



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 38, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
THE 19TH DAY OF APRIL 2021**

President, Mr. Evan Lukasik, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as being present: Mr. John Gottschall, Mr. Bill Graham, Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs, Mr. Stephen N. Potter, Mr. Andrew Stone, and Mr. Evan Lukasik. Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg was absent.

Also present were Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent, Dr. Joseph Bailey, Business Manager, Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal, Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services. Dr. Martin Heffner, Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Julie Campanaro, Board of Education Secretary

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, THE
PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC BODY,
SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE MATTERS, AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENT MATTERS.**

Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to go into a closed session to discuss Collective Bargaining, the Purchase or Lease of Real Property for Use by the Public Body, Specific Employee Matters, and Individual Student Matters.

Mr. Stephen N. Potter moved to enter Closed Session to discuss collective bargaining, the purchase or lease of real property for use by the public body, specific employee matters, and individual student matters at 5:04 p.m. Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Mr. Evan Lukasik			
Mr. John Gottschall			
Mr. Bill Graham			
Mrs. Mia Casey-Sachs			
		Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg	
Mr. Stephen N. Potter			
Mr. Andrew Stone			

The motion carried with a vote of 6 to 0, 1 absent.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 7:30 p.m.



Upon roll call, the following Board members answered as being present: Mr. Stephen N. Potter, Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs, Mr. Bill Graham, Mr. John Gottschall, Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg, Mr. Andrew Stone, and Mr. Evan Lukasik.

Also in attendance were Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent, Dr. Joseph Bailey, Business Manager, Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal, Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services Mr. Martin Heffner, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Deb Keegan, Communications Coordinator, and Mrs. Julie Campanaro, Board of Education Secretary.

Present also were Mr. Jack Hayes, Frederick Quin, Mr. Steven Wright, Ms. Tracy Biederstadt, Ms. Heather Juhl, and Mr. Matthew Lowe of DLA. Present were numerous faculty and staff members, among them; Mrs. Toulia Sideris, Mrs. Jennifer Arra, Dr. Rob Drewry, Mrs. Jayati Lunagariya, Ms. Courtney Weber, Mr. Scott Paeth, Mrs. Laura Romisher, Ms. Christina Mellen, Mrs. Bernadette Slovitt, Ms. Gabrielle Noyes, Mrs. Sherry Nash, Mrs. Jennifer Garza, Dr. Leslie Richmond, Ms. Jill Carell, Mr. Jim Beavin, Mrs. Catherine Lucas, Ms. Anne Rice, Mrs. Tracey McDowell, Mrs. Jessica Singer, Ms. Angela Lascola, Ms. Samantha Calabrese, Ms. Robyn Valerio, Mrs. Anne Trueman, Mrs. Luisa Pashinian, Mrs. Margot Parkes, Mrs. Enza Fox, Mrs. Judi Conaghan, Ms. Daphna Stepen, Mrs. Kim Goff, Ms. Karolina Bajkowska, Mrs. Blythe Szafoni, Mrs. Laurie Sahn, and Mr. Jason Hahnstadt. Many community members were present, among them, Mrs. Amy Schmalz, Ms. Marjorie Bransfield, Mrs. Kathleen Lyman, Mrs. Kathy Matern, Mr. Tom Nahrwold, Ms. Lois Stanton, Mrs. Betsy Kilroy, Mr. David Joyce, Mrs. Sarah Czepiel, Mrs. Sarah Halack, Mrs. Erin Paul, Mrs. Suzanne Nelson, Mrs. Claudia Kocalis, Mr. Chad Emigholz, Mrs. Joanna Naftali, Mrs. Beth Beeler, Mrs. Bridget Pennise, Mrs. Tara Stafford, Mrs. Libby Graham, Mr. Joe Guareno, Mrs. Pamela Norris, Mrs. Sumita Thakurta, and Mrs. Catherine Olbrisch.

Mr. Evan Lukasik welcomed those in attendance and read a prepared statement about the school district, the teachers and support staff, and the community. He encourages a collaborative environment where everyone works together to achieve goals. He stated the Board was aware of a petition circulated by concerned parents. However, the Board did not receive the petition prior to the posting of the meeting's agenda. Due to Open Meetings Act requirements, the Board will not be able to take any action pertaining to a petition. He stated that everyone wants the best for the children in the District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lukasik explained the Board would hear public comment and explained the guidelines. He asked those wishing to be heard to use the raise hand feature, and they would be called upon to comment. He asked those wishing to address the Board to keep their comments brief because many in attendance may want to address the Board.

