



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 November 19, 2020, held via Zoom conferencing, to order at 7:08 p.m. Board members present: Vicki Chung, Kimberly Fay, Brian Maye, Gerald McCluskey, Rachael Rothrauff, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Absent: Jennifer Kobus

Communications

Board of Education

- NSSEO: Member Maye attended the November 4 meeting. He said they talked about COVID; NSSEO has implemented an adaptive pause; 20% of teachers were quarantined and there was a shortage. Today they announced they will not be returning to hybrid until after winter break. Passed a resolution for the budget and talked about the funding for building a new gym at Timber Ridge in the next 18 months. Next meeting is December 2.
- Education Foundation: Vice President Chung reported that the last meeting was November 17. Fundraising will look different this year. They will sell squares for NFC and AFC championship games in December. Planning is underway. Funding focus will be technology this year. Next meeting is December 15.
- PTO Reports: Member Rothrauff (Westbrook), Member Fay (Fairview), Member McCluskey (Lincoln), and Vice President Chung (Lions Park) reported on PTO meetings.
- Board President Report: President Kowalczyk said the December 3 meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be December 17.

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk said the Community Comments were posted online.

Staff Reports

- **Presentation of Financial Projections by Forecast5 Analytics, Inc.**
 Mr. Adam Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, reviewed financial projections for the fall. The audited figures have been plugged in to the fund balance. He used those numbers to present five different scenarios and show how each one impacts the district financially. The purpose of presenting the different scenarios is to consider the financial impact of various approaches, such as remote, hybrid or full in-person learning. The constants are CPI, federal funding and curriculum fees, salary increases of 3-5%, health insurance increase of 5% and dental insurance increase of 3%.
 - Scenario A: On revenue side, revenues falling significantly in FY22 and remaining that way for four years (state funding decreasing 25%, CPPRT decreasing 25%, transportation fees cut in half, Kids Corner cut \$400,000). Expenditures would increase: staff, construction \$2 million expenditure all five years, services and supplies materials would remain flat. Financial projections with that scenario does not look good. We would cross danger zone for fund balance in FY24, and would have to make changes so this scenario doesn't happen.
 - Scenario B: Same revenue losses, but construction would be cut in half – \$2 million in year one, \$1 million in following years. This makes the fund balance red line better, and would not enter danger zone until year five. This is a more promising scenario financially than scenario A but we would have the problem of deferred maintenance.
 - Scenario C: This does not include the AM/PM transportation need; we would have more of an in-person approach so the transportation costs are not as significant. Construction in this scenario

stays the same. Expenditures are decreased by \$300,000 because we do not have hybrid learning. We would have positive fund balance.

- Scenario D: Same revenue projections and in-person learning. But we would be recapturing construction expenditures to deal with deferred maintenance. This is more optimistic with the fund balance than earlier scenarios.
- Scenario E: This is where revenues start to recover. In-person learning. More optimistic with fund balance and smaller deficits.

Mr. Parisi pointed out that District 57 was only eligible for \$100,000 in Cares Act Funding and it's possible the district could get more under a new federal government in 2021. Member McCluskey cautioned that the scenarios might be more negative than what the situation turns out to be, with promising vaccines on the horizon. He thanked Mr. Parisi for preparing many scenarios that account for several different situations.

Member Maye asked if the district has fewer expenditures this year because the schools are not operating at 100%. Mr. Parisi said there are small-scale savings but not a major difference because the majority of expenditures are salary/benefits and staff is still working. Also, the district has had to pay for new technology to support remote learning. Member Maye asked if there are areas other than construction where we can cut expenditures. Mr. Parisi said there are very few because the district has run lean for many years – class sizes are decent but not low, relatively small administrative team. Vice President Chung asked if every scenario includes some form of remote learning and Mr. Parisi said yes. She asked if there would be an impact on the scenarios if we are able to be only in person and not provide remote. Mr. Parisi said that would not make a major difference because staffing would remain the same. Vice President Chung asked if a better financial picture is possible. Mr. Parisi stated that state funding is a concern and statewide cuts that impact education are likely. Vice President Chung asked Mr. Parisi if he thinks Scenario E is most likely, but he said it's too early to tell. Member Rothrauff asked about CPPRT, and Mr. Parisi said it is related to corporate taxes in our boundaries. Member Rothrauff asked what the 2022 construction money accounts for, and Mr. Parisi said it is primarily Lions Park construction.

