

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held via electronic format for said district on Tuesday evening, May 25, 2021. Board members and administration attended via an online Zoom video conference. The public was able to attend via a live stream audio link through the District 28 YouTube Channel.

President Katz Muhl called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

DeShawn Arms
Matt Cassidy
Jennifer Gallinson
Shweta Jinkala
Michelle Kohler
Mara Silver-Schack
Tracy Katz Muhl

Absent: none

Also present were Dr. Larry Hewitt, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official; Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Terry Ryan, Communications Director; and Ramsin Israel, District Computer Technician.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

A parent submitted an online form commenting about the English Language curriculum and the writing and spelling skills of 5th-graders. He requested a catch-up class for current students in order to prepare for 6th grade.

President Katz Muhl noted she received an email from a teacher's students related to their studies on human rights, the need to promote human rights and stop genocide. She was impressed with the students' projects.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(Board Calendar Review)

The Board reviewed scheduled topics and reports for upcoming board meetings,

the enrollment report, current health metrics as compiled by Northfield Township COVID-19 Elementary School Public Health Dashboard and the student absence reports for the month.

(School Year 2021-22 Update)

Dr. Hewitt reported that the Illinois State Board of Education approved a resolution on May 21 calling for all students to be back in school for the next school year. The state still needs to clarify medical conditions that can keep children out of school. He noted that many of the junior high school students have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and we are still waiting on news about the vaccine for younger children. The district surveyed parents regarding remote learning next year, with eleven elementary students and six junior high students indicating a potential need for a remote learning option. The district will await more clarification from the state on what types of medical conditions will allow for an exemption from in-person learning.

(Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update)

A district committee has been working with Alison Park of Blink Consulting over the past school year to develop a diversity, equity and inclusion statement. The statement will be used as part of curriculum adoption work, summer professional development, and creating learning opportunities for the benefit of all children, Dr. Hewitt said. Board members asked about next steps and how the board can get involved and join the learning process.

(Ratification of New Staff)

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Gallinson that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for employment for the 2021-22 school year, subject to the provisions of the Board policy pertaining to pension contributions, at the respective lane and step and cash salary and TRS contribution, (collectively known as “Salary”):

NAME	LANE and STEP	POSITION
Joshua C. Albers	B+12-08, \$60,362	NBJH PE
Sarah C. Gusewelle	B+00-01, \$49,644	NBJH Spanish
Mackenzie X. McGrath	B+00-01, \$49,644	NBJH PE
Madeline J. Schwartz	M+30-05, \$66,213	NBJH Social Worker

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Arms, Cassidy, Kohler, Jinkala, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

(Canines 4 Comfort Agreement – Action Item)

A placement agreement for Krieger the golden doodle as a therapy dog at Greenbriar School with Principal Ginny Hiltz as the primary handler was reviewed.

It was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Cassidy that the Board of Education approve the Placement Agreement with Canines 4 Comfort as presented.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Kohler, Cassidy, Jinkala, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Arms, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

(Retirement of Dr. Hewitt)

Dr. Hewitt announced he would be retiring at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Announcing in this time frame allows the board time to make plans for 2022-23. In the meantime, Dr. Hewitt said there is a lot to do and he is very excited to reopen schools and get back to 95% normal next year.

(Summer School Update)

Dr. Kelly Sculles provided an overview of plans for summer classes that will be offered June 9 through July 2. Westmoor is housing 217 students in grades 1-4, while NBJH has 205 students in grades 5-8.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 27, 2021, and the Closed Session minutes of April 27, 2021, since members had each previously seen copies.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Arms, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Cassidy, Kohler, Jinkala, and Katz Muhl. Nay none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

(Payroll – last half of April 2021, and first half of May 2021)

the \$1,247,064.10 and covered by check numbers 65344 through 65375 and deduction check numbers 65376 through 65393, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated May 25, 2021;

the payment of employee salaries for the first half of May 2021, in the amount of \$1,265,513.60 and covered by check numbers 65394 through 65422, and deduction check numbers 65423 through 65431, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated May 25, 2021;

(Bills)

vendor invoices totaling \$289,644.07 and Warrants listed as Numbers 56624 through 56739, with wire transfers of 202000616 through 202000620 and 202000622 through 202000623, and 202000625 through 202000653, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated May 15, 2021;

(Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Dismissals, Resignations)

the contract changes of:

