

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28
HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held via electronic format for said district on Tuesday evening, August 25, 2020. 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 Tracy Katz Muhl called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

Jen Gallinson
Michael Gilmore
Tony Forchetti
Louis Gross
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; Terry Ryan, Communications Director; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Scott Meek, NBJH principal; and Ramsin Israel, District Computer Technician.

President Katz Muhl commented that the board feels fortunate to have students back in the building. The board meetings will continue to be held remotely under the state guidelines issued by the governor in order to respect the parameters set to limit visitors in the school buildings, as well as to not create an additional burden for cleaning and sanitizing spaces.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Dr. Hewitt read a comment submitted electronically through the public comment form, which was posted on the website from 6:30 p.m. to 7:05 p.m. The parent of two students enrolled in the Remote Learning Academy commented that the year has started very smoothly with only minor technical glitches. She complimented the teachers for working hard to engage young learners and is impressed with the improvements in the structure of e-learning over the spring. She expressed concern regarding the class size of specials.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hewitt reported on the start of the school year, which occurred Aug. 24, in which 77% of students returned to schools for in-person learning with safety protocols in place, and 23% are enrolled in the Remote Learning Academy, a fully remote learning experience. Dr. Hewitt said the entire staff pitched in to find solutions, take on new roles, problem-solve challenging issues, and prepare for a year unlike any other. The following topics represent items reported by Dr. Hewitt and answers to questions raised by board members.

In-Person Learning

Student health check parent certification system was implemented successfully with 95% of parents completing the form to certify their child's health before coming to school on the first day. The system, implemented by Instructional Technology Director Judi Epcke, was tested on Saturday and Sunday with parents before the start of school Monday. Students who weren't certified had their temperature taken and were asked the health questions about symptoms and COVID-19 exposure by staff members, who then followed up with the parents.

Teachers are implementing many new procedures and protocols, and students have responded well. Everyone is wearing masks, with students and teachers taking mask breaks by using the outside tents and shade trees for instruction, lunch and physical education. Social distancing will continue to be reinforced.

Remote Learning

Remote learning started for 23% of enrolled students. The Remote Learning Academy (RLA) is following established schedules with three main modes of instruction: live/pre-recorded direct instruction; small group/individual support; and independent work and feedback. A Remote Learning Plan, which has been shared with parents, includes all aspects of the program, including philosophy, technology, support for students, grading and assessments, schedules and procedures.

Several improvements in delivering instruction for remote learning were made over the summer. There is both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Teachers are maximizing the use of breakout rooms in Zoom so kids can collaborate and work together.

Dr. Raitzer noted that teachers are sensitive to the issue of screen time for remote learners and will follow the home practice guidelines established last year for in-person learning. RLA students have text books, can check out library books and will have class materials pickup every few weeks.

Buses

Bus drivers are finalizing the timing of routes and will continue to adjust pickup/drop-off times. There are two adults on the bus in the morning to assist students to their assigned seats.

Member Gilmore asked that the board be updated when bus times are finalized.

Summer Professional Development

Director of Learning Michelle Jackson outlined the training provided teachers this summer. Remote Learning Academy teachers received 20 hours of professional development to learn tech tools, plan instructional strategies, plan communication with families and begin to build their teaching team. The following week, when all teachers returned, remote learning teachers continued to work on scheduling, training, and coordinating with their learning team.

Two days were added to teacher institute days before the start of school for all staff. In-person teachers and instructional aides participated in tech training for tools to use in case the district has to pivot to fully remote learning during the pandemic. The instructional tech team also shared student tech lessons for each grade that teachers will use to help establish digital literacy expectations and routines.

Parent Communication

Two documents – the July 24 FAQ and the Aug. 7 FAQ – are being updated to reflect adjustments. A revised FAQ from the Illinois Department of Public Health will also be sent to parents this week. The administration continues to work through some remaining scheduling issues, some specific to students, others relating to class size for specials classes.

Specials Scheduling

Art, music, and Spanish are being delivered remotely by teachers at the elementary level, which was communicated to parents on Aug. 7. This was necessary because the district would have had to reduce art and music time. Also teachers would have had to travel to other buildings creating scheduling conflicts, as well as interact with nearly 200 students a week, which was considered an unnecessary risk for staff and students.

Exclusion from School

Work is continuing on plans to support in-person students who may be quarantined but are well enough to participate in class digitally. There is potential for teachers to record a lesson, which can then be shared synchronously.

O.T. and P.T. Services

Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services, reported that several students requiring physical or occupational therapy are in-person while others are remote.

Closing Comments

Dr. Hewitt credited the many staff and administrators that made the reopening of school, both in-person and remote, possible.

