



Board of Education

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

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Eileen Kowalczyk called the Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Education of September 23, 2021 to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members present: Kevin Bull, Vicki Chung, Kimberly Fay, Corrin Bennett-Kill, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Absent: Jennifer Kobus.

Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 7/1/21 to 6/30/22 Budget

President Kowalczyk asked for a motion to enter into the public hearing. Member Bennett-Kill made the motion and Member Ciok seconded, and the meeting was called to order for the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 7/1/21 to 6/30/22 Budget at 7:05 p.m. She referred to Mr. Jason Kaiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, who commented on the following:

- The budget is an ever-changing policy document that projects revenues and expenditures. The Strategic Plan is the driving force behind the budget.
- Reviewed the budget calendar.
- A notice of the public hearing and availability of the tentative budget for public inspection was published in the *Mount Prospect Journal and Times*.
- Explained the changes from the tentative budget including
 - Reflection of actual salaries and benefits for new staff hired since early August 2021.
 - Update grant expenditure accounts, including ESSER III.
- Reviewed the revenues and expenditures for last year. Mr. Kaiz explained that revenues were not the same last year because of the pandemic and there was an increase in expenditures.
- The FY21 budget reflects a budget deficit of \$246,246
- Addition of 17 concurrent instructional assistants at the cost of \$321,000.
- \$3 million for capital projects to take place next summer.
- Explained future financial challenges of Covid-19
 - Aging building - Lincoln Middle School.
 - Ongoing space issues at Lincoln and Westbrook Schools.
- Interested in forming a Citizens Advisory Group pending the Board's approval to have community members and stakeholders look at our projections and finances.
- If/when the Board passes the budget later in the meeting, the budget must be filed with the County Clerk and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Member Chung loves the idea of an advisory board and questions if it is for community members, parents and staff. Mr. Kaiz agreed that anyone in the community can be involved, look at where finances are, and brainstorm ideas. He also would like our financial group to be involved to help understand education finances. Member Chung expressed that it is disappointing to see a deficit this year, but appreciates the work. Mr. Kaiz would like to keep the Board informed quarterly and to give updates on these budget numbers. Vice President Fay thanked Mr. Kaiz for the information. She questioned if the new instructional assistants were hired already, and she was advised that one has been hired. In regards to Lincoln Middle School, it is the elephant in the room for this community and the only way to talk about this is with another referendum. Is there a way to save for that as a district? Mr. Kaiz discussed his findings in nearby towns that have recently built a building without a referendum and he is going to meet with these schools to see how the funding worked. Member Bull asked Mr. Kaiz for some ideas of ways to balance the budget. Mr. Kaiz gave a few

examples of saving versus cutting expenses. Construction would be the best example of possible cost savings. Member Bull believes that the Board made the wrong decision in approving a remote learning plan and hiring these assistants against the administration's recommendation and this is why we have a deficit. At one time the district had 100 students in remote learning and now there are 39 students with families dropping daily. At this time Member Bull believes we should cut the added assistants that we are looking to hire for concurrent learning. President Kowalczyk does not agree with Member Bull, because we still have Covid. Depending on the numbers going down, we can cut the number of concurrent hires. There have been many years we have had a deficit and then at the end of the year, the budget has been ok. President Kowalczyk does not think we should change anything now. Superintendent Gorr commented that regularly concurrent teachers have expressed frustration to not have assistants but they understand it is a very difficult time to hire. Vice President Fay agrees with Member Bull that it is possible that the Board made a wrong decision but at this time does not see the harm in having these jobs on the books. Kristin Vonder Haar, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, discussed the possibility the number of concurrent assistants may go down, but the number of sections with concurrent learning has not changed.

President Kowalczyk asked if anyone in the audience would like to comment on the budget. Two members of the community expressed their opinion on the budget discussion. Mr. Kaiz answered questions from the Board and President Kowalczyk clarified that the Board would vote later in the meeting. President Kowalczyk asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 7/1/21 to 6/30/22 Official Budget. Vice President Fay made a motion, seconded by Member Chung to return to open session. All members voted yes, and the Board reconvened into open session at 8:11 p.m.

