

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 22, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District #90, Cook County, Illinois, was called to order in the Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium, 7560 Oak Avenue, River Forest, Illinois, on February 22, 2022, at 7:03 p.m.

The following Board Members responded present on roll call:

Mrs. Barbara Hickey, President  
Ms. Stacey Williams, Vice President  
Dr. Nicole Thompson, Secretary  
Mrs. Katie Avalos  
Mr. Cal Davis (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)  
Mr. Richard Moore  
Mrs. Sarah Eckmann

ROLL CALL

Administrators present:

Dr. Ed Condon, Superintendent  
Dr. Alison Hawley, Director of Curriculum  
and Instruction  
Mr. Larry Garstki, Roosevelt School Principal (via Zoom)  
Ms. Diane Wood, Willard School Principal (via Zoom)  
Mr. Kevin Martin, Director of Technology (via Zoom)  
Dawne Simmons, Communications Coordinator

Recording Secretary: Anthony Cozzi, Director of Finance and  
Facilities

Community present: The number of community participants in-  
person was 18. The number of community  
present on zoom was 8.

Mrs. Hickey welcomed visitors and invited comments from the  
audience.

**Public Comment**

Josh Ehart, 522 Park, noted that the District made decisions around  
COVID in a deliberate and thoughtful way and believed the due  
process had been followed every step of the way. He did note,  
however, that community division and acrimony have been much  
too high around this issue.

Marwa Shammas, 900 Jackson, asked the Board to end COVID  
mitigations. She stated that Illinois was in the minority across the  
nation as children in other states have benefitted from normal  
socialization. She wished that our children who were unvaccinated  
would stop being excluded from daily activities. She urged the  
Board not to be beholden to the rise and fall in COVID numbers.

Mario Ferro, 26 Franklin, asked the Board to lift the mask mandate. He said that there was very little positive scientific evidence correlating to mask wearing in schools and said that it was illegal to force students to wear masks.

Mrs. Hickey then asked Ms. Simmons for written comments from the public received in advance of the meeting.

Louisa Starr/Victoria Bynum, RFEA Co-Presidents, informed the Board that the RFEA sent out a short survey to members regarding COVID mitigations, noting that 86% of all members responded. The survey resulted in 53.2% of members believed that mask wearing should not be optional, while 46.8% believed that it should.

Jarad Champion, parent, supported the District with whatever decision was made. He noted that the most important consideration for a student's education is the quality of the student-teacher relationship. He would support giving teachers the option to go mask-optional.

Carly Grant, parent, asked the Board to end indoor mask requirements and asymptomatic quarantines as they violate the law.

Megan Sanfilippo, parent, thanked the Board for their efforts making difficult decisions and was sorry that they have experienced any harassment or misrepresentation along the way. She applauded those who have utilized safe and effective measures to reduce overall transmission.

Melissa Healy, parent, was concerned that the decision-makers are dismissing disabled individuals when considering the consequences of COVID. She believed that removing masks now would be detrimental and possibly even catastrophic to disabled individuals.

Dr. Ryan Schutt, parent, supported any decision to switch to mask-optional stance within the District. He believed that the studies around the benefits of masking children are flawed.

William Flaherty, parent, was in favor of eliminating mask wearing in District schools, noting that the mandate was purely for optics.

Thomas Knackstedt, asked the Board for a clear plan to eliminate COVID mitigations. He believed that the community is protected through vaccines and prior infections and felt that it is time to move forward.

It was moved by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Avalos that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

AGENDA  
APPROVED

On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Hickey, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Eckmann, Mr. Davis, Mr. Moore, Dr. Thompson

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Freedom of Information Act Request**

A FOIA was received from Jonathan Fagg of WLS TV via email on January 11<sup>th</sup> regarding the status of remote learning equipment. A response was emailed on January 18<sup>th</sup>. A FOIA was received from Nathan Mihelich of IRTA via email on January 18<sup>th</sup> regarding staff who are retiring this year. A response was emailed on January 19<sup>th</sup>. A FOIA was received from John Smith of MuckRock News via email on January 27<sup>th</sup> regarding lottery results for Inclusion Preschool. A response was emailed on February 1<sup>st</sup>. A FOIA was received from Sheri Reid of SmartProcure via email on February 2<sup>nd</sup> regarding purchasing records. A response was emailed on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. A FOIA was received from John Smith of MuckRock News via email on February 7<sup>th</sup> regarding Inclusion Preschool lottery procedures. A response was emailed on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

It was moved by Ms. Williams and seconded by Dr. Thompson that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda to include the following:

CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVED

January payrolls totaling \$1,044,019.99, Board payments relating to payrolls totaling \$389,826.42 and accounts payable totaling \$536,459.98.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Davis, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Hickey, Mrs. Eckmann, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Avalos

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Board Committee Reports were as follows:**

**Education**

A meeting was held at which the proposed science curriculum was discussed. This was the first meeting that was held allowing student voice.

