



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 July 16, 2020, held via Zoom conferencing, to order at 7:01 p.m. Board members present: Vicki Chung, Kimberly Fay, Jennifer Kobus, Brian Maye, Gerald McCluskey, Rachael Rothrauff, and Eileen Kowalczyk. Absent: None.

Board Discussion

• Questions and Answers with Board Attorney

The attorney for the district, Lynn Himes, was on the Zoom meeting to answer any questions for the Board. President Kowalczyk asked the Board if they had any questions for Mr. Himes but no one did. President Kowalczyk asked about the mask requirement from the Department of Health and if the district needed to put something in place. Mr. Himes said it is his firm's opinion that we do not need any specific policy. He said some districts want to adopt a policy to refer to. He shared drafted language for the district's appearance policy and the student handbook. President Kowalczyk asked what if parents refuse to abide by the policy. Mr. Himes said if that happens, the child would become remote learning and there would not be any specialized plans. Superintendent Aumiller said if the Board wants to add that language to the policy, the July 16 meeting would satisfy the first read and the Board could approve it in August. A Board member asked what happens if a child can't wear a face mask and Mr. Himes said we would have to have a note from the child's doctor. Another member asked if it would just be normal discipline if a student takes off his or her mask and Mr. Himes answered that the district should treat it with the least amount of discipline. Someone else asked if it is a problem if the desks are not six feet apart and Mr. Himes stated that we do the best we can. Another question was asked if the district would have any disposable masks. Superintendent Aumiller said the expectation is that students and staff come with their masks but masks will be provided if they don't have one. Mr. Himes also mentioned that the policy covers sick time with some additional FMLA benefits due to COVID-19. He said it is best to accommodate and relieve employees' stress.

Communications

Board of Education

- NSSEO: Member Maye said there was no meeting to report.
- Education Foundation: No report.
- PTO Reports: None.
- Board President Report: No report.

Community Comments

Any community member who wished to address the Board was to send an email to Superintendent Aumiller with their questions or comments and the email would be read at the meeting. President Kowalczyk read each of the emails. There were about thirty-five emails from people of which eight were from staff. Many started their comments with a phrase stating that they didn't envy the administration and Board having to make this decision. Everyone expressed concern for the safety of staff and children. The emails were about plans to reopen school, use of masks, how social distancing could happen in the classrooms and during passing periods and arrival and departure. There was concern over lunch and the length of time students would be confined in the same classroom. There were many comments and questions regarding if a student or a student's family member tested positive for COVID-19, how would the district handle it and the large numbers of those that could be exposed. There were questions and comments regarding hybrid learning and support for parents for remote learning. Another person

commented that working parents may need to have their children back in school so that they can return to work. President Kowalczyk commented that everyone is concerned about next year. She said this is all new for all of us and we will get through this together.

Staff Reports

- **Fall 2020 Back to School Update**

Superintendent Aumiller prefaced the presentation stating that through reliable sources, Governor Pritzker might make an announcement possibly the next day or in the near future that all schools will be remote learning this fall. She also said the presentation would be emailed to the community and also available on the district's website.

Dr. Mary Gorr, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, started the D57 Readiness Plan to Safely Re-engage Students and Staff in the 2020-21 School Year presentation. She said the district received 1,500 survey responses and 59% of parents expressed certainty in sending their students for in-person learning, 39% expressed hesitancy and 2% expressed certainty of not sending their students for in-person learning. Overall, there was a desire for parental choice and 41% of parents indicated an interest in enrolling their students in full-time remote learning. She said staff feedback expressed desire for in-person and remote learning option. The Task Force was made up of 63 teachers, ESP staff members, and administrators working in three groups: Operational Planning Team, Teaching and Learning Teams for in-person and remote. There has been close collaboration with the MPEA and MPESPA Union leadership. Parents would need to make a decision by July 27 if they wanted full-time in-person learning or full-time remote learning. Dr. Gorr talked about the protocols if anyone tested positive or if anyone had been in close contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19. Both in-person and remote learning would have similar expectations around coursework and grading. IEP teams would ensure IEP goals and supports are appropriate. There would be weekly social emotional learning lessons with appropriate themes. There will be Chromebooks for all kindergarten through 8th grade students. Dr. Gorr explained the procedures for both in-person learning and remote learning.

