



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 38, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
THE 15TH DAY OF MARCH 2021**

President, Mr. Evan Lukasik, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Upon Roll Call, the following Board members answered as being present: Mr. John Gottschall, Mr. Bill Graham, Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs, Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg, and Mr. Evan Lukasik.

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

Mr. Andrew Stone and Mr. Stephen N. Potter joined the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

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 MINUTES OF MEETINGS LAWFULLY CLOSED, WHETHER FOR PURPOSES OF APPROVAL OR SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW.

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 Minutes of Meetings Lawfully Closed, Whether for Purposes of Approval or Semi-Annual Review

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 minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval or semi-annual review at 5:07 p.m. Mr. Andrew Stone 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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION



The Board returned to open session at 7:45 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, Mr. Jack Hayes, Frederick Quin, Mr. Steven Wright and Ms. Tracy Biederstadt of DLA were also present. Also present were numerous faculty and staff members, among them; Ms. Emily Hayden, Mrs. Toulia Sideris, Mrs. Jennifer Arra, Mrs. Jennifer Comiza, Dr. Rob Drewry, Mrs. Jayati Lunagariya, Ms. Courtney Weber, Mr. Scott Paeth, Mrs. Laura Romisher, Mr. Marqus Le Doux, Mrs. Michelle Harradine, Ms. Christina Mellen, Ms. Jennifer Willis, Mrs. Bernadette Slovitt, Ms. Gabrielle Baehl-Curosh, Mrs. Sherry Nash, Mr. Bill Gordon, Mr. Jeff Rosen, Mrs. Jennifer Peterson, Mr. John Scheidt, and Dr. Leslie Richmond. Many community members were present, among them, Ms. Marjorie Bransfield, Mrs. Kathleen Lyman, Mrs. Kathy Matern, Mrs. Theresa Boutross, Mrs. Amy Schmalz, Mrs. Laura Garner, Mr. Jerry O'Connor, Mrs. Meredith Sullivan, Mr. Viral Mehta, Mrs. Tanya Brown, Mrs. Kelly Vaez, Mrs. Alison Dempsey, and Mr. Tom Nahrwold.

Mr. Evan Lukasik welcomed those in attendance and took time to recognize and congratulate the students selected for the second trimester Panther Pride award. He stated the students are selected for this honor by their teachers based on how they personify the four cornerstones of honesty, kindness, responsibility, and respect. The 6th grade honorees were Piper and Adrian, the honorees for 7th grade were Maeli and Andrew, and the honorees for 8th grade were Elizabeth and Samuel.

Mr. Lukasik explained the Board would hear public comment before and after the public hearing regarding the staffing plan. They would also hear public comment a third time prior to adjourning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board heard public comment from Ms. Marjorie Bransfield regarding her disappointment over the resignation of long-term substitute Mr. Morgan McDermott. She expressed her disappointment in the administrators for not doing more to retain him.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE QUESTION OF HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:45 p.m.



Mr. Lukasik read an opening statement.

Ms. Kate Donegan reviewed her memo regarding the honorable dismissals and change in level of assignments recommended by the administrative team for the 2021-2022 SY. Dr. Stephanie Helfand and Dr. Carrie De La Cruz will provide information if needed.

Ms. Donegan reminded those present that a staffing plan is prepared by the administration and approved by the Board of Education every year, taking into consideration factors such as, enrollment, retirements, non-renewals, program improvements and efficiencies, students requiring special education services, and position changes expressed by faculty and staff. The administrative team this year also considered reducing atypical faculty schedules and teaching assignments, and moving toward a staffing plan that is more appropriate for the current size of our student population.

