

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 20, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District #90, Cook County, Illinois, was called to order in the Roosevelt Middle School Library Learning Center, 7560 Oak Avenue, River Forest, Illinois, on November 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The following Board Members responded present on roll call:

Ms. Stacey Williams, President  
Mrs. Kathleen Avalos, Vice President (via phone)  
Mrs. Sarah Eckmann, Secretary (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)  
Dr. Nicole Thompson  
Dr. Kristine Mackey (via phone)  
Mr. Joseph Cortese  
Dr. Eric Isenberg (arrived at 7:03 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

Administrators present:

Dr. Ed Condon, Superintendent  
Dr. Alison Hawley, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction  
Ms. Stephanie Rath, Director of Communications and  
Community Relations

Recording Secretary: Anthony Cozzi, Chief Operations Officer

Community present: The number of community participants in person was 4 and on zoom was 16.

Ms. Williams welcomed visitors and asked for any public comment.

**Public Comment**

Hanna Nichols, resident, thanked the Board for pushing forward the literacy review. She also spoke about her child's experience with reading. She noted that curriculum is important, but teachers are the most important resource. She asked the Board to continue to provide teachers with appropriate professional development.

**Student Presentations**

Ms. Williams introduced Orchestra Director Brek Hufnus, who directed an ensemble of Roosevelt students, who performed in honor of Board Member Appreciation Night.

It was moved by Dr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Cortese that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

AGENDA  
APPROVED

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

Ayes: Dr. Isenberg, Dr. Thompson, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Eckmann, Mr. Cortese, Dr. Mackey

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Communications**

A thank you note was received from former Communications Coordinator, Dawne Simmons, thanking the Board for the gracious retirement gift. A thank you note was received from Director of Technology, Kevin Martin regarding the death of his father. A thank you note was received from Roosevelt Assistant Principal, Tina Steketee regarding the death of her mother.

**Freedom of Information Act Request**

A FOIA was received via email from Genesis Wright on October 20, 2023 regarding student enrollments and student/teacher ratios. A response was emailed on October 24, 2023. A FOIA was received via email from Steve Lefko regarding the District's development and use of local norms and cutoffs as well as the number of children screened for disabilities and further evaluation. After an email response of notification on November 2, 2023 regarding the need to extend the FOIA response time limits, a complete response was emailed on November 8, 2023.

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

October payrolls totaling \$1,060,181.75, Board payments relating to payrolls totaling \$413,167.14 and accounts payable totaling \$698,128.05.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Dr. Mackey, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Isenberg, Mr. Cortese, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Eckmann

Nays: none

The motion carried.

CONSENT  
AGENDA  
APPROVED

**Board Committee Reports were as follows:**

**Education**

No report was given.

**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 meeting was held.

**Outside Meetings were as follows:**

**Community Council**

No report was given.

**Youth Network Council**

A meeting was held at which outreach for migrants in Oak Park was discussed. Also discussed were the activities of two groups, Partnering for Parents and Beyond Hunger.

**Board Liaison District PTO Council**

A meeting was held at which the book fairs at the respective buildings as well as the Spelling Bee, the Penny Wars, the Pumpkin Smash and the Beyond Hunger food drive were all discussed.

**Inclusiveness Advisory Board**

No report was given.

**PlanItGreen**

A meeting was held at which Illinois Solar For All program was discussed.

**West Cook Governing Board (IASB)**

No report was given.

**ED-RED**

No report was given.

**Committee for Collaboration**

A meeting was held at which the Village of River Forest recent traffic study was discussed.

**Positive Youth Development**

A meeting was held at which grant application restraints were discussed.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Resolution Regarding the Estimated Amounts of Taxes**

**Necessary to Be Levied for the Year 2023** – Mr. Cozzi reviewed the tax levy process under the Truth in Taxation Act. One requirement is for the Board to approve an Estimated Tax Levy. Mr. Cozzi shared the estimated levy for Board discussion and noted that, due to the CPI increase, a tax levy hearing will be required to be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> prior to adopting the levy.

It was moved by Mr. Cortese and seconded by Dr. Mackey that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Regarding the Estimated Amounts of Taxes Necessary to be Levied for the Year 2023, as presented.

2023 ESTIMATED  
TAX LEVY  
APPROVED

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cortese, Dr. Isenberg, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Eckmann, Dr. Mackey, Dr. Thompson, Ms. Williams

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Board Member Appreciation Night** – Dr. Condon thanked all the members for their service in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Day and presented each with certificates. Ms. Williams also thanked the rest of the Board for their efforts and dedication to District 90.

**Operating Fund Financial Projections – 2025-2028** –Mr. Cozzi presented the Operating Fund Financial Projections for 2025-2028. Mr. Cozzi identified the significant assumptions used and highlighted the significant items included. He noted that the deficit spending over the years presented will essentially deplete all of the Bond proceeds recently issued. He also noted that the document will be used as a baseline moving forward to complete the District's action object plan around deficit reduction. A Board discussion ensued.

**Resident-Friendly Financial Reporting Instrument, 2023** – Mr. Cozzi presented the most recent draft of the Resident-Friendly Financial Reporting Instrument and received Board feedback.

**Draft Public School Calendar** – Dr. Condon introduced Dr. Hawley to present the first draft of the Public School Calendar for 2024-25. She noted that the Calendar Committee took into consideration the winter, spring and summer breaks of Districts 97 and 200. She also noted that the committee came to consensus on the start date. A lengthy Board discussion ensued around the number of school days compared to previous years as well as discussions around the half-day institute day scheduled for October 31, graduation dates, and Rosh Hashanah.

**Student Achievement** – Dr. Hawley gave a presentation on Student Achievement. She also welcomed the District's data consultant, Phil Earvolino, to answer questions and give additional insight to the data presented. Dr. Hawley defined what student growth was as well as the limitations and considerations of assessments. She illustrated the District's national percentile rank and conditional growth percentile for various grade levels. She then showed demographic information of various student stakeholder groups by race, ethnicity and other categories, while discussing percentile rankings for each.



The Board questioned why the presentation contained so much overlapping data from last month’s report card presentation. A Board discussion ensued regarding the desire to present information alongside comparable, high performing districts.

It was moved by Mrs. Eckmann and seconded by Dr. Thompson that the Board of Education move into closed session in order to discuss 9) Student disciplinary cases; and 1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body to determine its validity.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Dr. Isenberg, Ms. Williams, Dr. Mackey, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Eckmann, Mr. Cortese

Nays: none

The motion carried and the Board moved into closed session at approximately 9:41 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board returned to open session with the same members present at approximately 10:32 p.m.

**Board Action on Suspension Review Regarding Student FY24-01** – It was moved by Ms. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Eckmann that the Board of Education affirm the suspension regarding Student FY24-01.

SUSPENSION OF STUDENT FY24-01 AFFIRMED

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cortese, Dr. Isenberg, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Eckmann, Dr. Mackey, Dr. Thompson, Ms. Williams

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**Personnel**

It was moved by Dr. Isenberg and seconded by Dr. Thompson that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Report as presented.

PERSONNEL REPORT APPROVED

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

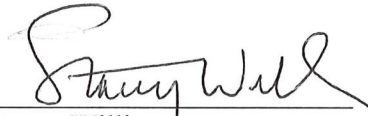
Ayes: Dr. Isenberg, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Mackey, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Eckmann, Mr. Cortese


Nays: None

The motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Cortese and seconded by Dr. Isenberg and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

  
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Stacey Williams  
President

  
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Sarah Eckmann KATIE AVALOS  
Secretary, PRO-TEM