

**WESTERN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**August 26, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL**

Following the public comment period, Julie O'Connor, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:15 p.m., in the McClure Junior High School Library Learning Center, 4225 Wolf Road, Western Springs, Illinois 60558.

The Board of Education and those in the audience were invited to join together in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. O'Connor acknowledged the presence of Dr. Brian Barnhart, Superintendent, and requested a roll call. On roll call, the following answered present: Meredith Adler, Megan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Ms. O'Connor welcomed and thanked visitors for attending, noting that the early start time this evening would allow the administrative team members to get home a bit earlier, following an exciting first day of the new school year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Garvin moved, seconded by Mrs. Sendaydiego, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 15, 2019. All voted yes.

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. O'Connor thanked the administrators and teachers present for the smooth opening to the school year. She also commented that the Opening Institute Day presentations were very positive and well done. She shared with the Board the comments she made to the full staff on this opening day, and she emphasized the very positive and well-done presentation Dr. Coffey made to the staff. Dr. Coffey will review portions of her Opening Institute Day presentation with the entire Board later in tonight's meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Kindergarten Update**

Dr. Barnhart noted the final start of school kindergarten numbers, emphasizing that the overall numbers for our new cohort of students is 160 students, the same total number as we began the process following kindergarten screening in April, as well as was reported

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last month. He added that, obviously, how those numbers broke down by school has changed over this time, including Forest Hills increasing to 58 total students at school year's start. He noted that he and Principal Corrough have only received positive feedback about the additional section of kindergarten being added at Forest Hills at the start of August. Dr. Barnhart elaborated that the decision for an additional section of kindergarten was made through collaborative discussions with Mrs. Corrough, and was based on a combination of factors including an anticipated personnel continuity issue, specific needs for a number of students in this entering kindergarten cohort, and student class size. He noted that the growth to 58 students is likely only a first step in the growth of class size, as over the past ten years, our Forest Hills cohorts have grown from between three and ten students between the end of kindergarten and start of first grade. For that reason, we would have every expectation that an additional section would be added for this group's first through fifth-grade years.

**West Suburban Chamber Presentation**

Dr. Barnhart commended the full administrative team for a very well received keynote presentation two weeks ago at the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce's New Teacher Breakfast. He noted that the group's message centered around our core improvement work and how some of that work might be useful for new teachers to consider as they kick off the new school year.

**2019-2020 Tentative Budget Presentation**

Dr. Barnhart and Dr. Coffey presented the Tentative 2019-20 Budget, emphasizing the positive impact of having some short-term certainty regarding potentially impactful issues such as our new teachers' contract, State funding, and local real estate tax freeze. They noted that the State appears relatively settled with the newer ESSA funding model, we have local stability with our new five-year teachers' contract, and the local property tax freeze appears to be on the back burner, legislatively, for now.

They shared that a new Federal requirement takes effect this fiscal year, resulting in IDEA dollars now flowing directly to school districts, rather than the decades-old model of IDEA revenues (and related expenditures) flowing to LADSE. Given that, comparative revenues for the FY 20 year will be up 6.0%, but only 4.5% when IDEA funds are removed. Again this year, more than 92% of all revenues are expected to be received from local sources.

Expenditures will similarly be increased, with aggregate funds up 6.1% from this time last year; however, that figure is 4.7% when IDEA-related expenditures are removed. Almost all of the this year's increased expenditures are for salary and benefit increases pursuant to our new teacher contract, as all other funds – Funds 2 through 9 – show an increase of only

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\$46,000, or a .3% increase, year-to-year. The 7.4% increase in Education Fund 1 is to support:

- The aforementioned salary and benefit increases
- Renovation For Innovation (R4I) improvements in 14 classrooms across D101
- Technology upgrades and improvements, including all new wireless access points, new student Chromebooks, a refreshed teacher Apple laptop fleet, FUSE elective at McClure, new iPads and Apple TV's for primary classrooms, and hard wiring improvements allowing for "untethered instruction" at all of our buildings.
- Continued personnel hiring to enhance student support services, including a new 1.0 FTE Social Worker, and increased FTE in Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language, Resource, and Psychology services the past three years.