Ms. Donegan stated that non-economic programing decisions were made regarding practical and industrial arts, expansion of the Junior Kindergarten to two half-day sessions, interventions, world language, music and common equitable teacher preparation time, resulting in a net reduction in full time equivalent (FTE) of 7.4 FTE. Ms. Donegan listed the proposed position eliminations that made up the 7.4 FTE honorable dismissals. She recommended Special Education be reduced by 2 positions, Grade 6-8 Literacy Specialists be reduced by 1, 6-8 Math Specialists be reduced by 1 position, Grade 6-8 Math be reduced by 1 position and Science be reduced by 1.6 positions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lukasik entertained public comment and asked those wishing to be heard to use the raise hand feature and they would be called upon to comment. The Board heard extensive comment regarding the staffing plan as proposed. They heard from community members, Mrs. Kathleen Lyman, Mrs. Teresa Boutross, Mrs. Amy Schmalz, Mrs. Lauren Garner, Mr. Jerry O'Connor, Mrs. Meredith Sullivan, Mr. Viral Mehta, Mrs. Tanya Brown, Mrs. Kathy Matern, Mr. Tom Nahrwold, Mrs. Kelly Vaez, Mrs. Alison Dempsey, and faculty members, Mrs. Toula Sideris, and Mrs. Anne Trueman. Many were dismayed by the reductions for special education, particularly during the pandemic when students are experiencing heightened anxiety. Frustration was expressed with the Board of Education meetings, particularly when public comment is heard during the meeting and frequently starting late after the published start time. There was an expression of gratitude to the administrators and the faculty for opening and keeping the school open, for in-person learning. Some comments were particularly thankful of the teachers who have worked tirelessly to provide stability and solid learning throughout the pandemic and throughout multiple administrator transitions. There was a desire expressed to understand the economic reasoning of reducing the number of teachers and interventionists when the District is amidst a multi-million dollar master facilities plan. They wanted to understand the criteria that went into the decisions made. They inquired if any consulting or benchmarking was done to



assist the District in their decision-making process as to best practices and being truly child-centered.

Mr. Lukasik thanked everyone for his or her comments and entertained a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Stephen N. Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all ayes, and the public hearing adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Lukasik invited comment and questions from the Board members regarding the staffing plan. Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg asked the administrators to explain what is meant by atypical schedules. Dr. Helfand explained that there are teachers who are hired as a 1 FTE position but are teaching only half of the time. This causes inequity in teaching assignments and incomparable planning time. Dr. Metzger-Mugg said to some this may feel sudden and she asked for details on the timing that is necessary for these honorable dismissals and the legalities. Ms. Donegan explained that there are timelines that are determined by school code and per the Kenilworth Educators' Association contract that determine when staffing plans are done and necessary as staffing adjustments are made. The Board schedules their meetings to align with these mandated timelines. She stressed that should circumstances change such as enrollment numbers increasing or there is an increased number of students who require an Individual Education Plan (IEP), those who are honorably dismissed may be called back should a vacancy occur for which they are licensed. Dr. Metzger-Mugg asked for an explanation on how class size is determined. Ms. Donegan responded that the younger grade levels require smaller class sizes based on best practices and educational understanding. She gave the example that next year there will be another kindergarten class added to accommodate the larger enrollment. Administration monitors enrollment constantly to insure the optimum class sizes for each grade level. If a particular, grade-level is increasing or decreasing, decisions will be made to accommodate those enrollment changes. The District maintains class sizes always within the smaller traditional class sizes at Sears.

Mrs. Casey-Sachs asked how caseloads are determined for special education teachers. Dr. Carrie De La Cruz responded that the special education team reviews overall trends and noted that the district is trending to lower numbers of IEPs decreasing. Additionally, the team studies overall level of need, and the number of minutes required. The school schedule can also be a factor, as an individual cannot be in two places at once, necessitating a larger number of teachers to accommodate student need in each grade level. The team also tracks families moving in and families moving out, with students with IEPs or potential students with IEPs. The district does value small caseload size. She acknowledged that projections are imperfect but assured all that IEP minutes are always met, utilizing whatever measures are needed to do so.



There were additional questions regarding how students will receive their required minutes for IEPs for Junior High without a designated interventionist. Dr. De La Cruz responded there would be one grade level teacher in each content level who will provide this time. They will be given a 50-minute period every day to organize, as they feel appropriate. Classroom teachers will also provide supports in a period built into their schedules. The number of students in each intervention period will be the same as what is currently done to maximize interventions. The students' core content teachers will know exactly where they need support and can provide it during the intervention period. In response to a question regarding a concern we will be sacrificing quality for economy, Ms. Donegan stated the school would always do what is best for the student regardless. DR. Helfand responded to concerns that children will not have the same amount of dedicated minutes each day under the new plan that there is a lot of flexibility allowed as to when each core content teacher can choose when to provide interventions each day providing a greater opportunity for support. She noted that the elementary grade levels would still have a dedicated reading and math specialist.