Communications

Board of Education

- **NSSEO:** Member Chung discussed the last NSSEO meeting that was held on Wednesday, September 1. There were a few shining stars highlighted. NSSEO received approximately 1.1 million dollars in ESSER III set aside dollars to fund initiatives to offset learning loss and other school programming. On September 25 NSSEO unveiled a new playground at Miner School funded by state grants and donations.
- **Education Foundation:** Member Ciok attended a meeting at Mrs. P and Me for the Ed Foundation where there was discussion and lots of brainstorming on upcoming events. The committee may go back to grant cycles as in the past, they are meeting with teachers to decide. The next meeting is on September 28.
- **PTO Reports:**
 - Lincoln Middle School - Vice President Fay attended the meeting on September 14, where the committee discussed fundraising efforts. They distributed back-to-school kits to teachers from Staples. Lincoln has a new PTO website, and membership is strongly encouraged to receive the directory.
 - Fairview School: Member Bennett-Kill discussed the meeting on September 13 and Superintendent Gorr was also in attendance. The PTO went through the tentative budget and Principal Ohus discussed the upcoming Boo Bash. Planning on costume parade and a new teacher rep the pulse of the school was really high. Lions Park School: Member Bull attending the meeting and gave details of the meeting. The Lions Park PTO is planning the Roaring Run and they are in need of committee chairs and volunteers.
- **Board President Report:** President Kowalczyk notified the Board that Vicki Chung was recognized as a Master Board Member from the Illinois Association of School Boards. She earned this honor by attending various meetings and programs. Also tonight we want to recognize Jenny Quinn, communications consultant for District 57, for two 2021 awards.

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk said there were two times on the agenda for community comments. Each time the Board would listen for up to 60 minutes and asked people to limit their time speaking to three minutes.

The first speaker asked about the mask mandate and the possibility of having a mask exemption. She wanted to know why the district did not offer this information to families. She also asked various questions on Shield testing, including where the data is stored, security of personal data, and results. The second speaker asked the Board to respond to all the questions that the community has in a written format. She asked many questions on a child's quarantining. She expressed the budget should not be passed because it is not balanced. The next speaker discussed ESSER funds' information and criteria. The final parent to speak discussed her concerns with the vaccine.

Staff Reports

● **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Gorr wanted to begin with an update on Seamless Summer Option (SSO), a free meal program at the schools. Jason Kaiz described the SSO option, students to be reimbursed for meals. We are in a unique position because we have a contract with Quest foods. We believe we have come up with a plan to get hot meals at Lincoln and cold foods at the other schools. This is a great way to provide free meals to our students. Superintendent Gorr asked if the Board would like to move ahead. President Kowalczyk would like to move forward, and all Board members agreed. Quest will be charged and reimbursed by the state. Superintendent Gorr said that breakfast is an option in the future.

> **Shield Report**

Superintendent Gorr discussed opt-out percentages. The district wanted to make sure all families were given this choice through emails, text messages, and phone call. Families can change their decision at any time. We have 32 percent of children that have opted out by their families and 68 percent of children who have not opted out by their families. We have been working closely with SHIELD and Visit HealthCare, the 3rd party company, to transport samples. There are 6 SHIELD/CLIA labs in Illinois. Samples are transported to the closest lab. SHIELD does follow all privacy rules and those that did not opt-out will be asked to go to a portal to see results. We will continue to link information, keep families up to date, and make sure families feel most informed. There are challenges with this rollout because most school districts are taking part in this testing. Member Bull asked if the communications before it starts and Superintendent Gorr confirmed. Member Bull asked about procedures for false positives and that this Board should come up with a plan. Superintendent Gorr advised that any conclusions regarding quarantining must come from the Cook County Department of Public Health. Member Chung would like a FAQ sheet to be sent to families with the answers that were given tonight.

> **Enrollment Study**

Superintendent Gorr described the steady enrollment as shown in her presentation. Last year's enrollment numbers were atypical due to COVID. Kindergarten numbers show stability. Westbrook is a challenge with space and it is not bursting, but we are utilizing all spaces. It is not an optimal learning place. We want to have this on the Board's radar, and Lincoln is overcrowded and a very old building. Member Chung questioned the note in the presentation to add Lincoln to the 5-year strategic plan for a new building. Superintendent Gorr explained that we can manage with Lincoln, but the administration also has to be honest in the expectations and desire of this community to have the best learning facility. The ways children learn have changed, and Lincoln does not reflect that and what the students of this community need and deserve.

➤ Superintendent Goals

Superintendent Gorr welcomes any feedback and suggestions as this is her first time with the goals outlined to the Board. It is essential as a new superintendent that the Board has complete confidence in evaluating her success. Member Bull thinks that the Board could have done a better job linking the strategic plan elements to be more measurable that translates into the goals. The key to the goals is a performance-based contract, and Member Bull does not think we have goals linked to student performance. Superintendent Gorr understands the concern and is happy to specify data and give more information. Member Bull would like to see measurement criteria in the goals would be better. Member Ciok would like to see the audit of performance and know what we are looking at. She would like to see the strategic plan, and Lincoln is a good example of that. Vice President Fay agrees with all points made and thinks that change can be good with a new administration. President Kowalcyk asked the Board's opinion on an updated version of the Superintendent Goals in the October meeting, and all agreed.

➤ Communications Report

In the Board packet, all received communications reports from Jenny Quinn, our communications director. Superintendent Gorr thanked Jenny Quinn for all of her work.