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey noted that this year's budget is \$797K in deficit, reminding the Board that this was expected for several years based on contract negotiation assumptions. Additionally, they added that the "operational deficit," once facility improvement dollars are removed, is approximately \$141K.

They concluded the presentation by noting that at the start of FY 2020, our fund balance carryover is approximately 48.6% of budget, with expectations that our year-end balance will represent 43% of budget. They reminded those in attendance that best practice recommendations are for fund balances that range between 35-50%.

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey responded to various questions from the Board members. The formal budget will be presented at the Board's September meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

After having the opportunity to ask questions and discuss, the Board undertook the following actions:

Mrs. Garvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lettiere, to accept the resignations of the following non-certified staff members: Amy Czerwinski, Amy Enderle, and Francesca Gick. On roll call, the following voted yes: Mrs. Adler, Ms. Cahill, Mrs. Garvin, Mrs. Heit, Mr. Lettiere, Ms. O'Connor, and Mrs. Sendaydiego.

Mrs. Heit made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Adler, to employ the following certified staff members: Kari Gough 1.0 FTE Social Worker, and Mattie Kowalski .5 FTE Kindergarten teacher. On roll call, the following voted yes: Mrs. Adler, Ms. Cahill, Mrs. Garvin, Mrs. Heit, Mr. Lettiere, Ms. O'Connor, and Mrs. Sendaydiego.

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Ms. O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sendaydiego, to employ the following non-certified staff members: Amy DeCraene, Megan Elliott, Katherine Hillshafer, Peter Kass, Catherine Millette, Alexandria Srbnovski, and Kathryn Williams. On roll call, the following voted yes: Mrs. Adler, Ms. Cahill, Mrs. Garvin, Mrs. Heit, Mr. Lettiere, Ms. O'Connor, and Mrs. Sendaydiego.

Mrs. Adler made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sendaydiego, to approve Riddiford Roofing for completion of roof maintenance repairs at all five of our buildings. On roll call, the following voted yes: Mrs. Adler, Ms. Cahill, Mrs. Garvin, Mrs. Heit, Mr. Lettiere, Ms. O'Connor, and Mrs. Sendaydiego.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS**

**Education Committee**

Mr. Lettiere, Education Committee Chair, reported that the District is moving forward with the Standards Based Report pilot year as previously planned and communicated. Principals will be providing presentations at all upcoming curriculum nights, and additional information (all of the weekly updates from last year and the D101 Parent SBR Handbook) has also been posted to the [d101.org](http://d101.org) website. PowerSchool changes to support this process are in the final stages, but this work continues, with expectations that work on this will be completed by week's end. He shared that Dr. Coffey would be hosting three upcoming coffees to answer any additional questions parents may have on the topic.

**Building Committee**

Mrs. Adler, Building Committee Chair, reported that all of the summer building projects have been completed, or are in the process of being completed, including the roof repair project at each of our buildings.

**Finance Committee**

Mrs. Sendaydiego Finance Committee Chair noted that this month's financials were in line with expectations, sharing that they include \$12,465 for asbestos abatement/related work, some of the initial payments for the R4I furniture, and annual subscriptions for our science and social science tech book. She then made a motion to approve this month's financials to be paid in the total amount of \$1,308,523.94. The motion was seconded by Ms. O'Connor. On roll call, the following voted yes: Mrs. Adler, Ms. Cahill, Mrs. Garvin, Mrs. Heit, Mr. Lettiere, Ms. O'Connor, and Mrs. Sendaydiego.