Mr. Lukasik had a question regarding how those are selected for a reduction in force. Ms. Donegan stated that the process is very specific. Once it is determined, it is necessary to have a reduction in force, the administrators look at the licensure each teacher holds for specific core content and grade-level. Seniority is considered next of the teachers who hold the necessary licensure. Finally, evaluation ratings are considered. Based on these criteria, the teacher to be RIF'd is determined. The process for reduction in force is highly legalized and rigid. The result can sometimes be a highly valued teacher may not be retained if their colleagues with the same licensure have more seniority. She stated that if a teacher to be RIF'd is licensed for another position and they have higher seniority than a teacher currently teaching in that core content area, they can bump that teacher and move over to that content area.

There being no other questions from the Board, Mr. Lukasik stated they would change the order of the agenda and go directly to Item G. under New Business, *Discussion and Approval of 2021-2022 Staffing Plan*. He determined that before the vote is taken he would open another unscheduled opportunity for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board heard public comment from Mrs. Kathleen Lyman. She expressed her disappointment in what she heard regarding the staffing plan. She commented on the efforts of the DEB Committee and encouraged the district to change their hiring practices to bring in more people of diversity. She was concerned about children preparing for New Trier High School. It is not enough time and too much to ask of our teachers. Mrs. Schmalz commented on the lack of empirical data to support the staffing decision under consideration. The plan is a disservice to our children and our teachers. Dismissed teachers may not be available when the District decides they might be needed. We risk losing excellent teachers with the system in place. She wanted to know where else is there a junior high in the township that does not have dedicated JH interventionists. Mrs. Kathy Matern was saddened that it appeared the Board's decision had been



made already. She could not understand what she thought was a quick decision on something so important. Once these wonderful teachers are dismissed, they will move on. She asked the Board to take more time and table the decision until more information could be gathered.

Discussion and Approval of 2021-2022 Staffing Plan

Mr. Lukasik thanked everyone for their comments. He asked that the Board now consider the vote regarding the approval of the 2021-2022 school year staffing plan and entertained a motion to approve the 2021-2022 staffing plan.

Mr. Andrew motioned to approve the 2021-2022 Staffing plan. Mr. Stephen N. Potter seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 6 to 1.

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Full-Time Non-Tenured Teacher Not in Final Year of Probationary Service

Mr. Lukasik invited comment from the Board. There was none. He entertained a motion to adopt a Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Full-Time Non-Tenured Teacher Not in Final Year of Probationary Service, Mr. William Cline.

Mr. Stephen N. Potter moved to adopt a Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of Full-Time Non-Tenured Teacher Not in Final Year of Probationary Service, Mr. William Cline. Mr. John Gottschall seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal of four Teachers

Mr. Evan Lukasik entertained a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the honorable dismissal of four teachers, Ms. Christa Callies, Ms. Robyn Valerio, Dr. Robert Drewry and Ms. Lore Tenezaca.

Mr. Andrew Stone moved to adopt a resolution to authorize the honorable dismissal of four teachers, Ms. Christa Callies, Ms. Robyn Valerio, Dr. Robert Drewry and Ms. Lore Tenezaca. Mr. John Gottschall seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 6 to 1.

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal and Reassignment of a Teacher (1.00 to .60) Mrs. Cathy Quigley

Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the honorable dismissal and reassignment of a teacher (1.00 to .60), Mrs, Cathy Quigley.

Mr. John Gottschall moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the honorable dismissal and reassignment of a teacher (1.00 to .60), Mrs, Cathy Quigley. Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Adopt Resolution Authorizing Honorable Dismissal and Reassignment of a Teacher (1.00 to .40)

Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing honorable dismissal and reassignment of a teacher (1.00 to .40), Mrs. Jayati Lunagariya.

Mr. John Gottschall moved to adopt a resolution authorizing honorable dismissal and reassignment of a teacher (1.00 to .40), Mrs. Jayati Lunagariya. Mr. Andrew Stone seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Discussion and Approval of a Proposed Two-Year School Calendar

Mr. Lukasik asked Ms. Donegan to lead the discussion regarding the proposed two-year school calendar for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Ms. Donegan explained the proposed calendar is intended to accommodate construction. She thanked the calendar committee members, Jill Carell, Judi Conaghan, Julie Fontana, Jayati Lunagariya, Mrs. Tracey McDowell, Cathleen Sheridan and Mrs. Anne Trueman, for their hard work in completing the calendar. She stated that the calendar aligns with that of New Trier High School (NTHS), school code and the Kenilworth Educators’ Association (KEA) contract. The planned calendar allows for an extended summer construction period. School will start on August 16, 2021 with a teacher institute and the first day of school August 19, 2021 and a last day of school of May 26, 2022. The year encompasses all of the holidays we did not have this year. The calendar committee determined it would be too difficult to plan another year in advance but did agree to set the start of school after Labor Day in 2022. Ms. Donegan responded to a question from a Board member regarding the scheduling of institute days. She explained we are required to have 4 institute days a year and our last one will be held offsite after Memorial Day this year.