Mr. Adam Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, explained how arrival and dismissal would be handled. He said all students and staff would be required to wear masks. There will be Plexiglas dividers for small group instruction and additional daytime custodians and health assistants would be hired. Lincoln's schedule would be adjusted to minimize movement, passing periods would be staggered to decrease hall traffic, and students will go outside when weather permits. Many students will eat in their classrooms and food would be available to be purchased in the Lincoln cafeteria. He said parents would be required to certify students are symptom free and if a student gets sick during the day, there will be an additional nurse's office as an isolation room. A health clerical assistant will be hired for each building. There would be no drinking from water fountains; only water bottle refills. Mr. Parisi also spoke about the crisis budget which includes between \$500,000 and \$750,000 to be spent on PPE. Some items are face shields and N95 masks for specialized personnel, hand sanitizer, Plexiglas, floors would be marked for social distancing, gowns for nurses and nurses' assistants, and signage. He talked about transportation and said all students would wear masks for the entire ride, 50 or less people on a bus, and the buses sanitized prior to the a.m. and p.m. routes. Mr. Parisi reviewed enrollment dates and said the first day for students would be August 20.

President Kowalczyk thanked Dr. Aumiller, Dr. Gorr, and Mr. Parisi for the presentation and said a lot of the community questions were answered by the presentation. She opened the discussion to questions from the Board. Member Kobus asked if lunch would be staggered or if all the students would eat at the same time. Superintendent Aumiller answered that they would all eat at the same time. Member Kobus also asked how it would work with subs if they needed to be quarantined and Dr. Aumiller said we are still working out the details regarding the subs and have had no guidance from ISBE. Member Maye asked if administration has considered a hybrid model. Superintendent Aumiller said all the

superintendents from the elementary schools that feed into Districts 211 and 214 thought the hybrid model would be a real burden on staff to be teaching in-person two days and two days remote. It is also hard for working families who would need childcare for three days per week. Member Maye also asked if the district would consider a model where students could do both. Dr. Aumiller said the logistics would be difficult and we would need additional staffing to do so. Vice President Chung commented that she was surprised about some of the emails from the teachers that were read by President Kowalczyk during community comments and asked if teachers could choose which model of learning they wanted. She said the emails from teachers favored remote learning and asked if Dr. Aumiller had heard from teachers who wanted in-person learning. Superintendent Aumiller said a survey went to the teachers asking them to let us know their preference but, she said they could end up with a different grade level. Member Rothrauff questioned the movement between periods, bathroom use during passing periods, why the cafeteria would be open and if it would be better to deliver the food from the cafeteria to the classrooms where the students would be eating their lunch. Mr. Parisi said some students receive free lunch and others purchase lunch but everything would be pre-packaged. There were also questions regarding Kids' Corner. Mr. Parisi said it would be limited to 50 people and that registration would be on first-come basis. Member Fay had questions concerning how classes would be affected if teachers became sick and if classes could be brought down to 20 students. Superintendent Aumiller said we would not be able to get the class sizes down to only 20 students. Member Fay also said she was surprised that the teachers were not aware of the plan before it was presented. Dr. Gorr said the Task Force was a large group and that when we use teachers during the summer, we need to pay them and District 57 resources are limited. Superintendent Aumiller said Dr. Gorr wanted to give the presentation to staff before the Board but she wanted the Board to see it first. Member McCluskey asked if teachers could handle larger class sizes online. Superintendent Aumiller answered that the teachers' contract addresses large class size. Member McCluskey also inquired if we are mandated to remote learning, can we put teachers most interested in online in the "driver's position" and Dr. Aumiller said if we had teachers interested in teaming up we would be open to it. President Kowalczyk asked about how the self-screening by parents would work. Dr. Aumiller said there would be significant signage around the buildings and also the newsletters would state that by parents sending their child to school, they are certifying the child is okay. President Kowalczyk also asked if there was any more money than \$77,000 coming from the CARES Act. Dr. Gorr said there is also about \$20,000 from the Department of Education. Administration was also asked about filtering the air and Mr. Parisi said the air would be circulated more and filters changed more often. Another question was what would happen if students have COVID-like symptoms but not COVID. Mrs. Tyburski, Director of Student Services, said as it stands now, we would have to isolate them. President Kowalczyk asked Mr. Parisi if he would look at the cost of putting Plexiglas-like partitions around each desk. President Kowalczyk said we should all respect everyone's views and thanked administration for all the work they are doing to come up with a solution for what is best for the students and families in District 57.