President Katz Muhl expressed gratitude for opening schools and all the work that went into making it possible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Gross and seconded by Member Gallinson that the Board of Education approve the following meeting minutes: Special Meeting of the Board, July 21, 2020; Committee-of-the-Whole of July 28, 2020; Regular Meeting of July 28, 2020; and Closed Session of July 28, 2020, since members had each previously been sent copies.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Member Gilmore and seconded by Member Kohler that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

(Payroll – last half of July 2020 and first half of August 2020)

the payment of employee salaries for the last half of July 2020, in the amount of \$347,832.86 and covered by check numbers 64685 through 64692, and deduction check numbers 64693 through 64705, 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 August 25, 2020;

the payment of employee salaries for the first half of August 2020, in the amount of \$250,129.00 and covered by check numbers 64706 through 64715, and deduction check numbers 64716 through 64720, 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 August 25, 2020;

(Bills)

vendor invoices totaling \$679,047.97 and Warrants listed as Numbers 55113 through 55281, with the following voids 55181, 55190, and 55232, confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated August 25, 2020.

(Personnel Report: Contract Changes, Employment of Staff, Leaves, Resignations, Extra Duty Stipends)

The employment of staff:

Rebecca Chargas	WM	3 rd Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Ann Christoff	WM	5 th Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Mary (Katie) Coogan	MB	1 st Grade Aide	\$14.25/hr
Zyra Cruz	WM	5 th Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Jason Doppelt	GB	Staff Childcare Coordinator	\$13.50/hr
Ma Hilda Escalera	NBJH	Custodian	\$17.00/hr
Lucy Folland	GB	5 th Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Arvin Gitman	WM	2 nd Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Paula Kolar	WM	1 st Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Grace Lombardo	GB	Health Aide FT	\$16.00/hr
Caroline McElvain	MB	3 rd Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Karson McEwen	WM	2 nd Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Pam Mohrdieck	GB	1 st Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Helene Moy	GB	1 st Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Seth Rosenbaum	MB	3 rd Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Julie Sherman	WM	Nurse	\$20.00/hr
Kate Stahl	MB	Kindergarten Aide	\$13.50/hr
Kiley Sullivan	MB	5 th Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Sallt(Sara) Toland	MB	Sp. Ed. Aide 7 th gr.	\$15.00/hr
Jennifer Turk	MB	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Linda Van Spankeren	MB	5 th Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Liberty Walls	GB	2 nd Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr
Kimberly Yen	GB	4 th Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr

Leaves:

Michelle Lee	WM	Early Childhood Teacher
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Contract Changes:

Anca R. Apetean	NBJH	From M+12-08, \$68,668.00 to M+30-08, \$71,586.00
Elizabeth J. Decker	GB	From M+12-21, \$98,842.00 to M+30-21, \$104,721.00
Brittany P. Farris	MB	From M+12-08, \$68,668.00 prorated to 53%, \$36,806.04 to M+30-08, \$71,586.00 prorated to 53%, \$38,370.09

Jeri M. Hart	GB	From M+00-08, \$67,178.00 to M+12-08, \$68,668.00
Rebecca E. Heller	NBJH	From M+12-08, \$68,668.00 to M+30-08, \$71,586.00
Taylor Hoffman	WM	From M+30-02, \$59,646.00, prorated to 50% @ \$28,832.00 to Step M+30-02, at \$59,646.00
Ann S. McElvain	MB	From M+12-10, 72,027.00 to M+30-10, \$75,473.00
Marina Paliev	WM	From B+24-03, \$53,865.00 to M+00-03, \$57,733.00
Amber J. Paull	NBJH	From M+00-11, \$73,149.00 to M+12-11, \$74,908.00
Amy E. Watson	WM	From M+12-23, \$103,227.00 to M+30-23, \$110,023.00
Allison I. Weiner	MB	From M+00-08, \$67,178.00 to M+12-08, \$68,668.00

Dismissals

Hector Motino	NBJH	Teacher's Aide
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Resignations

Kathy Gianni	MB	2 nd Grade Aide
Julie Meyers	WM	4 th Grade Aide
Claudia Rieger	MB	EL Teacher
Amy Oberholtzer	WM	1 st Grade Aide
Michelle Tuchman	MB	3 rd Grade Aide
Jennifer Wahl	NBJH	6 th Grade SST
Ryan Wood	MB	Physical Education

Extra Section Stipends

Sydney Berg	NBJH	Special Ed	\$7,003.00
Micheline Dazzo	NBJH	6 th Grade Science	\$7,757.00
Marisssa Drankiczarek	NBJH	7 th Grade Math	\$7,003.00
Kula Geib	NBJH	PE	\$7,757.00
Amy Hebel	NBJH	8 th Grade Math	\$7,757.00
Meghan Henry	NBJH	6 th Grade Math	\$7,757.00
David Kostal	NBJH	8 th Gr Science	\$7,757.00

Amber Paull	NBJH	7 th Gr Social Sc.	\$7,757.00
Mary Perkins	NBJH	French Teacher	\$7,757.00
Jason Piechowiak	NBJH	6 th Gr Social Sc.	\$7,757.00
Mary Claire Seeberg	NBJH	8 th Grade Math	\$7,003.00
Clare Thomas	NBJH	6 th Grade Math	\$7,003.00

Board Policy 6:153

board policy 6:135, as presented;

Open Closed Session Minutes

open closed session minutes 12/17/19, 1/28//20, 2/25/20, and 4/28/20;

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

FINANCE
(Financial Report)

The Board of Education received copies of the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending July 30, 2020.