The Board heard public comment from Mrs. Amy Schmalz, Ms. Marjorie Bransfield, Mrs. Kathryn Matern, Mrs. Sumita Thakurta, and Mrs. Catherine Olbrisch. Those addressing the



Board were concerned about the staffing plan approved at the March 15 Board meeting. They requested the Board discuss a petition circulated requesting the Board reconsider the staffing plan in open session and take another vote. Many felt the Board was not listening to them and were disregarding the many community members who signed the petition and wanted a voice in this decision. They felt the Board was dismissing a large segment of stakeholders based on an Open Meetings Act technicality that prevented them from taking action. They questioned the rationale behind the staffing cuts being made and wanted a more thorough explanation. They felt that the teachers and the support staff have been the only constant throughout administrative turnover year after year, providing strong learning experiences, social and emotional support and academic supports for the school district's children.

Mr. Lukasik thanked everyone for their thoughtful comments. He stated that the Board sometimes must make difficult and unpopular choices. He said the decision made is based on multiple factors. However, the class sizes remain small and below district class size goals. There were inequities regarding teaching schedules that had to be corrected. The plan provides more equitable workloads and planning time for teachers. It allows students with individual education plans (IEP) to receive the same allocation of resources from student services teachers as their plans provide, offering student interventions at all grade levels. The plan allows our junior high students to receive more personalized and differentiated instruction and intervention directly from their core subject teachers who know their students best. The plan continues to offer both practical arts and industrial arts. It provides world language at all grade levels, including a French and Spanish course in grades J K through four and the option to study one of three languages, French, Spanish, or Latin, as a core academic subject in grades five through eight. He stated that we may not always agree but was hopeful that the entire school community can work together to implement the changes and make sure our students continue to receive the quality of education they deserve. He concluded his remarks by stating the importance of keeping the four cornerstones of kindness, honesty, respect, and responsibility at the forefront of our conversations and dialogue.

Dr. Stephanie Helfand offered her rationale for the staffing plan. She maintained that the students under this plan still receive individualized learning experiences, maximizing every child's potential. Supports remain the same in elementary grade levels when interventions are most key. There are changes in junior high. The students who would receive intervention begin to transition to conceptual support. Best practice tells us this type of support should be closely tied to daily instruction; it should be flexible and fluid, as intervention and enrichment at the junior high level should be. She stated the class sizes remain the same and, in some cases, are smaller. She noted that a reduction in force is not based on teacher performance. The teachers who are impacted by these recommendations have been wonderful to work with and are outstanding educators. She acknowledged that reductions in force are never easy and regretted that over the past few years of administrative turnover, this process of assessing staffing yearly and making staffing changes, practiced by most school districts, has not been the culture at Sears. She understands why some feel so strongly about the difficult decisions made now.



Mr. Lukasik thanked Dr. Helfand for her comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution of appreciation of Parent Volunteers

Mr. Lukasik read into the record a resolution acknowledging and thanking parents who have supported the school through this challenging COVID year by volunteering in each grade level.

The resolution acknowledged the following parent volunteers:

Anne Ryan
 Pamela Norris
 Suzanne Nelson
 Claudia Kocalis
 Emily Tzur
 Katy Cohan
 Melanie Earle
 Betsy Kilroy
 Kathleen Alexander
 Nora Jewett

Carrie Hanke
 Maura O'Connor
 Bridgett Pennise
 Kristie Bennett
 Mileva Zunjic
 Antje Boeing
 Emily Wyner
 Kay Murphy
 Jonna Rescho

Mr. Lukasik entertained a voice vote to approve the resolution as read into the record. The Board responded with all Ayes, and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Lukasik thanked these leaders in the community for their generosity in providing hours of work to support the school's effort to remain open and offer meaningful in-person learning for the students. Each volunteer will receive a framed copy of this resolution as a symbol of the District's gratitude.