- Prevention and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment

Mrs. Sara Tyburski, Director of Student Services, did a presentation on Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment. She said per Board Policy 7:180, the Board is required to review this annually. She said Olweus, the program the district uses, defines bullying as when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself. The definition from ISBE is more detailed and allows for a single instance to be considered bullying if it is severe. She talked about administrator training in Restorative Justice and how it plays a part in bullying prevention. Even though the district's percent of students reporting harm was under 5%, the numbers are the highest in first and second grade. She felt that is because this age group is learning to work together. She said the district encourages the reporting of bullying. The results of a survey showed that 20% of third graders reported that they were bullied 2-3 times a month or more and the lowest was sixth grade at 6%. These numbers are below the national comparison. There were two founded incidents of bullying – one at Westbrook which took place in the bathroom and one at Lincoln which was cyber bullying from home. Both showed no bystander participation or intervention.

Social emotional learning in District 57 includes the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, school-wide expectations, and restorative justice. Mrs. Tyburski answered two questions from the Board. The first question asked if there was any difference between Fairview and Lions Park and Mrs. Tyburski answered no. She was also asked if the percentage in each grade level increased or decreased over the last 3-5 years and she said there has not been a wide variance over the last 5 years.

- Financial Projections and Budget Assumptions

Mr. Adam Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, did a presentation on FY21 Budget Assumptions. He said the Board of Education is required by Illinois School Code to approve a budget for the fiscal year. He said this year with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are in a crisis and this is a crisis budget. He said in past years, he always said he'd balance the budget but this year is much more challenging. He said because of COVID-19 we are adding an additional eight positions to the staffing plan – four full time day custodians and four full time health clerical assistants. The cost for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) as of today is \$500,000 and could possibly be higher.

In order to prepare a budget, assumptions are developed to create a financial plan. The budget process starts in March when the Board approves the staffing plan. He met from May to July with all administrators to work on each department's budget. Mr. Parisi reviewed the operating funds by revenue source. He said 81% of the district's budget comes from property taxes, 9% from other local funds such as registration and transportation, another 6% from Evidence Based Funding, minimal from other state revenue, and 3% from federal funds. He showed revenue historical trends and projections.

He then shared the expenditures by object with 69% going for salaries and benefits and 13% for capital outlay due to maintenance of facilities. Changes will occur prior to the Board's approval of the Tentative Budget in August and the Official Budget in September. He shared the strong fund balance projections through FY25 - a result of the referendum. There are unknown financial variables such as COVID-19, TRS pension cost shift, property tax freeze, and other legislative unknowns. Board discussion followed the presentation with Mr. Parisi answering questions from the Board regarding capital improvements and less revenue because the district refunded money for food, transportation, and Circle of Friends due to COVID. Member McCluskey said maybe we could focus on cutting back on projects to deal with the COVID costs. Mr. Parisi said we can't cut the \$2.5M too much because this is ongoing construction and the cost is split over two fiscal years. Vice President Chung asked if we would have a balanced budget if we were only remote learning starting next school year. Mr. Parisi said remote learning would eliminate the need for the eight additional staff. He said the Tentative Budget will be presented to the Board for approval at the August meeting.