It was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Gross that the Board accept the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending July 2020.

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

(Transportation Contract Amendment – First Student)

It was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Kohler that the Board approve the contract language change and rate clarification for general education student transportation for First Student, Inc. for service between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2023, as presented.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members Forchetti, Kohler, Silver-Schack, Gallinson, Gilmore, and Katz Muhl. Nay: Member Gross. Absent: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

EDUCATION

(Ratification of New Staff)

Dr. Hewitt noted that at least nine of 14 new staff members are 1-year contracts. Others are replacing existing staff. Dr. Hewitt will send the Board more detailed information regarding which staff members are one-year contracts.

It was moved by Member Gallinson and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board of Education approve the following contracts for employment for the 2020-21 school year, subject to the provisions of the Board policy pertaining to pension contributions, at the respective step and cash salary and TRS contribution (collectively known as "Salary"):

Morgan Adducci	WM	1 st Grade Remote Learning	B+00-02, \$50,457.
Wendy Allen	WM	4 th Grade Remote Learning	M+00-13, \$77,976.
Lis Collins	MB	EL Teacher	M+30-09, \$73,276.
Katherine deLoys	MB	4 th Grade Teacher	B+24-01, \$50,624.
Jami Grauer	NBJH	Social Worker	M+30-04, \$63,524.
Spencer Herbert	WM	Sp. Ed. Teacher	B+00-04, \$52,274.
Paige Jespersen	MB	5 th Grade Teacher	M+12-03, \$59,530.
Irene Koliopoulos	NBJH	Sp Ed Remote Learning	M+00-06, \$63,362.
Samantha Panther	WM	PE	B+00-01, \$49,018.
Jennifer Remias	WM	2 nd Grade Teacher	B+24-10, \$63,941.
Heather Sullivan	NBJH	Sp Ed Remote Learning	M+00-01, \$54,299.
Tyler Tampier	MB	PE	M+00-06, \$63,362.
Matt Walz	MB	Adaptive PE	M-30-13, \$84,060.
Rachel Wiegman	NBJH	L/A	B+00-09, \$59,125.

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

(New Teacher Orientation Update)

Asst. Superintendent Raitzer provided an overview of the two-day new teacher orientation, which kicks off the mentor program that supports new teachers for their first two years with the district. President Katz Muhl said while the board cannot hold its traditional new teacher dinner before the September board meeting, they would like to have a Zoom call with new teachers. Board members welcome the opportunity to meet the new staff.

BUILDINGS and GROUNDS **(Summer Projects Update)**

The summer improvement projects included the HVAC upgrades at Meadowbrook and the STEM lab renovation at NBJH, both of which are complete. All other efforts for the summer were devoted to bringing in safety measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

LEGISLATION

President Katz Muhl said the General Assembly is on summer break. State-level education funding will be impacted by the state-wide 'fair tax' referendum on the November 3 ballot.

COMMUNICATION

Communications Director Terry Ryan updated the board with news articles and communications activities of the past month. President Katz Muhl asked about the status of the digital student directory for parents and asked if there is a way to flag students in remote learning who come from different elementary schools.

STANDING COMMITTEES **(SAF)**

Dr. Hewitt noted that SAF doesn't typically meet in the summer but met twice this year, once in July and again in August. Based on those meetings, the district surveyed teachers and classroom aides to identify ways to help them manage safety practices and seek ideas to help improve understanding of their role and circumstances. Many of the topics raised in the surveys were addressed in the week of training before school started. Dr. Hewitt said staff will be surveyed again in three to four weeks to evaluate manageability and seek new ideas for safety practices.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

(In)

At 9:13 p.m., it was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Forchetti that the Board of Education go into Closed Session to discuss the following:

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity and matters relating to individual students as authorized by 5ILCS 120/2 © (1), and

Matters relating to individual students as authorized by 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (9).

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

(Out)

At 9:53 p.m. it was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Forchetti that the Board of Education return to Regular Session.

All members present voted Aye. Nay: none. Absent: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:54 p.m., it was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Gallinson that the meeting be adjourned.

All members present voted Aye. Absent: none. Motion carried.

Larry A. Hewitt, Secretary

Tracy Katz Muhl, President