Approval of Construction Bids

Dr. Joseph Bailey reviewed his memo included in the Board documents regarding the vote on awarding construction bids. He stated the bid recommendation letter from Frederick Quinn reflects extensive due diligence and negotiations with the proposed contractors to ensure that the District has the highest possible quality at the lowest price. He was pleased that with the bids for the JK/Kindergarten work for the summer under consideration today, the District was able to achieve 11% of the budget in the utilization of minority and women contractors, exceeding the target for this phase of the work. He introduced Mr. Jack Hayes from Frederick Quinn, the District's construction manager.

Mr. Hayes reviewed the process used for obtaining bids for the project. He stated that each bid recommended for approval represents the lowest responsible bid. Frederick Quinn thoroughly



vettted each bidder. They looked at the financials, the experience, the scope of work for the bids, and their references. He stated that the bids recommended for approval today reflect a voluntary reduction in pricing by the bidding company in order to bring the project in on budget, one of the essential perquisites for the District. Mr. Hayes invited questions. Board member Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs expressed her delight in not only meeting but exceeding the minority-owned business participation goal set by the Board. She felt this should be an important factor in all of the District's decisions. Board member Mr. Steve Potter thanked Mr. Hayes for his due diligence and was hopeful that as the project costs increase, the percentage of minority business participation will also increase. Board member Mr. Bill Graham said that he was confident that the process for obtaining these bids had been thorough and transparent.

Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to approve the construction bids as recommended.

Mr. Stephen N. Potter moved to approve the construction bids as recommended. Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Mr. Evan Lukasik			
Mr. John Gottschall			
Mr. Bill Graham			
Mrs. Mia Casey-Sachs			
Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg			
Mr. Stephen N. Potter			
Mr. Andrew Stone			

The motion carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Mr. Lukasik changed the order of business on the agenda to go to Committee Reports. He invited Ms. Tracy Biederstadt to review the renderings of the exterior work to be completed in summer 2022.

Ms. Tracy Biederstadt introduced lead designer Ms. Heather Juhl to share renderings of the addition and some updated renderings of the interior commons and multi-purpose room. Ms. Juhl reviewed slides of renderings of the exterior work planned for summer 2022. She emphasized the unique façade of the school building and how materials chosen for the exterior work will tie in with the original school designs and materials used. She focused on elements of the designs that sought to bring out the guiding principles of sustainability (a green roof, water collection, surrounding green space), community connection (structured to encourage community use of the campus, and Park District programming), tradition, (utilizing existing plants and retaining structural elements, like the peace pole and tree trail marker, and etching of the school emblem on the outer wall, that have important significance) and safety (the vestibule area where students can wait out of the elements with security monitoring by the faculty and park district personnel. She explained the function of some of the exterior elements of the design, such as a half retaining



wall, to subtly indicate a sense of privacy and community. The large amounts of natural light offered by the many windows, and a new warming kitchen and space for outdoor dining, provide a welcoming atmosphere and encourage hospitality and community gathering. Ms. Juhl also brought out some interior renderings of some of the designs, such as a multi-functional space with ample storage for tables and chairs to use during school hours for lunch and learning and after school programming of the park district. This offers an element of flexibility, another guiding principle.

Mr. Potter thanked Ms. Juhl for her presentation that offered a glimpse of the outcomes of the work planned.

CORRESPONDANCE

Ms. Donegan stated there was one FOIA responded to since the last Board meeting pertaining to an inquiry regarding historical MAP data. The District responded to this request within the required timeframe.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent Update

Ms. Donegan gave her update referring to the memo in the Board documents. She addressed the one-year mark for her tenure in the District and three highlights from the year. The accomplishment of maintaining in-person learning and a full instructional day since August, the completion of a new policy manual to replace the largely outdated manual, and the approval of the Master Facility Plan now underway. She looked forward to accomplishing new goals and creating a strategic plan that supports all District goals and guiding principles. Improving STEM curriculum and enhancing fiscal responsibility with the introduction of a zero-based budget. She spoke of increasing community engagement with organizations like the JSPVA and the Booster Club and partnering with local, state, and federal organizations to offer students opportunities for community engagement. She looked forward to developing a more robust professional development structure for faculty and staff to provide the best education for students utilizing new approaches to teaching and ways to further support each individual learner.