There being no further questions, Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to approve the 2021-2022 school calendar and to approve the start of the 2022-2023 school after Labor Day.

Mr. Stephen N. Potter motioned to approve 2021-2022 school calendar and to approve the start of the 2022-2023 school after Labor Day. Mr. Mia Casey Sachs seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Discussion of and Approval of Security Audit Contract

Mr. Lukasik invited Ms. Donegan to lead this discussion. Ms. Donegan noted that with construction for the Master Facilities Plan getting underway, it seemed like the appropriate time to look at security of the school campus. To that end, they would like to hire Facilities Engineering Associates FEA to conduct a security audit internally and externally, not just for the new renovations but for the rest of the campus as well. They will be looking at locations for security cameras for low visibility areas, lighting, traffic patterns and procedures for visitors to the school. They would then provide a recommendation to the district and if approved will advise the architects. They are a well- known company and experts in school security.

There being no questions Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to approve a security audit contract with Facilities Engineers Associates (FEA).

Mr. Stephen N. Potter motioned to approve a security audit contract with Facilities Engineers Associates FEA. Mr. Andrew Stone seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Discussion of and Approval of Contract with DLA Architects

Dr. Joe Bailey facilitated the discussion regarding a contract with DLA architects for the first phase of the Master Facilities Plan work. Mr. Howard Metz, legal counsel for the district, was asked his thoughts on the contract. He reported that the contract represents several months of hard work and negotiation between counsels and he was satisfied this was a fair contract.

Mr. Potter stated that the Building & Finance Committee has been working closely through several iterations of the contract to negotiate a good contract. He was very satisfied with the work done to date with DLA. He found them to be thorough and accommodating. He was pleased to say that the Committee endorses approval of this contract and hopes the Board will approve it.

Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to approve the contract with DLA Architects.

Mr. Stephen N. Potter motioned to approve the contract with DLA Architects. Mr. Andrew Stone seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Discussion of and Approval of Budget for JK/K Renovation

Dr. Bailey introduced the topic for discussion. He stated this budget will represent the first step in implementing the MFP. He asked Mr. Jack Hayes, of Frederick Quin, the District’s construction manager, to give his presentation on the proposed JK-K Renovation budget. Mr. Hayes stated what he was asking the Board to approve 75% documents based on the design from DLA for the space for approval to go out to bid to obtain public bids. He described the type of work involved in turning the school’s multipurpose room into two new classrooms. It involved some demolition, flooring, electrical, new doors casework, carpentry bathroom, ceiling, and tile.



The total amount for this work to be completed will be approximately \$550,000. He then turned the presentation over to DLA's Tracy Biederstadt, who reviewed renderings of the designs.

Ms. Biederstadt discussed the work to be done to convert the MPR into a new JK classroom and a grade level hub. The guiding principle was a road map to learning spaces. This was accomplished through multiple visioning sessions with all stakeholders. She added there would be a teachers' collaboration space added to the space in 2022. The additional space she described would serve as a place for teachers to work and plan together.

Ms. Biederstadt reviewed the renderings of the work planned this summer. She stated the design is personalized using the guiding principles established by the visioning team. It encompasses global inclusivity, community culture references, STEM zones, flexibility, sustainability, collaboration, connectivity to nature, and places to put student artwork on display. She concluded that this work would be completed in summer 2021.

Mr. Potter emphasized the collaboration of the teachers on the design involving visits to schools and many planning meetings. The focus was always on implementing the guiding principles in every aspect of the design. He stated that the Building and Finance Committee reviewed this and the budget in great detail. He felt the budget was good and hoped the Board would be satisfied and approve it so that Frederick Quin could put it out to bid.

Mrs. Casey Sachs was told that the extra room/hub could be used in a variety of ways. Possibly early childhood expansion, programming for the school and the park district or even an NSSD classroom. Dr. Metzger-Mugg commented on the great visuals and the dialogue regarding how the design ties in the guiding principles. She inquired about where the team visited and learned they went to JFK, Gemini (JH), Prairie Crossing, Sunset Ridge, and Northbrook. Ms. Donegan commented on the early childhood room in District 63 that was inspiring.

