



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 5, 2020, to order at 7:04 p.m. Board members physically present at Fairview School were Vicki Chung, Brian Maye, Gerald McCluskey, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Attending through Zoom conferencing were Kimberly Fay and Rachael Rothrauff. Absent: Jennifer Kobus.

Communications

Board of Education

- Board President Report

President Kowalczyk stated that she contacted each Board member individually because she wanted to know how each member stood before the letter went out on November 2 saying that in-person learning would be delayed. One member did not agree with delaying the return to in-person learning but she thought by the end of their conversation that the member was in agreement. She said there was a misunderstanding and apologized that the letter went out stating it was a unanimous decision. The metrics will be discussed at the November 19 meeting.

- IASB Resolution Discussion

President Kowalczyk opened the discussion. Vice President Chung brought up about a new resolution on gun storage and acknowledged a memo that was put at the members' places. She said even though it is not something that happens at the school, she supported it. Other Board members agreed the storage is a domestic issue, but all Board members supported the resolution. There was no discussion on any other resolutions and President Kowalczyk said she would be attending the virtual Delegate Assembly.

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk said there were two times on the agenda for community comments. To give everyone an opportunity to speak, she asked people to limit their time speaking to three minutes. She said everyone has their view and asked people to be respectful. Three people from the audience addressed the Board. The first person was from the League of Women Voters and she said she had put the memo at the members' places and thanked them for agreeing to the resolution. She also asked the Board to support a resolution on equity and President Kowalczyk said the Board would vote to adopt it. Two other people addressed the Board on the task force and about a report of how surrounding districts hybrid models are working. They encouraged the Board to reopen.

Staff Reports

1. Annual Fall Enrollment Study Report

Superintendent Aumiller said this report is typically done in September but had been postponed. The report provides a summary of the district's 2020-21 grade level enrollment data and compared it with prior year enrollments. The district's current K-8 in-district enrollment is 2,202 which is 18 students less than last year. She highlighted the following

- The most recent five years of data show a relatively stable enrollment. The overall five-year projections indicate a slight increase for the next five years with a possible overall decrease of approximately 20 students by 2025-26.
- The kindergarten enrollment was 179 which is below our typical average of 203 so she used a target of 197 kindergarten students to begin the baseline calculations.
- There are space concerns at Lions Park but this was addressed at the October 15 meeting when the Board approved an addition which will be part of summer 2021 construction.

- Free and reduced lunch data and fee waivers remain consistent and are relatively low.
- We continue to experience a steady influx of new students transferring into the district while a lesser number transfer out.
- Many of the students who move into the district come from multilingual homes and we monitor this impact on our EL staffing.
- All of our new students will be assessed to garner valuable information for program placement and social assimilation. We will identify specific student instructional and social/emotional needs and provide for appropriate intervention and support.

Superintendent Aumiller answered questions from the Board.

2. Student Services Presentation

Mrs. Sara Tyburski, Director of Student Services, did a presentation on Child Find and the Continuum of Services that was originally to be done September 24 but was postponed. She reviewed the beliefs and commitments. She explained the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and what supports were available through age 21. She also explained about Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) where education is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of the handicapped child and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) that ensures children with disabilities are educated with nondisabled children to the maximum extent possible. Mrs. Tyburski explained that Child Find ensures that children, including ages 3-5, are identified, located and evaluated and a method is developed and implemented to determine which children are currently receiving needed special education and related services. There are 14 eligibility categories and children could be in a combination of eligibility categories. An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed with goals and objectives. She said children don't fit neatly in one category. There are students who might be placed at NSSEO or a private school to those students that in the least restrictive area are provided instruction with the general education curriculum. Following her presentation, Mrs. Tyburski answered questions from the Board.

3. Annual Code of Conduct Report

Mrs. Tyburski did a second presentation on the Annual Code of Conduct. She said the *Student Code of Conduct* document is the district's philosophy and approach to addressing student behavior. It is reviewed annually by the Parent-Teacher Behavioral Advisory Committee and must be presented annually to the Board. There were no changes this year to the document. Illinois is one of a few states that has guidelines for Social Emotional Learning Standards. She reviewed the goals, best practices, and District 57's multi-tiered system of support. District 57 uses the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program which is preventive and responsive and designed for all students. Mrs. Tyburski explained Restorative Practices are tools which allow individuals to practice Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is a mindset that values relationships at the center of community life. She answered questions from the Board. President Kowalczyk asked if we still did check-in and check-out and Mrs. Tyburski answered yes and that it identifies those who need that extra connection.

4. FY20 Audit Report

Mr. Parisi introduced Ms. Betsy Allen from Miller, Cooper & Co., Ltd. Ms. Allen explained why a financial audit is necessary, outlined the process and presented a draft copy of the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. She said the audit is designed to express an opinion on the 2020 financial statements but there were no statements this year because of the pandemic. She said the audit was ranked modified clean which is the highest level. There was some confusion discussing the audit as the Board members' packet only contained every other page. The Board was informed that this would be corrected for the November 19 packet when the Board would be asked to accept the audit. The final audit report will be posted on the district website. As part of the audit, an annual financial report is prepared and filed with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Most of the audit work was done off-site and Ms. Allen complimented the district employees who furnished the information to the auditors. She thanked Mr. Parisi and his staff for their availability and efforts to facilitate the process. Ms. Allen and Mr. Parisi answered questions from the Board.