Mr. Steve Potter thanked Ms. Donegan for her comments. He asked to add his reflections after his first year as a Board of Education member. He listed what he sees as some of the greatest strengths of the Joseph Sears School, strong community support for the mutual goals of providing a high-quality education for students and ever-increasing efforts towards sustainability. He spoke of the many very talented and dedicated teachers and support staff that provide daily excellence in teaching and learning. Finally, he noted the school's extensive resources that can be used to improve the learning experience for the students.



Mr. Potter also identified what he thought were the most significant weaknesses. The lack of capital investment in the campus and a culture and climate encourages a high level of disrespect and bullying. He noted the high turnover in administrative personnel that has been severely detrimental to academic quality and, in his observation, seems to stem from a lack of respect for administrators. He concluded with the acknowledgment that the District has gone from an exemplary rating to a commendable rating from ISBE. Testing scores are not where they should be. There is a lack of integrated technology to support teachers and student learning. He expects better from a school district that is among the highest in the state, with a cost per pupil of \$26,584.

There was an unexplained break in the technology connection at 8:47 p.m., and the meeting was temporarily suspended.

The meeting reconvened at 8:49 p.m.

Mr. Potter continued with his remarks.

He expressed his concern regarding pending legislation to consolidate school districts. He cautioned each stakeholder of The Joseph Sears School to watch carefully. Managing the school's finances responsibly demonstrates the District is in good hands and functioning at the highest level. He acknowledged that Sears has some of the best and brightest teachers. He noted that they are paid well, and they deserve that for the important work they do. We should support them by providing even more opportunities for professional development and schedule sufficient time for planning. The school must leverage technology and the data it provides that can support teaching efforts. He encouraged the teachers at Sears to embrace the professional development opportunities offered and to utilize data and new teaching models to advance and inform their teaching skills for their students' benefit.

Mr. Potter concluded that he stands by his vote on March 15 to approve the staffing plan. He stated this reflects his total confidence in the strength of the administrative team. Sears is an excellent school, but it can be better. The development of a new strategic plan is critical. He hoped that all of the stakeholders in The Joseph Sears School would work together to design a plan that will lift us to where we aspire to be, the best JK-8th grade school in the country. He thanked everyone and looks forward to the next four years to be better than today.

Business Manager Update

Dr. Bailey referred the Board to his memo in the Board documents. He stated that the last few weeks were predominantly focused on construction and the bidding process. He reported the tents were back up and will remain until the end of the school year for use during the school day. He was pleased with the revenues and expenditures for March. There was funding being issued for the 3rd time from the Cares Act. The use of these funds will be restricted to expenses focused on closing the gap on possible learning loss due to the COVID pandemic. He concluded by



noting that work on the 21-22 budget is well underway. He anticipated having a draft to present in June.

Building Report

Dr. Helfand reviewed the building report and highlighted some of the topics. She thanked the families for their prompt reporting on Spring travel over break. She reminded all that Monday, May 3, is not an attendance day for students. The teachers will be participating in professional development that day on Educlimber. Educlimber is a system, which generates and quantifies data on student learning. Assessing students for social, emotional wellbeing, academic achievement, and developing practices to respond to student behavior or crisis situations. It will help visualize student data, track and organize student interventions, and ensure student-centered conversations and procedures. The District has built-in 5 days in the school calendar this year for professional development. We have utilized two and have three remaining. The last day of school for 8th grade is June 2, and the last day for the rest of Sears' students is June 4. Since March 8, 2021, we have been evaluating the newly released Bridge to Phase 5 Guidelines, which were supplemented by revised guidelines for schools facilitating in-person learning, which has allowed the school to reopen some of the after-school clubs like, Girls on the Run and Track & Field for in-person participation. Band, orchestra, and choir are also being taught again in person, with proper social distancing. World Language will be visiting some classrooms for instruction.

Mr. Marty Heffner, Assistant Principal, stated that the online portal for registration for new and returning students has been fixed and is open again to register students and will close on May 31. Families will need a snapcode to register, and if they cannot remember their snapcode, they may get that from the school office. In addition to the online registration, families will be asked to provide new residency paperwork on one of two document intake days, July 30 and August 24, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Families are instructed to contact the school office to schedule an appointment if they have conflicts with both days.

Mr. Heffner alerted those present that the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) will be administered April 20-23 and April 27-30. This assessment provides a snapshot of each child's progress.