- Update of Summer Facilities

Mr. Adam Parisi, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, gave the Board an update of the projects at each building and what has been completed.

- ✓ Westbrook: The HVAC controls are in the process of being replaced. The asphalt in the basketball courts was demolished, grading completed, and the testing is occurring. The sensory floors in the Early Childhood hallway are being laser jet cut and installation should happen the first week of August.
- ✓ Fairview: The parking lot being replaced has been demoed and the underground utility and storm retention are being worked on.
- ✓ Lions Park: The parking lot being replaced has been demoed, the underground utility and storm retention completed, and in the process of grading. The electrical and gas have been completed and waiting for the chiller to be powered up.

- ✓ Lincoln: The gas piping to RTU has been completed for the replacement of the HVAC and installation of air conditioning in the Busse Gym. The hallway lockers have been repaired and in the process of being painted. The replacement of the floors in the classrooms and cafeteria have been completed and the locker room floors should be completed this week. The electrical and gas for adding two generators has been completed and waiting for the generators to be powered up.
- ✓ Administration Building: The receiving dock room has been built and painted. We are waiting for the electrical to be completed.

Mr. Parisi said there will be a physical or virtual walk-through of the buildings for the Board in August.

Consent Agenda

President Kowalczyk said it was not necessary to pull the Minutes from the Consent Agenda because all members were present at the June 18 meeting. President Kowalczyk asked if anyone wanted any other item removed but no one did. Vice President Chung reviewed the bills and said everything was in order. She also commented on the positive results on the district’s finances since Mr. Parisi became the Treasurer in 2017. She said the district earned interest income of \$12,000 in June 2018, \$22,000 in June 2019, and \$64,000 in June 2020. She thanked Mr. Parisi for his work in overseeing the district’s finances. President Kowalczyk entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Maye moved, seconded by Vice President Chung, to approve the items of the Consent Agenda as follows

Item 1. Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of June 18, 2020 – Open Session

Item 2. Personnel Transactions

Approve the employment for the following certified individual:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Ashley Koeller	Teacher – Special Ed	Lions Park	8/17/20	* \$53,978/year

*Salary includes Board paid TRS

Approve the change of status of the following certified employee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Catherine Bauer	From 1.0 FTE ESP Nurse to 1.0 FTE Certified Nurse	Lions Park	8/17/20	* \$58,136/year

*Salary includes Board paid TRS

Approve the employment of the following ESP individual:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Sylwia Engquist	Building Technology Asst.	Lions Park	7/29/20	\$18.98/hour

Item 3. Financial Reports – June 2020

Item 4. Accounts Payable Bills Totaling \$321,263.59

Item 5. Approve Donations Report

Item 6. Approve Tuition Reimbursement

Item 7. Approve Review of the Closed Session Minutes for the Period of July 2018 through December 2018 and Destruction of Closed Session Audio Tapes prior to December 2018

Item 8. Approve Revised 2020-2021 Calendar

Roll call vote resulted as follows

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

Unfinished Business

None

Community Comments

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

New Business

Superintendent Aumiller verified that the Board wanted Policy 7:160, Student Appearance, as First Read. She said the policy would be on the August 20 agenda for approval.

Closed Session

President Kowalczyk said there was need for Closed Session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Board action would not follow closed session. She entertained a motion. Member Fay moved, seconded by Member Rothrauff, to move into closed session. Roll call vote resulted as follows

Yes: Fay, Kobus, Maye, McCluskey, Rothrauff, Chung, Kowalczyk
No: None Motion carried and the Board convened into Closed Session at 10:58 p.m.

Regular Session

Member Fay made a motion, seconded by Vice President Chung, to return to open session. All members voted yes and the Board reconvened into open session at 11:15 p.m.

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 Rothrauff, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote resulted as follows

Yes: Kobus, Maye, McCluskey, Rothrauff, Chung, Fay, Kowalczyk
No: None Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:16 p.m.



Virginia Webster, Secretary



Eileen B. Kowalczyk, President

Date of approval: August 20, 2020