

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
525 SUNSET RIDGE ROAD
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 12, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

ROLL CALL: (7:02 p.m.)

Mr. Subeck called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and upon roll call, the following were present:

Present: Mr. Subeck, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Welch, Mr. Spaan, Mr. Dotzler

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Stange, Mr. Beerheide, Dr. Sukenik, Mr. Dreher
Mrs. Kiedaisch, Mrs. Styczen, Mrs. Cherry, Mrs. Mattera,
Mrs. Bennett, Sunset Ridge School Volleyball Team
Representatives and Their Families

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Welch moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Mr. Zeidler seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Subeck, Mr. Spaan

Absent: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Dr. Stange reported on three FOIA requests.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

5.1 Update: Return to School

Dr. Stange reported that the District's Return to School Plan has been updated per latest IDPH guidance. He noted that the Test-to-Stay protocol had been implemented successfully twice. He noted that athletic activities and building visitors/volunteers have slowly been reinstated with no issues with compliance. He emphasized the tenuous staffing situation, with multiple open teaching assistant and substitute teacher positions, and staff absences that have cascading effect.

5.2 Strategic Planning

The Board discussed the first strategic planning meeting (Portrait Design Team) conducted on October 4, 2021, including feedback received about the meeting. Solicitation for participation on the Strategic Design Team for 2021 continues. The Board noted the importance of ensuring ongoing communication between Board members on the various strategic planning teams.

5.3 Update: 2021-2022 Enrollment Report

Dr. Stange summarized the most recent enrollment data indicating total enrollment of 470 students. The Board discussed the atypically large (63

students) first grade class and options for this cohort as the District plans for the 2022-2023 school year. Options include maintain the current four section class or combining the class into a three section group.

5.4 Update: 2021-2022 Personnel Report

Dr. Stange summarized the recommended personnel actions including the resignation and employment of teaching assistants, and the employment of a new technology assistant.

5.5 Discussion: School Security Consultant

Dr. Stange reviewed the history of the District security consultation services (every 3-years since 2010) and recommended the District again engage an external consultant to review policies, practices, procedures, and facilities. The Board recommended utilizing a new consultant to offer a “fresh set of eyes.” Dr. Stange indicated that he would research options and report back to the Board at the November meeting.

5.6 Discussion and Possible Approval: Vaccination Requirement for Overnight Trips

Dr. Stange discussed the recommendation to require COVID-19 vaccination for students and chaperones on District sponsored overnight trips. After a discussion of the relative benefits and challenges of this recommendation, Mr. Spaan motioned to approve the recommendation and Ms. Alpert Knight seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Subeck,
Mr. Spaan

Absent: None

Nay: Mr. Zeidler, Mr. Welch

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

5.7 Update: School and Department Reports

Dr. Stange reviewed the challenges with technology during the October 2021 Board meeting, noting that experts from Interstate (whom installed the system in the auditorium) identified hardware issues as the cause. The Board indicated a desire to continue with the live streaming of meetings. Mrs. Styczen reviewed the progress on technology security efforts and Mr. Welch thanked Mrs. Styczen and Mr. Czok for their work in this area.

Mrs. Kiedaisch noted that traffic congestion at Middlefork appeared to be easing. The Board inquired if there was a means to measure and monitor traffic data. Mrs. Kiedaisch also noted that the Middlefork team is looking forward to expanding Halloween celebrations (e.g., whole school parade with outdoor viewing for families and indoor room parties with room parents). She noted that the 3rd Grade bike safety week was successfully completed, with another spring event in planning.

Dr. Sukenik reviewed the recent sex education parent information night, and sought feedback from the Board on controversial topics- noting that staff have expressed anxiety about which topics may generate criticism. Board members provided comments indicating a general trust of, empowerment for, teachers with interest in keeping parents informed of practices and topics as much as possible.

5.8 Discussion and Possible Approval:

The Board reviewed the independent financial audit finding from Lauterback and Amen, LLP which noted no significant findings or concerns. Mr. Welch motioned to approve the Audit as presented, and Ms. Alpert Knight seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Subeck,
Mr. Spaan, Mr. Zeidler, Mr. Welch

Absent: None

Nay: / None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Audience Comments

Dr. Stange read a public comment submitted by District 29 parent, Jackie Pick, about two provisions related to gun safety up for approval at the upcoming Illinois Association of School Boards meeting. District 29 parent Jamie Cherry made an in-person public comment about the recent incident involving a janitor in a bathroom, detailing her child's report of the incident and making suggestions for improvement. After some debate between Board members about the appropriate manner in which to address an email sent to two (2) Board members by District 29 parent Philip Preston, Mr. Welch read the email articulating Mr. Preston's concerns about District security.

6.2 Board Open Discussion

Dr. Stange recommended moving the audience comments section of the Board meeting to the beginning of the agenda. The Board concurred with the recommendation. Mr. Zeidler sought feedback on the "Board Notes" ' synopsis that he authors for Board meetings. Dr. Stange noted the passing of former District 29 Board of Education member Phillip Jones.

6.3 First Reading: Board Policy Revisions

The Board reviewed recommended revisions to Board Policy 711 (Bully and Harassment Prohibited), based on mandated language from the Illinois State Board of Education.

REPORTS:

7.1 Return to School Task Force

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2021 at 3:45 p.m.

7.2 Education Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

7.3 Policy Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

7.4 Finance and Facilities Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

7.5 External Relations

7.5a IASB

Mr. Dotzler noted the IASB position statements up for review (23 changes suggested, 10 recommended for adoption).

7.5b PTO

There was no report.

7.5c TrueNorth

There was no report.

7.5d Northfield Park District

There was no report.

7.5e Village of Northfield

There was no report.

7.5f Foundation Fund

There was no report.

CLOSED SESSION: At 10:02 p.m. it was moved by Ms. Alpert Knight and seconded by Mr. Dotzler that the Board enter into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting; to consider information regarding employment, compensation discipline, or dismissal of specific employees; to discuss the placement of individuals in special education programs or matters related to individual students; to discuss potential litigation; and to discuss collective bargaining. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Subeck, Mr. Spaan

Absent: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

**RESUMPTION OF
OPEN MEETING:**

Upon resumption of the open meeting at 11:14 p.m., the following recommendations were made:

9.1 Approval: Closed Session Minutes – September 14, 2021

Ms. Alpert Knight moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Subeck, Mr. Spaan

Abstain: None

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

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9.2 Approval: Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Welch moved to approve the personnel recommendations as presented. Mr. Spaan seconded the motion. The Board voted as follows:

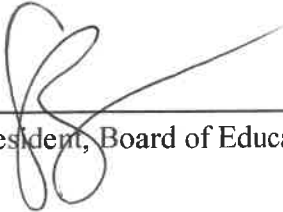
Aye: Mr. Welch, Ms. Alpert Knight, Ms. Joseph, Mr. Zeidler,
Mr. Dotzler, Mr. Subeck, Mr. Spaan

Nay: None

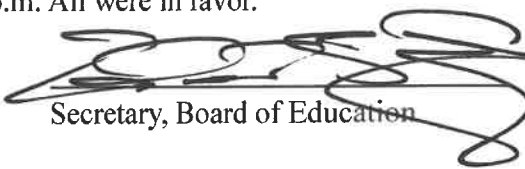
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Mr. Dotzler and seconded by Mr. Zeidler to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 p.m. All were in favor.



President, Board of Education



Secretary, Board of Education

Approved 16 November, 2021