Ed-Red

Ms. Donegan shared there is a new director at Ed-Red, Bridget Everson, with a legislative background that will strengthen their ability to advise school districts of pending legislation and how it will affect them.

Ms. Donegan said Ed-Red has been following the HB0007's progress. She explained that it mandates creating an efficiency commission that will determine 25% of school districts in the state to be consolidated and have a referendum on the ballot in November 2021. They will determine the tax rates a district may levy, its boundaries, and where the question will be on the



ballot. This essentially takes the communities and districts out of the process until they are selected for consolidation. The bill does not provide grant funding for transition if a district is consolidated with another. Typically, when districts are consolidated, they take the highest pay schedule and tax rate but are given funds to meet the new financial need. Under this bill, these funds will not be provided. In response to a Board member's question, she stated the community would eventually have an opportunity to vote via a referendum on the November ballot. The Board expressed concern about the capital surplus making Kenilworth attractive for consolidation. Ms. Donegan encouraged everyone to be aware of the legislation. She will continue to update the Board HB007 progress.

Diversity Equity and Belonging (DEB)

Mrs. Casey Sachs discussed an idea DEB has to do a Community-based art project for the school and larger community. They are considering doing a mural, which DEB hopes to incorporate into the Master Facilities Plan. The idea was brought to DEB by a community and DEB member, Mr. Steve Fifita. He has a connection to an organization that helps communities explore and celebrate their cultural histories and differences by creating art projects in conjunction with local artists. Mrs. Casey Sachs showed a slide of a mural done in Evanston that was a community-based art project. Given the larger community efforts to address equity and inclusion in Kenilworth, the DEB committee believes this project could help in the process. It offers an opportunity for our students to understand equity and diversity and engage in the creation of something of lasting impact at The Joseph Sears School for our community. She said a full proposal would be brought to the Board later.

NSSSED PRESENTATION

Mr. John Gottschall, who has been serving as the Board's liaison to NSSSED, gave a presentation on their role in providing a variety of support services to member districts. They provide these services in different ways, sometimes sending an occupational therapist to a school or bringing a student to one of their many locations specializing in specific diagnosis, specific age ranges, and ability levels. They support early childhood development, cognitive-developmental learning, educational life skills, occupational and transitioning services for adults to independent living. The cooperative also provides vital professional development and peer learning experiences to educators. Being a member district of NSSSED gives Sears access to resources we would not otherwise have, which is a tremendous advantage to a school as small as Sears. Because it is a cooperative, they can provide services economically to member districts. Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services, added that we have students receiving occupational therapy and adaptive physical education one to two times a week. These OTs also provide coaching for teachers for strategies for autism and inclusion. The District pays an annual membership fee, some transportation fees, and private tuition. The level of need fluctuates year to year, so fees paid annually vary.



Mr. Gottschall advised the Board that NSSED is changing the name to True North Educational Cooperative (TNEC). They are advocating for placing children with special needs in regular classrooms with their peers. Research demonstrates that these children are very capable of learning at a higher level than thought. The students with whom they learn in the classroom learn empathy, compassion, and understanding.

The Board thanked Mr. Gottschall for his informative presentation and his passion that came through today. They were grateful for his service to the District as a liaison to NSSED for several years. The Board was appreciative of his advocacy for our District's most vulnerable students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Finance Committee

Mr. Steve Potter gave a brief update on the recent work done by the Committee. He noted that construction and bidding had been the focus of their meetings this month. Later in the meeting tonight, they will recommend adopting a resolution to allow for the possibility of issuing debt certificates if there is an unexpected need for funding toward the end of the three-phase project. The Construction Sub-Committee continues to meet weekly with the architects and the construction manager. He stated that formal project plans are forthcoming, and Mr. Potter was hopeful the overall MFP budget might be ready by the May 3 meeting for a vote. Finally, on May 3, Mr. Bill Graham and Ms. Donegan will meet with the sustainability committee in the outdoor classroom to do an inventory of plants and structural elements to determine what can be retained for the future landscape and gardens of the school after construction. They encouraged anyone interested in helping to meet them in the outdoor classroom at 1:30 p.m.