- **Presentation of the 2020 Tentative Tax Levy**

Mr. Parisi reviewed the levy, extension and collection terms. The levy is the amount requested, the extension is the amount billed to taxpayers, and the collection is the dollar amount collected by the school district. He outlined the Cook County property tax cycle and unique Cook County issues. He stated that CPI is 2.3% and that is what will be used to levy taxes next month. He showed Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) within the district's boundaries going back to 2010 and explained how EAV relates to tax rate. Mr. Parisi also showed the amounts of new property growth going back to 2010 and explained exemptions and capped and non-capped funds, and he illustrated how the levy is calculated. Mr. Parisi explained that the district is only entitled to CPI plus new construction and there's no penalty in guessing on the high end because the district will get what it is entitled to in the end. But if the district requests on the low end, it might not get the amount it is entitled to. The district will ask for \$26.7 million but will likely receive less. Mr. Parisi believes this gives the district a comfortable amount of room to access what it is entitled to. Member McCluskey asked if Mr. Parisi was aware of a significant project finished in the town. He answered that it's difficult to identify this given the way things are structured in Cook County.

- **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Aumiller presented the 2021-2022 School Calendar for a first read. It will come to the Board for approval in December. She also presented a letter regarding travel expectations and asked if the Board was okay with it. Board members indicated they were.

Consent Agenda

President Kowalczyk said it was not necessary to pull any minutes because all Board Members present at the meeting were present for the meetings. She asked if any Member wanted to pull any item from the Consent Agenda but no one did. Member McCluskey reviewed the bills and said everything was in order. President Kowalczyk entertained a motion. Member Maye moved, seconded by Vice President Chung to approve the Consent Agenda as follows

Item 1. Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings

- Regular Business Meeting October 15, 2020 - Open Session
- Special Meeting October 19, 2020 - Open Session
- Regular Business Meeting November 5, 2020 - Closed Session
- Regular Business Meeting November 5, 2020 - Open Session

Item 2. Personnel Transactions

Approve the employment of the following ESP individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Daniel Bialek	Custodian	Westbrook	10/30/20	\$18.98/hour
Alyssa Caccamo	Health Clerical Assistant	Lions Park	11/17/20	\$16.02/hour
Esteven Cortez	Custodian	Lincoln	10/30/20	\$18.98/hour
Zachary Fredrickson	District BTA	Admin	11/16/20	\$18.98/hour
John Nichols	Custodian	Lions Park	10/30/20	\$18.98/hour

Accept the resignation of the following ESP employee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Lisa Sullivan	Instructional Assistant	Westbrook	11/13/20

Item 3. Financial Report - October 2020

Item 4. Accounts Payable Bills Totaling \$718,125.81

Item 5. Approve Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Calendar

Roll call vote resulted as follows

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

No: None

Absent: Kobus Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

None

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk said the Community Comments were posted online.

New Business1. Adopt 2020 Tentative Tax Levy

President Kowalczyk said Mr. Parisi had presented information earlier in the meeting on the tax levy. She entertained a motion to adopt the estimated tax levy and authorize a public hearing. Member Fay moved, seconded by Member Rothrauff, to approve the 2020 estimated tax levy as stated in Certificate of Tax Levy (Exhibit A) and authorize December 17, 2020, public hearing and publication of Hearing Notice (Exhibit B). Roll call vote resulted as follows

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

No: None

Absent: Kobus Motion carried.

2. Accept FY20 Audit

President Kowalczyk said the audit was presented at the November 5 meeting. She entertained a motion to accept the audit. Member Rothrauff moved, seconded by Member Maye, to accept the audited financial statement as of June 30, 2020, as prepared by the district's auditors, Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd. Roll call vote resulted as follows

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

No: None

Absent: Kobus Motion carried.