**Policy/Legislative Committee**

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Mrs. Heit, Policy/Legislative Committee Chair, reported on several new legislative requirements that will mandate that we evaluate current procedures and policies to ensure we are in compliance. Some of the topics of these legislative changes include:

- Police questioning of students while at school
- Threat assessments
- Certain health-related curricular requirements
- Mandatory reporter changes
- Lockdown or Law Enforcement drills
- ...and several other new legislative mandates

**Communications Committee**

Mrs. Garvin, Communications Committee Chair, reported that she had received some very positive feedback on the District Newsletter that will help inform us for the next edition. Mrs. Garvin thanked Mrs. Hill for her extensive help with the newsletter.

**Other/WSFEE Report**

Ms. Cahill, WSFEE Liaison, shared that the Foundation will begin having their monthly meetings again in September.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. O'Connor noted that there was no correspondence in this month's packet.

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:06 p.m., Ms. O'Connor noted the Board would return to open session following Closed Session. She then requested a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss personnel, legal, and negotiation matters. Ms. O'Connor so moved, seconded by Mrs. Heit. On roll call, the following voted yes: Mrs. Adler, Ms. Cahill, Mrs. Garvin, Mrs. Heit, Mr. Lettiere, Ms. O'Connor, Mrs. Sendaydiego.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

At 7:38 p.m., Ms. O'Connor moved to return to Regular Session. Mrs. Garvin seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Mrs. Adler, Ms. Cahill, Mrs. Garvin, Mrs. Heit, Mr. Lettiere, Ms. O'Connor, Mrs. Sendaydiego.

A check of the McClure library resulted in one meeting attendee waiting to join the Board in the BOE Conference Room.

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**OTHER ITEMS**

**Miscellaneous Updates**

Dr. Barnhart reminded Board members to please turn in documentation of their Open Meetings Act training to Mrs. Hill at their earliest convenience. He also reiterated an update included in the Board materials regarding McClure Poms, including the plan to hold tryouts again this fall. A Board member question whether or not sixth-grade students were to be included was responded to with the belief that it would first be open to seventh- and eighth-grade students, with consideration then given to sixth-grade inclusion based on participation numbers. Drs. Barnhart and Coffey then shared some positive feedback from initial work with the public speaking consultant, Bradley Anderson from LT 204. Engaging such a consultant was a prior recommendation of the Board. A short discussion followed. Dr. Barnhart then provided the Board with a very short update on facility improvement projects moving into September.

**Opening Institute Discussion**

Dr. Coffey shared with the Board the majority of the presentation she made to the D101 staff at the District's Opening Institute Day. The presentation focused on the work our District Leadership Team and administrative team have been working on, with a strong emphasis on Wellness for Social Emotional Health – both for the adults and students of the District. An interactive discussion followed, with Ms. O'Connor noting how well received and positive the presentation was to our staff, as she was present and also presented on behalf of the Board at Thursday's opening meeting. Dr. Barnhart noted that he had, similarly, heard universally positive accolades from our staff from all four buildings the past two days.

**Budgeting Process – In-depth Discussion**

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey provided the Board with a strategic-level overview of our budgeting and financial management processes, above and beyond the annual budget/tentative budget shared earlier in the meeting. In the presentation, they shared, among other issues, the:

- Interrelationship between levying and budgeting, including details associated with the local funding process from both a logistics and timeline perspective.
- The checks and balances system in place to ensure that our process is safeguarded via multiple levels of approvals in place for standard expenditures.
- The strategic approach to budgeting currently utilized within District 101 to align improvement and quality priorities with expenditure allocations.

A lengthy and interactive discussion ensued as Board members asked a number of clarifying and follow-up questions in each of the areas discussed.

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**Bullying Report and Anti-Bullying Policy Review**

As time was running short, it was decided to address these matters at the Board's September meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Garvin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Sendaydiego seconded the motion, and all voted yes.



Brian T. Barnhart, Ph.D.  
Board of Education Secretary



Mrs. Julie O'Connor  
Board of Education President