Board Policy Committee

Mr. Andrew Stone reminded the Board several policies would be presented for a second read and potential adoption later in the meeting. These were policies that the Policy Committee had withheld from the original policy manual approved at the February Board meeting. These policies were withheld because it was determined that the entire Board needed to discuss more broadly before presentation for adoption. One of the policies, 5:186 *Private and Professional Services*, was completely rewritten, with policy language unique to our District. The Board wanted to establish a formal tutoring policy to avoid perceptions of favoritism. They also wanted to understand more clearly the tutoring relationships, such as subject areas and grade levels that students are being tutored in, to see if there are trends or indications of other diligence needed in specific core areas.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Adoption of Policies



Mr. Lukasik asked for a motion to adopt policies 5:10 *Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment*; 5:20 *Workplace Harassment Prohibited* and 5:20 *E Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment*; 5:186 *Private and Professional Services*; 7:310 *Restrictions on Publications; Elementary School*; and 7:325 *Student Fundraising Activities*, as presented.

Mr. Bill Graham so moved, and Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Mr. Evan Lukasik			
Mr. John Gottschall			
Mr. Bill Graham			
Mrs. Mia Casey-Sachs			
Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg			
Mr. Stephen N. Potter			
Mr. Andrew Stone			

The motion carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Discussion and Potential Approval of Possible Approval of Resolution Expressing Official Intent Regarding Certain Capital Expenditures to be Reimbursed from Proceeds of an Obligation to be Issued by the District.

Mr. Potter facilitated a discussion regarding the need for the Board to approve this resolution. He stated it related to the Master Facilities Plan (MFP). It creates the ability for the District to issue debt certificates if, at some point in the project, additional funding is necessary. As unlikely as this eventuality might be, he felt it prudent to have this approval to ensure the Board could act in the District's best interests. He cited the rising cost of materials and labor as examples of what could occur to force construction costs up. He reminded the Board that their financial advisor, Mrs. Elizabeth Hennessy of Raymond James, had recommended the Board approve this resolution prior to the initiation of any work. He compared it to having a home equity line of credit available to draw on in an emergency. Mr. Potter asked Ms. Elizabeth Hennessy, who was present, to add further comment. She stated that the passage of this resolution does not commit the District to issue the debt certificates. Still, without this resolution, they would not be able to issue certificates when it might be needed. The timeline would allow issuance up to 60 days back and three years into the future.

Mr. Lukasik had a comment regarding passing this resolution. While he respected the other Board member's opinions, he felt that to do so in effect breaks a promise made to the community to stay within budget using current funds available for the first two phases. He was concerned that having that ability to issue debt certificates would be a temptation to use as an easy spending mechanism if things get tight. Further, he felt holding that kind of debt did not put the school's finances in a good light, and referring to the earlier discussion of HB007, it might make the District more susceptible to the possibility of consolidation if viewed as a



high-cost District.

Dr. Metzger-Mugg understood Mr. Lukasik's perspective. She felt the Board should honor their commitment to the community to stay on or under budget. She shared his concerns about using it as an easy financial fix rather than exploring more constructive ways to control costs. However, she stated that it was a good idea to have this option available should the District encounter unpredictable financial situations.

Mr. Graham commented briefly, saying he agreed that having the option available does not mean it will be used but offers an additional layer of protection. He, too, is committed to keeping the project on or under budget.

Mr. Andrew Stone asked for another explanation as to why this was necessary to pass the resolution now. Ms. Elizabeth Hennessy stated that to capture future spending, it is necessary to capture what the District spends and reimburse itself by issuing debt at a future date.

Hearing no further comment, Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to pass the resolution.

Mr. Stephen Potter motioned to approve a resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the District. Mr. Bill Graham seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
	Mr. Evan Lukasik		
Mr. John Gottschall			
Mr. Bill Graham			
Mrs. Mia Casey-Sachs			
Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg			
Mr. Stephen N. Potter			
Mr. Andrew Stone			

The motion carried with a vote of 6 to 1.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lukasik stated that the Personnel Report would be removed from the Consent Agenda to allow the Board to discuss them before voting.

Personnel Report

Ms. Donegan reviewed the two hire recommendations for technology, the IT Systems and Data Manager, Mr. Lukasz Sikora, and the IT Systems and Network Manager, Mr. Matthew Joanis. The technology audit recently conducted recommended these positions. The rationale of the hires



is that given the cost of paying for managed services and the salaries of current technology positions, the District will realize savings by making these hires and receive a higher level of support. She responded to a question from Mr. Graham that there will be adequate transition time between the managed services provider and the Network Manager and time to transition from the current data management consultant to the Data Manager.