3. Approve Resolution 201119 to Intervene in a Property Tax Appeals Case

President Kowalczyk asked if anyone had any questions regarding the resolution to intervene in Property Tax Appeals Case but no one did. She entertained a motion. Vice President Chung moved, seconded by Member Fay, to approve Resolution 201119 authorizing the law firm of Himes, Petrarca, and Fester to intervene on tax assessment reduction appeals heard at the PTAB. Roll call vote resulted as follows

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

No: None

Absent: Kobus Motion carried.

Board Discussion: Return to Hybrid Metrics Update

President Kowalczyk said the state is entering Tier Three mitigation, and many neighboring districts are going to remote learning after Thanksgiving break and continuing until two weeks after Winter Break to provide a buffer for people who might have traveled. She asked Board members how they feel about continuing remote learning until January 19 like many other districts are doing. Member Fay said she agrees. Member McCluskey asked the district to survey families about travel plans to get some data. Member Rothrauff said she did not think they would get reliable data that would assist decision making. Vice President Chung said she feels comfortable waiting to start hybrid until January 19. Member Fay questioned whether January 19 is too early, given that infection rates from the holidays could still be high. Member Maye said he would like to get kids back to school as soon as possible and indicated that many surrounding districts have gone back hybrid with no evidence of transmissions. He expressed concern about continuing to push the date back further and also stated he does not support going directly to phase 2 but would prefer the district return under phase 1 with mask wearing at all times. Member Fay said moving to hybrid and needing to step back due to staffing issues would be disruptive for students and that she thinks it's better to stay the course with remote until community transmission drops and we can more consistently staff a hybrid option.

Board members asked about students who are currently in the buildings, and Sara Tyburski, Director of Student Services, stated that internal metrics have been good for this group, with very few COVID numbers in the buildings. She said she would recommend keeping targeted populations in person for now, until we are showing poor internal metrics, due to the fact that many students in this group benefit greatly from being in person. President Kowalczyk said she supports keeping the targeted group in the buildings because full remote could negatively impact their education. Members Maye, McCluskey, Fay, and Rothrauff agreed. Vice President Chung agreed about keeping these students in the buildings but asked if the district could give staff the option of going remote. Ms. Tyburski said that would be challenging, as we would still need someone with the student. Vice President Chung asked if there are any other options for the targeted groups, and Ms. Tyburski said she is not aware of any private groups that could meet this need.

President Kowalczyk asked for consensus on continuing remote learning until January 19 and continuing to keep targeted populations in the buildings as long as the metrics are okay. Member McCluskey supported this but reiterated his request for more data regarding the feelings of the teacher and parent

populations and he suggested possibly surveying monthly. Members Fay, Rothrauff, Chung and Kowalczyk also supported Vice President Chung who encouraged the community to continue reaching out to the Board and asked for more feedback. Member Maye was opposed to delaying until January 19 and would like to increase the number of targeted students in the buildings to include those who are having a very hard time with remote learning.

President Kowalczyk and other Board members asked administration to put surveys out to get feedback on holiday travel and to get ideas about feelings related to in person and remote, with the goal of determining if there's a shift in attitudes as the metrics change. The district will survey families, and the Board will look at results on December 17.

Dr. Gorr said if we are going to use the initial enrollment data, it will work for the Board to vote on the hybrid start on January 7 and then launch it on the 19th. But, if we are providing an opportunity for families to change their enrollment, more time would be necessary to make the transition. The Board suggested starting with an anonymous survey to give them an understanding of what parents are currently desiring in terms of hybrid and if Lincoln parents want half-day hybrid or full-day hybrid.

Closed Session

President Kowalczyk said there was need for closed session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. She said Board action may or may not take place following closed session and entertained a motion. Member Fay moved, seconded by Vice President Chung, to move into closed session. Roll call vote resulted as follows

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

No: None

Absent: Kobus

Motion carried and the Board convened into closed session at 9:56 p.m.

Regular Session

Member McCluskey made a motion, seconded by Member Fay, to return to open session. All members present voted yes and the Board reconvened into open session at 10:18 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Rothrauff made a motion, seconded by Member Maye, to adjourn the meeting. All members present voted yes and the meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.



Virginia Webster, Secretary



Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President

Date of approval: December 17, 2020