5. Lions Park Presentation

Principal Katie Kelly, Assistant Principal Danielle Dillon, and Technology Coach Ashley Patla shared some of the remote learning successes they've seen in classrooms so far this year. They indicated that they recognize the significant concerns some parents have about their children being away from their teachers and classmates. But, they highlighted several bright spots and acknowledged staff, students, and families for their successful efforts to adjust to a new way of learning. They gave several examples of teachers going above and beyond to use their creativity and keep students engaged and motivated. This included applying new technology to make lessons more interactive and supporting all students to participate and share their work virtually in real time. Other success stories shared included music classes using technology to produce background music and sound effects to silent video clips, a cross-town collaboration between Lions Park and Fairview accelerated math students, students working towards individual PE goals, a project through Mount Prospect Library where students were provided books through the library and the author answered questions live via Zoom, at-home science experiments facilitated by Parent Squad volunteers who help distribute materials during school pickups, and Ed Camp professional development sessions where staff discuss innovative ways to use technology for remote learning. They said they are eager to have students back in the buildings but are extremely proud of what has been accomplished through remote learning. Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Dillon, and Ms. Patla answered questions from the Board.

6. Return-to-School Task Force Update

Superintendent Aumiller shared plans for creating the Return-to-School Task Force. She explained that it would consist of a representative from the MPEA, Diana Rush; an MPESPA representative, newly elected President Jenny McGoan; a school nurse, Kim Finnerty; an administrator, Dr. Gorr; and herself as the facilitator. The PTOs would be asked to nominate six candidates to participate. The 24 nominees would be asked to complete a survey to bring diversity to the task force. She asked President Kowalczyk if she would help in picking the six parents from the 24 nominated. The task force would meet via Zoom 1-2 times per month starting in December for a total of 4-5 times.

Board discussion followed. There was discussion about not limiting the survey to just people the PTO presidents knew and opening it up to the community. There was also a suggestion that the PTO Presidents should administer the survey but someone else stated that maybe the PTOs would not want to be that involved. It was then suggested to put something in the school newsletters that if parents were interested in being on the task force they should contact their PTO President.

7. IL School Report Cards

Superintendent Aumiller said the IL School Report Cards were released on October 30 by ISBE. The report cards are scaled back because there was no assessment data this year due to the pandemic. The report cards are posted on the district's website.

Community Comments

President Kowalczyk said the Board would hear additional comments from the audience. One person addressed the Board and thanked the Lions Park team for their presentation. She said she wants in-person learning and was glad to hear that Lions Park staff is eager for the kids to be back in school.

New Business

1. Approve Addendum to the Transportation Contract

Mr. Parisi said the district entered into a new transportation contract with First Student on July 1, 2020. He said similar to the end of last year, a lower price was negotiated due to schools being closed as a result of COVID-19 and the level of transportation being used is extremely limited. The addendum to the contract was a change he negotiated from August 24 to November 6, 2020. The amount was 35% of the contracted amount from the first day of school to the date the students were to return to the hybrid model. This amount covers the costs of running the bus facility, utilities, and salaries and benefits of upper management of the First Student location.

President Kowalczyk thanked Mr. Parisi and entertained a motion. Vice President Chung moved, seconded by Member Maye, to approve the contract addendum from First Student Inc. to allow for payment of 35 percent of the agreed upon contracting price. Roll call vote resulted as follows

Yes: Chung, Fay, Maye, McCluskey, Rothrauff, Kowalczyk
 No: None
 Absent: Kobus Motion carried.

Board Discussion

1. COVID Travel Expectations

President Kowalczyk said Member Kobus had requested a discussion regarding COVID travel expectations. She said District 214 had sent an email to parents for COVID protocol. The Board discussed how the district would monitor this and if the Cook County rotating travel list would be used. It was decided that if anyone travelled out of state, they should quarantine and that families would have to self-report. President Kowalczyk said we would have a letter of what would be sent to parents at the next meeting.

2. Vice President Chung brought up a letter the Board received shortly before the meeting from Lions Park Special Ed Team. They expressed concerns about safety for those that are working in-person. Vice President Chung asked if we should survey to see staff suggestions. Superintendent Aumiller stated that it was a staffing need and, as Mrs. Tyburski brought up in her earlier presentation, these children have to be in-person. She said she was sorry about this but it is their job and NSSEO staff are also dealing with this. Member Maye said NSSEO has been in-person and has not had one case. Superintendent Aumiller encouraged the Board not to go down this road and said administration should be dealing with this. She said she did not receive the email and President Kowalczyk said she would forward it to her. Vice President Chung said she did not want to overstep but maybe there is something to make them feel safer. Dr. Aumiller said they have been trying to support staff and furnishing PPE. Member Fay said external metrics were in the red zone and asked if it is up to the Board to decide about this. Mrs. Tyburski said the teams determine this and, as the year goes on, more in-person special education students have been added. President Kowalczyk said the metrics and potential for hybrid would be discussed at the next meeting.


Closed Session

President Kowalczyk said there was a closed session meeting at 5:30 p.m. and there was no need for additional closed session.

Adjournment

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

Yes: Fay, Maye, McCluskey, Rothrauff, Chung, Kowalczyk
 No: None
 Absent: Kobus Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.


 Virginia Webster, Secretary


 Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President

Date of approval: November 19, 2020