There was a discussion on how lunch will be serviced during the construction next year until the cafenadium was completed. The plan was to utilize classrooms, hallways and any available space. It presented a challenge but the administrative team felt it could be managed. Dr. Helfand expressed how the new spaces would help Sears meet future ready learning standards. The architects will continue to work closely with teachers to insure the outcome. Ms. Donegan said that eventually, each grade level would have their own hub space that will be grade level appropriate.

There being no further comment Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to approve the JK-K Renovation Budget.

Mr. Stephen N. Potter motioned to approve the JK-K Renovation budget as presented. Mr. John Gottschall seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

Discussion of Board Policies for First Read

Mr. Andrew Stone introduced this discussion. He told the Board that the policies being presented had not been approved with the new policy manual in February, as it was necessary to discuss them in more detail with the full Board. Most of the edits were for additional content. Some regarding protected classes but Ms. Donegan was advised by legal this was not recommended. The policy 5:186 is a policy unique to our district. This policy pertains to tutoring practices and the Policy Committee had settled on a hybrid of proposed policies. Mr. Stone told the Board the policies were presented for a first read to allow a comment period before adoption and no action would be taken this evening.

Discussion and Adoption of Board Policy Revision - 6:60 Curriculum Content

There was one revision to policy 6:60 *Curriculum Content* to be adopted this evening. The edit was the addition of content stating that the pledge of allegiance would be recited each day. This was missing from the policy and was a state mandated requirement.

Mr. Lukasik entertained a motion to approve the policy revision to policy 6:60 *Curriculum Content*.

Mr. Andrew Stone motioned to approve the Board policy revision to 6:60 Curriculum Content. Mr. John Gottschall seconded.

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 carried with a vote of 7 to 0.

CORRESPONDANCE

Ms. Donegan stated there were two FOIAs responded to since the last Board meeting. One pertained to technology and the other a blanket request regarding student attendance. Both FOIAs were responded to timely.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent Update

Ms. Donegan was pleased to report that 90% of faculty and staff have been vaccinated for the COVID virus. She told the Board that Chief Alan Berkowsky of the Winnetka Fire Department is retiring in April. She was responsible for organizing all of the volunteers for the massive vaccination efforts. She stated she enjoyed working with him, and will miss his input and participation in the schools emergency drills and the annual crisis management meeting. She wished him well. Ms. Donegan reported there was an opportunity for families, faculty, and staff to be tested after spring break for COVID for those who traveled during the break. The testing will be at Marie Murphy School April 2, 3 and 4. Please see the communication that went out this week for registration information.

Ms. Donegan advised the Board there is a need to schedule a Special Reorganizational Board meeting between April 27 and May 4. Tuesday, April 27, 2021 is the last day for the county clerk or county board of election commissioners to canvass the election results, and transmit the results. (Cook County has always waited until the last day.) The Board must hold the reorganization meeting within 28 days after the consolidated election. Tuesday, May 4, 2021 is the 28th day and the last day to hold an organizational meeting. During this meeting, the Board shall elect its officers and fix a time, and place for the regular meetings. The April 19 Board meeting could not be moved because the bid awards would have to be approved at that meeting in order to get the construction project underway. The Board decided to cancel the May 17 meeting and move it to May 3 in order to have the meeting in the required timeframe.

Business Manager Update

Dr. Bailey referred the Board to his memo in the Board documents. He reported about expenditures including the installation of new lighting for safety purposes and the replacement and installation of two sump pumps. He stated the tents will be back up on the blacktop upon return to school after the break and concluded reporting the procurement cards have been issued to three administrators for expenses that must be paid by credit card.