**Personnel**

No report was given.

**Policy**

No meeting was held.

**Finance**

No report was given.

**Equity**

No report was given.

**Facilities**

No meeting was held.

**Communications**

No report was given.

**Outside Meetings were as follows:**

**Council of Governments**

No meeting was held.

**Community Council**

A meeting was held at which the “Imagine OPRF” project was discussed.

**Youth Network Council**

No report was given.

**Board Liaison District PTO Council**

A meeting was held at which fund raising events and the science fair were discussed.

**Inclusiveness Advisory Board**

A meeting was held at which the tropes and traps of equity were discussed.

**PlanItGreen**

A meeting was held at which sustainability and solar energy procurement were discussed.

**River Forest Civic Association**

No meeting was held.

**Citizen Corp Council**

No meeting was held.

**West Cook Governing Board (IASB)**

No meeting was held.

**ED-RED**

No meeting was held.

**River Forest Sub-Committee on Collaboration**

No meeting was held.

**Positive Youth Development**

A meeting was held at which April, as substance abuse awareness month was discussed.

**District Calendar Review**

Dr. Condon discussed the calendar affecting Board members for the months of February and March.

**Superintendent’s Report**

**COVID-19 Safety Mitigation Protocol Revisions** – Dr. Condon, along with Nicki Bazer, legal counsel from Franczek, P.C. spoke about the implications of the temporary restraining order recent decision. They also spoke about how District 90’s independent ability to create mitigation provisions is not governed by the restraining order. He then recommended, per discussions with Rush Infection Prevention, the District’s nursing team, and the District Administration, to end the outdoor masking requirement effective February 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, he recommended that, effective February 28<sup>th</sup>, the District no longer require exclusion for asymptomatic individuals previously identified as close contact. He also recommended that mask wearing become recommended, but not required, also effective February 28<sup>th</sup>. A lengthy Board discussion ensued.

It was moved by Dr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Moore that the Board of Education table the decision on the COVID-19 protocol recommendations presented in order to get additional metrics from authoritative agencies.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Davis, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Eckmann, Dr. Thompson

Nays: Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Hickey, Ms. Williams

The motion carried.

DECISION ON  
COVID-19  
PROTOCOL  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
PRESENTED  
TABLED

**Proposed Agreement with Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS) to Support Roosevelt Middle School Science Curriculum Review** – Dr. Hawley briefly shared the proposed agreement with BSCS to support the RMS Science Curriculum Review. A Board discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Avalos that the Board of Education approve the Proposed Agreement with BSCS to support Roosevelt Middle School Science Curriculum as presented.

On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Eckmann, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Hickey, Mr. Moore, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Avalos, Mr. Davis

Nays: none

The motion carried.

PROPOSED  
AGREEMENT  
WITH BSCS TO  
SUPPORT  
ROOSEVELT  
SCIENCE  
CURRICULUM  
APPROVED

**Policy – Second Reading** – Dr. Condon and Mr. Moore gave the second reading of the PRESS Policy Update from November 2021 with no significant edits.

It was moved by Dr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Davis that the Board of Education adopt the PRESS Policy Update from November 2021 as presented.

PRESS POLICY  
UPDATE  
ADOPTED

On call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Eckmann, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Hickey, Mr. Moore, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Avalos, Mr. Davis

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Personnel**

It was moved by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Davis that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report as presented.

PERSONNEL  
REPORT  
APPROVED

On roll call, the vote was as follows:


Ayes: Mrs. Eckmann, Mr. Moore, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Hickey, Mrs. Avalos, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Davis

Nays: None

The motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Avalos and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

  
Barbara Hickey  
President

  
Nicole Thompson  
Secretary