

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 28  
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held via ZOOM and streamed on the district's YouTube Channel for said district Tuesday evening November 24, 2020.

President Katz Muhl called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present at roll call:

Jennifer Gallinson  
Michael Gilmore  
Tony Forchetti  
Michelle Kohler  
Louis Gross  
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**

No comments were submitted via a public form posted on the district website.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**(NWEA Measures of Academic Progress Fall Report)**

Assistant Superintendent Kris Raitzer and Director of Learning Michelle Jackson provided a report on the fall NWEA MAP scores. Both in-person and remote learning students participated in the assessment between Sept. 21 and Oct. 23.

Scores show at least twice as many District 28 students perform in the top band as the national norm in math, while no more than 3% perform in the lowest quintile. In reading, about 74% of students perform in the top two bands nationally across grades 2-8, and no more than 4% perform in the bottom quintile nationally.

The assessment report also included a comparison of scores from last fall for the same cohort of students. The data illustrates that there has not been a decline in academic performance despite the challenges of teaching and learning during a pandemic. Students will take the assessment again in winter and spring.

### **(Second Semester Parent Selection Results – In Person and Remote)**

There will not be significant enrollment changes between in-person students and remote learning students for the second semester, Dr. Hewitt reported. Parents were asked to select their children's learning choices by November 17.

In grades K-5 across the district, six students will move from in-person learning to the Remote Learning Academy, and 39 students will shift to in-person learning from RLA. At the junior high, 11 students will switch to RLA and 26 will switch to in-person learning.

### **(2021-22 School Calendar – First Draft)**

The draft calendar for the 2021-22 school year follows the typical pattern of previous years, with one exception. Teachers typically return on the third Monday in August for two institute days with students starting the school year on Wednesday. The draft proposal for next year has the first Teacher Institute Day on Tuesday, August 17 and the first day for students on Thursday, August 19. The last day of school is tentatively set for June 1. The 2021-22 school calendar will be finalized at the December 15 meeting.

### **(Grant Funding Activities)**

Dr. Raitzer provided a summary of the 2020-21 State and Federal grant allocations and an 8-year history of State and Federal grant funding in District 28. The district receives Title I, Title II, IDEA Flow-through, Library, and IDEA Preschool grants.

### **(2020 Illinois School Report Card)**

Individual school report cards issued by the State of Illinois were presented for review and have been posted on the district website for the public. The annual Illinois School Report Card, traditionally released on Oct. 30 every year, was impacted by the school closures last spring due to the pandemic. The state did not conduct the Illinois Assessment of Readiness last March, which measures student achievement on the Illinois Learning Standards. Only demographic and financial data is published in this year's reports.

**(Notice to Remedy)**

It was moved by Member Gallinson and seconded by Member Gilmore that the Board approve the Notice to Remedy for Michael LaCerra.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Gross that the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting minutes of October 27, 2020, the Closed Session minutes of October 27, 2020, and the minutes of the Special meeting of November 10, 2020, since members had each previously been sent copies.

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**(Payroll – last half of October 2020 and first half of November 2020)**

the payment of employee salaries for the last half of October 2020, in the amount of \$1,247,384.06 and covered by check numbers 64893 through 64921, and deduction check numbers 64922 through 64939, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the Vice President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated November 27, 2020;

the payment of employee salaries for the first half of November 2020, in the amount of \$1,221,929.96 and covered by check numbers 64940 through 64967, and deduction check numbers 64968 through 64976, inclusive, as outlined in detail on the Payroll Summary, confirmed by the signatures of the Vice President and Secretary of the School District Board of Education, and dated November 27, 2020;

**(Bills)**

Vendor invoices totaling \$606,298.14 and Warrants listed as Numbers 55769 through 55918, and with the following voids 55747 and 55715 confirmed by the

signatures of the President and Secretary of the School District 28 Board of Education, and dated November 27, 2020.

**(Personnel Report)**

**New Hires**

Elise Grossman	WM	EC Aide	\$15/hr.
Kelsey McGarvey	WM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr.
Rita Mounsef	WM	Sp. Ed. Aide	\$15/hr
Shala Regenbaum	NBJH	SP. Ed. RLA	\$15/hr.
Courtney Risinger	MB	Sp. Ed. Aide	\$17/hr.
Revathi Sekar	WM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Aide	\$13.50/hr.

**Leaves**

Chelsea Freedman	MB	Sp. Ed Teacher RLA
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**Dismissals**

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

**FINANCE**

**(Financial Report)**

Chief School Business Official Jessica Donato presented the financial report including updates on expenditures, investments, food services sales and financial reports filed for October. During the Adaptive Pause, the classroom assistants will continue with almost all of their duties with a few exceptions. She presented a proposal to continue paying them their full daily rate for regularly scheduled responsibilities, including before and after school bus duties and lunch supervision during remote learning. She also provided an update on NorthShore University HealthSystem negotiations for tax-exempt status. It was agreed that the Finance Subcommittee should meet in January.

It was moved by Member Forchetti and seconded by Member Kohler that the Board accept the District 28 Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2020.

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

## **BUILDINGS and GROUNDS**

It was noted that the tents set up at the beginning of the year for in-person learning were taken down this weekend for the winter. This was planned regardless of the adaptive pause. Dr. Hewitt will evaluate the need for them in the spring.

## **LEGISLATION**

Mrs. Donato reported on the ED-RED meeting she attended. President Katz Muhl noted that the failure of the fair tax referendum will have a dire impact on future state education funding. The district will continue to monitor actions by the General Assembly, which is scheduled to convene in January.

## **POLICY**

The Board conducted the second reading of the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS Issue 103 policies: 2:125, 2:125 E1, 2:125 E2, 2:160, 5:60, 5:60 E2, 5:280, 6:280, 7:70, 7:90, 8:10, 8:110; Issue 104 policies: 2:220, 4:180, 7:190, 7:340, and 7:345; and Issue 105 policies: 2:260, 2:65, 5:10, 5:20, 5:220, 5:330, 7:10, 7:20, 7:180, and 7:185.

It was moved by Member Gallinson and seconded by Member Gross that the Board approve the policies

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

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communications Director Terry Ryan reported that the District 28 mobile app is nearing completion, which is the final stage of a two-year project to refresh and enhance parent communication. She also shared recent district publications and media reports

## **NSSSED**

Member Gilmore reported that on Monday, Nov. 23, all NSSSED students pivoted to remote learning for all programs and services and will continue in remote learning until Jan. 19 2020.

**Standing Committees**

**(Compensation)**

The Board was presented with the document “Inside Look” published by the Compensation Committee, which includes the plan of work for the 2020-21 school year.

**(SAF)**

The minutes from the Oct. 21 meeting were shared as information. Member Kohler noted it might be important to move the January SAF meeting to an earlier date so as to be held before students return for in-person learning on Jan. 19. Dr. Hewitt will discuss this with the committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:12 p.m., it was moved by Member Kohler and seconded by Member Silver-Schack that the meeting be adjourned.

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

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Larry A. Hewitt, Secretary

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Tracy Katz Muhl, President