Dr. Helfand recommended the hire of Ms. Lynette Bromiel to fill the Librarian vacancy. She described the interview process and the structure of the interview committee. She was pleased with the number of applicants that increased over those who applied in the fall. Ms. Bromiel is highly qualified and was interviewed by teachers and staff. She gave a demonstration lesson to the interview committee, which was exceptional.

There being no further comment, Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to approve the Personnel Report.

Mr. Stephen N. Potter motioned to approve the personnel report as presented. Mr. Andrew Stone seconded.

Roll Call:

Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Mr. Evan Lukasik			
Mr. John Gottschall			
Mr. Bill Graham			
Mrs. Mia Casey-Sachs			
Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg			
Mr. Stephen N. Potter			
Mr. Andrew Stone			

The motion carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Mr. Lukasik asked if there were any comments or questions about the remaining Consent Agenda items. There being no comment, he entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of the minutes from March 15, 2021, as amended.

Mr. Stephen N. Potter moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of the minutes from March 15, 2021, as amended. Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Mr. Evan Lukasik			
Mr. John Gottschall			
Mr. Bill Graham			
Mrs. Mia Casey-Sachs			



Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg
Mr. Stephen N. Potter
Mr. Andrew Stone

The motion passed 7 to 0.

CALENDAR REVIEW

The Board reviewed upcoming dates, May 3 – Next Board of Education Meeting/Reorganization Meeting and May 6 – Next Building & Finance Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lukasik invited public comment.

The Board heard public comment from Mrs. Sumita Thakurta, Mrs. Toulia Sideris, Mrs. Kathryn Matern, Mr. Tom Nahrwold, Mrs. Amy Pines, Mrs. Amy Schmalz and Mrs. Sarah Czepiel. Those addressing the Board were concerned about continued frustration with the Board not discussing and voting on the petition circulated. They continue to feel dismissed due to the Board's refusal to take another vote at this meeting. Though most hold the opinion the petition was submitted correctly, they requested direction on the correct way to submit a petition so the Board can discuss it and act on it by taking another vote at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Lukasik stated that the Board does not respond to public comment. Still, he would respond here that the Board did not receive a proper petition in writing, only a list of names and a copy of an email. As explained before, he said the Board cannot take action on any item not published in advance on the agenda. A proper petition must be submitted to the Board prior to the publishing of the agenda, allowing the Board to put it on the agenda for action if they so choose.

There was public comment heard regarding the Board placing the burden of climate on the teachers. That the teachers are all willing to work together and found many of the comments made about teachers to be very troubling. There was comment made on not being able to reconcile staffing cuts while spending funds on a million-dollar Maser Facilities Plan. That the renderings shared seem to focus primarily on beautification and no new spaces for classrooms or learning. There was comment regarding objection to plans for the façade of the building the Board may not have thought through, and might not be something the community wants. It was expressed there was a preference for spending those funds on investments that directly support learning such as evidence of new investment in technology to support learning. This, regardless of a Board member's observation this was an area of weakness. It was stated that it was troubling that the only professional educator placed on the Board as recommended by the Kenilworth Caucus Advisory Committee, had voted against the staffing plan. Additional comment was heard regarding the absence of an annual survey this year, particularly since a Board member had referred to past surveys in his remarks.



Again though not required to respond to public comment, Mr. Potter stated that he had commented on prior survey responses because the nature of some of the responses had led to his comments about climate. Mrs. Casey Sachs stated that an annual survey is planned. However, this year's approach is different. The intent is to benchmark and compare against other NTHS feeder districts with the intention of providing more objectivity.

Mr. Lukasik thanked everyone for their comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Evan Lukasik entertained a motion to adjourn.

Mr. John Gottschall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 p.m. Mr. Bill Graham seconded the motion.

All Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Attest for Distribution: DocuSigned by: Julie M. Campanaro
3EA1080CDEE165 Julie M. Campanaro, Secretary

Approved: DocuSigned by: Evan Lukasik
AN09858774AD4E0 Mr. Evan Lukasik, President

ATTEST: DocuSigned by: Julie M. Campanaro
3EA1080CDEE165 Julie M. Campanaro, Secretary