Building Report



Dr. Helfand reviewed the building report and highlighted some of the topics. The Panther Pride honorees were selected, and Mr. Lukasik recognized them earlier in the evening. She thanked everyone for attending the Moving Forward outdoor event, based on the book, *Martin Rising; Requiem for a King*. Through this art display, students displayed their efforts to move equity forward in themselves, our school, and our community. She was happy to announce that 10- 5th-7th grade students were selected to serve on the Principal's Advisory Council. They will advise the principal and Assistant Principal throughout the school year by sharing student perspectives of the school and supporting school or district initiatives. She and Mr. Martin Heffner will be supervising. Another 25 students were selected to be on committees who will serve on various committees to support the school. She was very pleased with the great interest from students. Dr. Helfand reported professional development on February 22 and visioning workshop for future ready learning goals. The Team Coordinators and Curriculum Leaders are working to refine the stated practices, and all of the information provided will support the creation of a multi-year plan to achieve our Future Ready Learning Goals. She reported on establishing Curriculum review practices and creating LGBTQ+ Affirming Learning Environments. In partnership with DEB and Social Emotional Learning Committee, they have been participating in workshops with Lizzy Appleby, Pride Director, to support our faculty and staff with professional development around creating LGBTQ+ affirming learning environments.

Dr. Carrie De La Cruz described the work the MTSS group is doing in the use of EduClimber to focus on assessing students for social emotional wellbeing, academic achievement, and developing practices to respond to student behavior or crisis situations. It will help visualize our student data, track and organize student interventions, and ensure student centered conversations and procedures. By the end of the 2022 school year, we will have fully implemented the EduClimber system. Dr. De La Cruz was pleased with the progress and the positive direction we are going. In response to Board questions, Dr. De La Cruz stated she anticipated having enough years of data by next year to fully utilize the data. She responded to questions about RIT scores and MAP data. She promised to share the benchmark reports as soon as they are available.

Ed-Red

Ms. Donegan shared there are three bills she is watching, the School District Consolidation Bill in committee, focusing on reducing the number of school districts in the state and moving toward Unit Districts. There was a bill pertaining to curriculum changes that mostly affected high school but she will continue to monitor them. There is a bill that deals with TRS creditable service. Teachers will receive one additional day of creditable service for each day being in session through COVID, March 2020-June 2021. This will not be a cost to the district.

The Board members wanted to know how they could raise awareness about HB007. Ms. Donegan will get a synopsis on places to go to register their opinion. Ms. Donegan explained that initially if passed the list of consolidated districts would be presented to the state, then to the Regional Offices of Education. EdRed has been following the bill's progress but it has never come out of committee and unlikely to pass.



Diversity Equity and Belonging (DEB)

Mrs. Casey Sachs referred the Board to her memo. They are currently up to 40 plus members and growing. She highlighted several activities, the MLK One Book One School initiative, which culminated in the Moving Forward outdoor exhibit was a wonderful success even though it had to be delayed. DEB is working toward the Equity Audit for next year in conjunction with the DELT. Ms. Donegan is in the process of securing parent volunteers for this audit. DEB is beginning to roll out parent affinity groups and parent programming to give parents an opportunity to discuss issues their children are experiencing with other parents. Some of these topics include anxiety, depression, neurodiversity, and social and minority issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Finance Committee

Mr. Steve Potter gave a brief update on the recent work done by the Committee. He noted that the Master Facilities Plan remains the focus of their meetings. The Construction Sub-Committee continues to meet weekly with the architects and the construction manager. They have been working on the budget for construction, bidding (minority requirements goal), the architect contract, meeting with the park district, and sustainability (LEAD points). Mr. Potter was hopeful the overall MFP budget might be ready by the May 3 meeting.

Board Policy Committee

Mr. Andrew Stone had no report. The Policy Committee is not meeting in March.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lukasik asked if there were any comments or questions about the Consent Agenda items. There being no comment, he entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. John Gottschall 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lukasik invited public comment. Mrs. Nicole Borovika told the Board that typically few people come to Board meetings because they feel the Board has already made up their minds and no comments will sway them. As such, people do not feel heard. Mr. and Mrs Schmalz echoed Mrs. Borovika's thoughts. They asked the BOE to note the number of people at the meeting this evening and take that as indication to think their decision through. They encouraged the Board to focus less on buildings and more on how to better support teachers. Mrs. Kathy Matern asked why the Board did not take the opportunity to adjourn to closed session after hearing the public comment to discuss what they heard before moving forward with the vote. She felt the decision made tonight was a poor one.

Mr. Lukasik thanked everyone for their comments especially in light of the late hour.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. John Gottschall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 p.m. Mr. Andrew Stone seconded the motion.

All Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

Attest for Distribution: *Julie M. Campanaro*
Julie M. Campanaro, Secretary

Approved: *Evan Lukasik*
Mr. Evan Lukasik, President

ATTEST: *Julie M. Campanaro*
Julie M. Campanaro, Secretary