Kaiz, Board member, and 7-9 teachers, parents, students, and community members. Member Chung thinks this is wonderful and that the community has been waiting for this. She asked how the selection process would work. Mr. Kaiz explained he would start with a questionnaire and then an interview process to ensure interested individuals understand the goals and scope of work. Mr. Kaiz would like the committee to begin in spring and asks members to commit to approximately 18 months on the committee. Mr. Kaiz shared that members do not need to have a financial background in order to serve on this committee. Board members suggested that topics include increasing revenue and inviting previous task force members to join this committee. President Kowalczyk agreed.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Gorr gave a brief update on the second week of SHIELD testing at District 57. There are challenges, but the schools have adapted well. We had four cases identified and worked to get a sound system in place to notify families. Superintendent Gorr recommended changing the quarantine period for students who have been identified as close contacts to be eligible for a more modified quarantine in accordance with the current guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Currently, we have required a fourteen-day quarantine in cases of exposure outside of school. Dr. Gorr acknowledged that there are neighboring districts currently implementing modified quarantines. Our new procedure will allow for a child identified as close contact and asymptomatic to have the option of a modified quarantine. The new guideline would require a negative test on day 6, quarantine on day 7, and eligible to return on day 8. We do anticipate test to stay will be an option for eligible D57 students soon. The child must be participating in SHIELD to have the option of test to stay. The most challenging scenario is around lunch with unmasked time. All Board members were in favor of the modified version of this quarantine guideline. Superintendent Gorr also discussed the possibility of setting up a vaccination site for children to be vaccinated once it is available. The majority of Board members favored vaccination access to our families, and one Board member thinks it is unnecessary.

Seamless Summer Options is a national lunch program beginning on November 1, and is free to all students for the remainder of the year. Mr. Kaiz discussed that communications went out last week, and he will email a form tomorrow with a response time next week. Lincoln students do not need to sign up ahead of time, and have an option of breakfast. The District will keep track of the lunches and the state reimburses us. There are different tiers and at a certain level we will make a profit.

- **Equity Audit Update**

Superintendent Gorr provided an update to the Board from a request in the spring to investigate an Equity Audit. Dr. Gorr shared information and definitions on equity from The Illinois State Board of Education and their Strategic Plan. She discussed equitable service, access, and the difference between equality and equity. Superintendent Gorr proposed to invest in an Equity Audit as a starting point with quantitative and qualitative data from an outsider. This information would point out strengths that already exist and issues we may need to work on. The audit goal is to improve our inclusion and the fairness of the District's opportunities and equity of student outcomes. Superintendent Gorr highlighted three providers that specialize in Educational Equity Audits. The range in cost goes anywhere from \$15,000 to \$45,000. If the Board's recommendation is to move forward with an equity audit, the District has a grant available to fund this cost. The grant was to be used to hire a Bilingual Interventionalist position. After many months and not being able to hire for this position, it is Dr. Gorr's recommendation to amend the grant for this situation. The Board discussed the presentation and asked questions. One concern was the elimination of the Bilingual Interventionalist position. Superintendent Gorr clarified that the position is currently posted and it is possible that the grant will cover both. President Kowalczyk asked for a vote on those that would agree on both an equity audit and the position. All Board members voted yes to move forward with the equity audit with the possibility of hiring the Bilingual Interventionalist.

- **Superintendent Goals Update**

Superintendent Gorr presented the Board with an updated presentation. The Board thanked her for the new goals and did not have any questions.

- **Freedom of Information Act Report (FOIA)**

Requests for information have been received from the following entities in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act:

- LocalLabs requesting Covid-19 protocols.
- LocalLabs requesting materials in the district that fall under the 1619 Project.
- LocalLabs requesting information on relief grants and ESSER funds.
- NBC Universal requesting information on unclaimed property.
- Citizens Advisory Group requesting the number of female students participating in sports.

All requests have been responded to within the appropriate time frame by Superintendent Gorr as the District's FOIA Officer.

Consent Agenda

President Kowalczyk said it was necessary to pull the Minutes from the Consent Agenda because all members were not present at the September 23 Regular Business Meeting and the October 8 Special Meeting. Member Chung reviewed the bills and said everything was in order. President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the September 23 Regular Business Meeting. Member Bull moved, seconded by Member Chung. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the October 8 Special Meeting. Member Bull moved, seconded by Member Bennett-Kill. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

President Kowalzyk entertained a motion to approve the remaining items of the consent agenda. Vice President Fay Chung moved, seconded by Member Bennet-Kill, to approve the remaining items of the Consent Agenda as follows:

Item 2. Personnel Transactions

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Kristen Benwitz	Instructional Assistant .5 FTE	Westbrook	09/28/21	\$17.38/hr
Brendan Diversey	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	10/13/21	\$17.03/hr
Daniel Fotopolous	Building Technology Assistant	Admin	09/28/21	\$19.45/hr
Robin Jennings	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	10/18/21	\$17.50/hr
Mary Kuhlman	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	10/04/21	\$16.90/hr
Jolene Peck	Instructional Assistant	Lions Park	09/20/21	\$16.42/hr

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>
Denise Isaacs	Instructional Assistants	Lions Park	10/04/21

Item 3. Financial Reports – September 2021

Item 4. Accounts Payable Bills

Roll call vote resulted as follows for the remainder of the Consent Agenda:

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

No: None

Absent: None Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

None

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk said this was the second opportunity if anyone from the audience wished to address the Board.

- Gwynne Ryan addressed the Board regarding the importance of the Equity Audit and continued professional development for teachers.
- Liz Fischer thanked the Board for the change to Indigenous Peoples’ Day and asked for continued education and professional development to teach accurate history.

New Business

None

Board Discussion

Member Chung discussed a Board retreat at Sunrise Lake and wondered if anyone is interested in a retreat. Member Kobus suggested this happen after the holidays and to discuss this in the spring.

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. Member Kobus made a motion, seconded by Member Chung. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

No: None

Absent: Kobus Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.



Roberta Flack, Secretary



Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President

Date of approval: November 18, 2021