Chelsey F. Cohen	GB	Foundational Teacher From Step B+00-07, \$57,995.00 to Step B+12-07, \$59,515.00
Micheline M. Dazzo	NBJH	6 th Grade Science From Step M+12-23, \$103,369.00 to Step M+30-23, \$110,769.00
Allison R. Rubenstein	WM	2 nd Grade Teacher From Step B+00-06, \$55,821.00 to Step B+12-06, \$58,679.00

the re-hiring of:

Morgan Adducci	WM	Second Grade Teacher	Step B+00-03, \$52,085
Laura Cohen	NBJH	Gifted/Talented Coord. Step	M+30-14, \$87,912
Vasiliki Karabatsos	GB	EL Teacher	Step B+00-02, \$51,164

Rachel Wiegman	NBJH	8 th Grade Language Arts	Step B+00-10, \$61,722
Alecia Beagles	GB	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Rebecca Chagas	WM	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Ann Christoff	WM	5 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Inah Chung	WM	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Amanda Dziadus	WM	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Elise Grossman	NBJH	1-on-1 Aide	\$15.38
Grace Lombardo	GB	Sp. Ed. Resource Aide	\$15.38
Caroline McElvain	MB	3 rd Grade Aide	\$13.84
Pamela Mohrdieck	GB	5 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Lisa Nockels	WM	1-on-1 Aide	\$18.45
Seth Rosenbaum	MB	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Rina Rosenwasser	WM	Elementary Sp. Ed. Aide	\$15.38
Madison Seefeldt	WM	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Revathi Sekar	WM	2 nd Grade Aide	\$13.84
Sally Toland	MB	3 rd Grade Aide	\$13.84
Jennifer Turk	MB	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.84
Liberty Walls	GB	1 st Grade Aide	\$13.84
Kimberly Yen	GB	3 rd Grade Aide	\$13.84

the leaves of:

Kiley Clark	GB	Fifth Grade Teacher
Nicole Koren	NBJH	World Language Teacher

the resignations of:

Katie Coogan	MB	First Grade Aide
Kate Gilman	GB	Occupational Therapist
Ryan Graham	NBJH	Physical Education Teacher
Arissa Robertson	MB	Fourth Grade Aide
Rona Serota	WM	Fourth Grade Aide
Kate Stahl	MB	Kindergarten Aide
Angela Taggart	WM	EL Teacher

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Kohler, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Arms, Cassidy, Kohler, Jinkala, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

FINANCE
(Financial Report)

CSBO Jessica Donato presented the financial report including monthly financials, food service sales, elementary and secondary school emergency relief grant information, classified staff wage increases, fiscal year 2021 audit update and required local, state and federal reports. Mrs. Donato noted that this district was granted \$48,595, of which \$7,880 was shared with participating nonpublic

schools as part of the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) act. A second grant of \$165,503 was released through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act in December 2020. A third grant of \$371,517 was awarded in March 2021 through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). All of the funds will be used for pandemic-related supplies and curricular supports.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Cassidy that the Board approve the finance report as presented.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members: Arms, Cassidy, Kohler, Jinkala, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

No report.

LEGISLATION **(Legislative Update)**

President Katz Muhl said she will defer until after the current legislative session ends to review new state laws.

COMMUNICATION

Terry Ryan recapped the month's communications activities including employee recognition, the recording of the NBJH spring musical, Young Explorers graduation, and attendance at the Parent Support Workshop.

NSSSED

Member Silver-Schack said the new name for NSSSED is True North Educational Cooperative 804. The agency is transitioning to the name and future reports and correspondence should be referenced with the new name.

STANDING COMMITTEES **(SAF)**

Member Kohler said she and member Silver-Schack thanked the staff on behalf of the Board of Education for their heroic efforts this last year. She said it has been an invaluable experience to be part of this committee and to hear from teachers firsthand the progress and challenges of the year and how it felt to teach during the pandemic. Dr. Hewitt said he will be monitoring what is happening over the summer and call a meeting if there are issues to address.

NEW BUSINESS

President Katz Muhl said the committee assignments have been determined and finalized.

CLOSED SESSION

(In)

At 8:16 p.m., it was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board go into closed session to discuss:

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or 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 or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity as authorized by 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Cassidy, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Arms, Kohler, Jinkala, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

(Out)

At 9:09 p.m., it was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board return to Regular Session.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Cassidy, Silver-Schack, Arms, Gallinson, Kohler, Jinkala, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 p.m., it was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Arms that the meeting adjourn.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Cassidy, Arms, Kohler, Jinkala, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, and Katz Muhl. Nay: none. Abstain: none. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Jennifer Gallinson, Secretary

Tracy Katz Muhl, President