

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of School District #90, Cook County, Illinois, was called to order virtually, using Zoom, on November 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The following Board Members responded present on a virtual roll call:

Mr. Richard Moore, President
Mrs. Barbara Hickey, Vice President
Ms. Stacey Williams, Secretary
Dr. Nicole Thompson
Mr. Cal Davis
Mrs. Kathleen Avalos
Mrs. Judy Deogracias

ROLL CALL

Administrators present virtually:

Dr. Ed Condon, Superintendent (in-person at Roosevelt Middle School, 7560 Oak Avenue, River Forest, Illinois)
Dr. Alison Hawley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Diane Wood, Willard School Principal
Mr. Casey Godfrey, Lincoln School Principal
Ms. Denise Matthews, Director of Special Education
Mr. Larry Garstki, Roosevelt School Principal
Dawne Simmons, Communications Coordinator

Recording Secretary: Mr. Anthony Cozzi, Director of Finance and Facilities (via Zoom)

Community present (via Zoom): The number of community participants on zoom was 117.

Mr. Moore welcomed visitors and asked Ms. Simmons for written comments from the public received in advance of the meeting. She read the following:

Public Comment

Louisa Starr and Shana Joyce, RFEA Co-Presidents issued a statement questioning, in light of the surge in COVID case, when the county stay at home order will apply to District 90 special education students.

Joshua Eheart, resident, expressed his gratitude to the District 90 team for its efforts during the pandemic. He has agreed with the Board's decisions throughout to follow the guidance of public health experts.

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Rebecca Kleps, resident agreed with the Board’s decision to stay in remote through the Thanksgiving holiday break. She did note, however, that she would have liked to return students to in-person learning back in August when case numbers were lower.

Carly Grant, resident questioned what metric figures would need to be in place for students to return to in-person learning. She believed that students need to be back in session for many reasons and advised the Board to use the preventative measures that it has already put in place.

Jessica Poirier, resident wrote to praise the District’s Preschool Inclusion Program, specifically the work of Mrs. Bynum and the other teachers in the program.

It was moved by Mrs. Hickey 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. Deogracias, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Moore, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Hickey, Mrs. Avalos

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Freedom of Information Act Request

A FOIA was received via email on October 14th from Joe Hart of the IEA/NEA pertaining to District non-certified support staff. A response was emailed on October 20th. A FOIA was received via email on October 19th from Vince Espi of LocalLabs pertaining to contracts involving guest speakers. A response was emailed on October 26th. A FOIA was received via email on November 10th from Karin Sullivan pertaining to District communications with IMRF. A response was emailed on November 11th, with an expanded response emailed on November 13th.

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

CONSENT
AGENDA
APPROVED

October payrolls totaling \$879,433.38, Board payments relating to payrolls totaling \$368,933.92 and accounts payable totaling \$455,840.62.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Board Committee Reports were as follows:

Education

No report was given.

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Personnel

No meeting was held.

Policy

No report was given.

Finance

No meeting was held.

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 District 90's adaptive pause as well as the facilitation of remote learning while teachers on site were discussed.

Youth Network Council

A meeting was held at which an update on support of youth mental health needs was discussed.

Board Liaison District PTO Council

No report was given.

Inclusiveness Advisory Board

No meeting was held.

River Forest Civic Association

No meeting was held.

Citizen Corp Council

No meeting was held.

West Cook Governing Board (IASB)

No report was given.

ED-RED

A meeting was held at which the ramifications of the Fair Tax Act not passing was discussed.

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River Forest Sub-Committee on Collaboration

No report was given.

District Calendar Review

Dr. Condon discussed the calendar affecting Board members for the months of November, December and January.

Superintendent's Report

COVID-19 Related Operations and Instructional Model – Dr. Condon spoke about the District's COVID related elements in the model. He also spoke about the new partnership with the YMCA and Dominican University launching a new child care program that will take place at the Priory through at least January 21st with potential modifications if students return to in-person learning. A lengthy Board discussion ensued, including discussion about specific cases at Fenwick High School. Mr. Davis noted how he believes this is not a school safety issue, but a public safety issue. He asked that everyone please continue to wear masks and socially distance. The topic of using adaptive pauses was discussed. Finally, the Board discussed the recommendations from the consultants from Rush Health regarding the timing of returning to in-person learning and the consequences of keeping students remote.

It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Mrs. Deogracias that the Board of Education approve an affirmation of the extended Adaptive Pause using two week intervals, as presented.

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

Ayes: Mrs. Deogracias, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Hickey, Mrs. Avalos

Nays: Mr. Davis, Mr. Moore, Dr. Thompson

The motion passed.

AFFIRMATION OF
THE EXTENDED
ADAPTIVE PAUSE
USING TWO
WEEK
INTERVALS
APPROVED

Resolution Directing the School Treasurer to Partially Abate and Transfer Monies From the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund –

It was moved by Ms. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Hickey that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Directing the School Treasurer to Partially Abate and Transfer Monies from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund as presented.

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

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

WORKING CASH
FUND
ABATEMENT
APPROVED

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2020 Estimated Tax Levy – 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, while noting a minor typographical error.

It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Ms. Williams that the Board of Education approve the 2020 Estimated Tax Levy, as revised.

2020 ESTIMATED
TAX LEVY
APPROVED

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Permissive Transfer Request –

It was moved by Mrs. Avalos and seconded by Mrs. Deogracias that the Board of Education approve the permissive transfer request as presented.

PERMISSIVE
TRANSFER
REQUEST
APPROVED

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

Nays: None

The motion passed.

School Board Member Appreciation Day – Dr. Condon read a proclamation in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Day. He attempted to show a video, but there were technical difficulties causing him to postpone it to the next Board meeting.

National Equity Project (NEP) Equity Network Team Progress Report – Dr. Condon, along with Mr. Godfrey and Ms. Matthews presented the NEP Equity Network Team Progress Report. They spoke about Year 2 goals, the learning experiences and opportunities, as well as Year 2 objectives and challenges. A Board discussion ensued.

Operating Fund Financial Projections, 2022-25 – Mr. Cozzi presented the financial projections and identified the significant assumptions used and highlighted the significant items included. He noted the importance of the District moving into deficit spending in 2020 with an exponential increase in those deficits through the end of the projections.

Resident-Friendly Financial Reporting Instrument, 2020 – Mr. Cozzi presented the most recent draft of the Resident-Friendly Financial Reporting Instrument and received Board feedback.

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Illinois Report Card 2020 – Dr. Condon and Dr. Hawley shared information about the recently released Illinois Report Card. They noted that ISBE issued the report card this year with a “hold harmless” approach, effectively freezing school performance ratings from the previous one issued in 2019.

It was moved by Mrs. Hickey and seconded by Dr. Thompson that the Board of Education move into closed session in order to discuss 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: Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Hickey, Ms. Williams, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Deogracias, Mr. Davis

Nays: none

The motion carried and the Board moved into closed session at approximately 9:58 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board returned to open session with the same members present at approximately 10:21 p.m.

Personnel

It was moved by Mrs. Deogracias 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: Mrs. Hickey, Mr. Davis, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Deogracias, Ms. Williams

Nays: None

The motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Deogracias and seconded by Mrs. Hickey and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

DocuSigned by:
Richard P. Moore
Richard Moore
President

DocuSigned by:
Stacey Williams
Stacey Williams
Secretary