

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28  
HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held at Northbrook Junior High Library and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel for said district on Tuesday evening, December 14, 2021.

President Tracy Katz Muhl called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

DeShawn Arms  
Jennifer Gallinson  
Michelle Kohler  
Mara Silver-Schack  
Shweta Jinkala  
Matt Cassidy  
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; Ramsin Israel, District Computer Technician; and visitors: Dr. Jason Pearson, incoming Superintendent; Linda Yonke, School Exec Connect representative, and Joe Lewnard, reporter for the Daily Herald.

**VISITOR'S COMMENTS**

None.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**(2022-23 Superintendent Discussion)**

President Katz Muhl introduced Dr. Jason Pearson, newly appointed superintendent for the district effective July 1, 2022. Dr. Pearson comes to Northbrook from St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 where he spent the last 11 years, including the past four as superintendent. He attended the Board meeting to accept the appointment. His contract will be formally approved at a special meeting after winter break when regulatory public notice is satisfied.

“Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I want to start by thanking the board, parents and teachers who participated in the interview process. It was very comprehensive and helped me learn about the culture of the district and some of the things you are proud of as an organization,” Dr. Pearson said.

In announcing Dr. Pearson’s appointment, Board President Tracy Katz Muhl said, “Dr. Pearson impressed the board with his professionalism, honesty and passion as a forward-thinking educational leader.” She also thanked all of the teachers, staff, parents and community members who participated in the process by completing the online survey, participating in focus groups and the interview teams.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**(Tax Levy Hearing)**

It was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Cassidy that the Tax Levy Hearing be opened at 7:16 p.m.

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

Mrs. Donato presented the calculation of the 2021 tax levy (which provides 87% of district revenues), including impacts to the levy such as the Consumer Price Index and new property growth.

At 7:31 p.m., after a review and there being no further questions, it was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Arms that the hearing on the 2021 Tax Levy close.

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

**Superintendent’s Report (Resumed)**

Dr. Hewitt presented the Board calendar, enrollment report, and health metrics from the Northfield Township public health dashboard for review. He noted that there is an increase in positivity rates. The rates are climbing to the rates the township saw at the beginning of the school year. Dr. Hewitt also reported that over 1,700 children under 12 were vaccinated after a four-day village-wide clinic for the first and second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

**(Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee)**

Dr. Sculles provided an overview of the bilingual education program and the activities of the BPAC.

**(IL Assessment of Readiness Report)**

Dr. Raitzer and Mrs. Jackson provided an overview of assessment scores from the spring 2021 Illinois Assessment of Readiness. The assessments measure proficiency of state learning standards in English Language Arts and Math, and are given to all students in grades 3-8. The 2021 testing was conducted under unique circumstances, with roughly 25% of students returning to school from remote learning for the first time in over a year to take assessments. The district had a very high participation rate at 93%. The district was highlighted by the Illinois State Board of Education for gains made in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math. The overall percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in math increased over 2019 by 5% to 71%. In English Language Arts, the overall percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards was 65%, 3% lower than 2019. Dr. Raitzer said the slight decline in ELA scores is something to look into while also considering the context of the pandemic.

**(2020-21 School Calendar)**

There were no changes to the proposed 2022-23 calendar as presented last month. The first Teacher Institute Day will be on Monday, August 15 and the first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 17. The last day of school is tentatively set for June 1.

It was moved by Member Gallinson and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board approve the 2022-23 School Calendar.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Gallinson that the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting minutes of November 24, 2021; the Special Meeting minutes of December 1 and 4, 2021; and the Special Closed Session minutes of December 1 and 4, 2021, since members had each previously been sent copies.