➤ FOIA Reports

Superintendent Gorr reported on the following Freedom of Information Act requests:

- 1) Angel Tormis of SteepSteel, LLC. requested information on wireless installations along with payments.
- 2) Zoe Yalcin of SmartProcure requested detailed information on all purchase orders from Jun 1, 2021 , to present.

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

➤ Compensation Reports

Superintendent Gorr referred to two reports that were in the Board packet. The first report was for all employees with a compensation package over \$75,000. The second report is required to be reported to ISBE by October 1 and shows the previous year's base salary and benefits for all administrators and teaching staff. Both reports would be posted to the district's website per School Code.

- a) 5 ILCS 120/7.3 - Total Compensation Packages Over \$75,000 Report
- b) 105 ILCS 5/10-20.47 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report

● Fall 2021 Student Data

Dr. Kristin Vonder Haar, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning reported on our schools' processes to analyze students' academic skills. All data was received last Friday. The schools' teams identify anyone who may need additional help through services such as math and literacy support. The math and reading averages stayed consistent in many cases, and the majority of our scores are above national averages. But there are some areas that report a decline in scores. Dr. Vonder Haar explained this is our preliminary data, and data days will be happening in the coming days to further identify instructional areas to focus on and to identify students who may need additional support. The final topic in the presentation is Social and Emotional Learning, which were described as important life skills. One focus area for the District Leadership Team is Social Emotional Learning. The District Leadership Team will adopt a curriculum for all students this school year. The Board asked questions and suggested seeing samples of the future curriculum. The question was asked if the District Leadership Team should focus on academic scores rather than Social-Emotional Learning. Superintendent Gorr wanted to clarify that academic and Social Emotional Learning are both integrated and equally essential. Through the District Leadership Team, the District has developed structures,

including data reviews and data days, to identify instructional areas to focus on and to identify students needing additional support.

Consent Agenda

President Kowalczyk said it was not necessary to pull the Minutes from the Consent Agenda because all members were present at the August 19. Member Bull reviewed the bills and said everything was in order. President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice President Fay moved, seconded by Member Chung, to approve the items of the Consent Agenda as follows:

Item 1. Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings

- Regular Business Meeting of August 19, 2021 – Closed Session
- Regular Business Meeting of August 19, 2021 – Open Session

Item 2. Personnel Transactions

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Kevin Acuna	Teacher - Band	Lincoln	09/20/21	*\$40,533
Grace Brunzell	Teacher - First Grade	Westbrook	08/16/21	*\$45,582

*Salary includes Board paid TRS

That the Board of Education approves the resignation of the following certified employee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Daniel Tedeschi	Teacher - Band (Hired on 8/16/21)	Lincoln	08/27/21

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>
Dawn Buegeler	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	08/16/21	\$17.38/hr
Janna Gainulin	Instructional Assistant	Lincoln	09/27/21	\$16.42/hr
Natalie Grimaldi	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	09/13/21	\$16.42/hr
Jessica Markgraf	Instructional Assistant .5 FTE Soar	Westbrook	08/30/21	\$17.63/hr
Jessica Markgraf	Instructional Assistant .5 FTE EC	Westbrook	08/30/21	\$17.38/hr
Patricia Thomas	Kids Corner Assistant	Lions Park	09/14/21	\$16.42/hr
Christine Vaughn	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	08/19/21	\$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>
Dawn Buegeler	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	09/03/21
Cathy Hatzos-Skintges	Science Curriculum Assistant	District	09/03/21
Eileen Kane	Instructional Assistant	Lions Park	09/10/21
Maria Potratz	Technology Coordinator	Admin	10/08/21
Ryan Skowron	Kids Corner Assistant	Fairview	09/03/21
Christine Vaughn	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	09/17/21

Item 3. Financial Reports – August 2021

Item 4. Accounts Payable Bills Totaling \$1,065,259.69

Item 5. Approve the FY21 Consolidated District Plan

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

Unfinished Business

1. **Approve the Official FY22 Budget**

President Kowalczyk asked the Board if they had any additional questions regarding the budget that Mr. Kaiz had presented during the Public Hearing. President Kowalczyk asked for a motion to approve the budget. Member Bennett-Kill moved, seconded by Vice President Fay, to approve the Fiscal Year 22 Budget. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

Community Comments

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

New Business None

Board Discussion

Superintendent Gorr gave an outline for the Community Event that will be held on November 4, 2021, at Lions Park School. Mayor Paul Hofart will be attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new classrooms at Lions Park School. After that portion, a meet and greet with the Board and community members.

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 Chung moved, seconded by Member Maye, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote resulted as follows

Yes: Bennett-Kill, Bull, Chung, Ciok, Fay, Kowalczyk
No: None Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:53p.m.



Roberta Flack, Secretary



Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President

Date of approval: October 21, 2021