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**(Payroll – last half of November 2021)**

the payment of employee salaries for the last half of November 2021, in the amount of \$ 1,225,598.14 and covered by check numbers 65838 through 65858, and deduction check numbers 65859 through 65876, 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 December 14, 2021;

the payment of employee salaries for the first half of December 2021, in the amount of \$ 1,249,026.07 and covered by check numbers 65877 through 65898, and deduction check numbers 65899 through 65907, 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 December 14, 2021;

**(Bills)**

vendor invoices totaling \$415,600.23 and Warrants listed as Numbers 57791 through 57896, and with the following voids listed as 202100323, 202100326, 202100366 and 202100402 confirmed by the signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated December 14, 2021;

**(Personnel Report)**

**New Hires**

Abby Jordan	GB	Grade Aide	\$14/hr.
Salvadore Pina	WM	Custodian p/t	\$20/hr.
Jessica Garner	WM	Psychologist	M+30-02
			\$60,349 prorated 114 days to \$31,169.05.

**Contract Changes**

Lesley Goodman	NBJH	Long term sub	M+00-01
			\$55,262 prorated 114 days to \$34,614.45

**Resignations**

Mark Frye	NBJH	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science
Marcie Netzky	GB	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Aide

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

**FINANCE**  
**(Financial Report)**

The Board of Education received copies of the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2021. Chief School Business Official Jessica Donato presented the financial report including updates on expenditures, investments, food services sales and financial reports filed for November. She reported that the District's liability insurance renewal with the Suburban School Cooperative Insurance Pool will increase 4.5%, to \$97,557, for calendar year 2022.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the Board approve the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2021.

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

**(Tax Levy Adoption)**

CSBO Jessica Donato provided a brief review of factors that impact the levy calculation during the Tax Levy Hearing. Board members asked questions at that time to further their understanding.

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Cassidy that the 2021 Certificate of Tax Levy be adopted and attached to and made part of these minutes.

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

**(Tax Levy Extension Resolution)**

It was moved by Member Arms and seconded by Member Kohler that the Board adopt the 2021 Tax Levy Extension Resolution as presented:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Northbrook School District 28, County of Cook, State of Illinois, that the following:

1. The Cook County Clerk is hereby directed to extend from the 2021 Levy no less than the amounts indicated as follows:

Education .....	\$34,640,000
Building (Operations & Maintenance) .....	3,025,000
Transportation .....	1,130,000
IMRF .....	660,000
Social Security .....	750,000
Working Cash Funds.....	0

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

### **BUILDINGS and GROUNDS**

Dr. Hewitt reported that the District has not yet received approval for its application for the state's School Maintenance Project Grant. Due to the continued concerns about supply issues and to ensure materials are ordered in a timely fashion, the District's architect, Wright and Company, is currently seeking proposals for HVAC equipment for the project with the goal of Board approval at a special meeting in January.

### **LEGISLATION**

Member Cassidy reported that the administrative leave for COVID bill is on the governor's desk but has not yet been signed into law.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication Director Terry Ryan provided an overview of the month's activities, including the coordination of superintendent focus groups and interviews with key stakeholder groups and recording Winter Sing performances at each elementary school.

### **TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804**

Member Silver-Schack noted that the organization is hopeful that member districts will be able to provide accurate numbers for students requiring services for the next school year to ensure the organization is properly staffed.

## **Standing Committees**

### **(Compensation)**

Dr. Hewitt reported that the second meeting of the year was held December 4 and the group is expected to continue work on a compensation and benefits package for the 2022-23 school year that will be in effect until a collective bargaining agreement is reached with the newly forming teacher 's union.

### **(SAF)**

The SAF report was presented as information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

SHIELD testing will resume on January 3. All students will be reset in the database as "opt-in" for testing. Communication will go out before and during winter break explaining the goal of testing as many students as possible after break. Parents will also be given the option of opting out their children.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:36 p.m., it was moved by Member Silver-Schack and seconded by Member Kohler that the meeting be adjourned.

On a roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Members

Nay: none. Absent: none. Abstain: none. Motion carried.

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Jennifer Gallinson, Secretary

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Tracy Katz Muhl, President