

**WESTERN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 101**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2019
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Julie O'Connor, President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:15 p.m., in the McClure Junior High School Library Learning Center, 4225 Wolf Road, Western Springs, Illinois 60558.

Ms. O'Connor asked Mr. McLawhorn to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and invited the Board of Education and those in the audience to participate. Ms. O'Connor acknowledged the presence of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sarah Coffey, and Dr. Brian Barnhart, Superintendent, and requested a roll call. On roll call, the following answered present: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Jeanne Padgett, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego and Todd McLawhorn.

Ms. O'Connor welcomed the two representatives from the WSEA in attendance and noted that the administrative team was not present this evening, as they have a full week of evening commitments ahead of them.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. O'Connor noted she has submitted a few last minute edits to the January 28, 2019 board minutes and inquired as to whether the board had any comments. With no comments from the Board, Ms. O'Connor moved, seconded by Mrs. Padgett, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 28, 2019. All voted yes.

Ms. O'Connor moved, seconded by Mrs. Padgett, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 7, 2019. All voted yes.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. O'Connor shared that the WSEA brought a bakery treat, accompanied by a note, thanking the Board for supporting a professional and collaborative contract negotiation process. The note expressed that the WSEA is looking forward to the continued strong partnership with the Board. Ms. O'Connor conveyed that the Board was equally appreciative of how well the negotiation process went, was looking forward to a continued positive partnership, and acknowledged that it is the teachers who make the District work on a daily basis.

Ms. O'Connor noted that the Meet the Candidate event, a forum to hear from the four community members who are running for the three vacant Board of Education seats, will

**WESTERN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 101**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2019
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

be held at McClure on Thursday, March 14. This forum will begin at 7:00 pm and is being organized by the independent Board Election Committee. Ms. O'Connor encouraged all who could attend to do so.

Ms. O'Connor shared that later in the meeting there would be an update on the search for the McClure Assistant Principal and that discussion regarding contracts for Drs. Barnhart and Coffey would be held during Closed Session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

STEAM Night

Dr. Barnhart acknowledged that most of the Board members were able to experience 2019 STEAM Night in person. He shared that the D101 team had taken the event to an even higher level than last year's excellent event, resulting in exceptional turnout and fantastic feedback from the parents in attendance. Dr. Barnhart commented that D101 staff shared that the coordination of the scheduled half-day with STEAM night was a huge benefit in terms of having sufficient time to set-up. Dr. Barnhart noted that next year's calendar would attempt to replicate this timing.

Winter Weather Days

Dr. Barnhart recommended that the two needed make-up days, due to weather-related cancellations earlier this winter, be added to the end of the current tentative calendar. This would move D101's final day of school from Tuesday, June 4 to Thursday, June 6. The final day of school would continue to be a one-hour school day.

Dr. Barnhart noted that McClure graduation would remain as originally planned (May 29) and commented that graduation space and furniture rental costs are shared between D101 and Gurrie Jr. High, further supporting the decision to leave graduation timing unchanged. Following discussion, the Board concurred, and determined that action to approve this plan would take place formally at the March 18 meeting; however, planning communication to parents and staff would commence immediately. Dr. Coffey added that given the recommended calendar change, the start of summer school would be moved from June 6 to Monday, June 10th.

Miscellaneous

Dr. Barnhart shared that he has been asked to speak at the Western Springs Rotary Club at their lunch meeting tomorrow regarding the state of D101. He also noted that there are fifty-five applicants for the position of McClure Assistant Principal/Principal Designee.

**WESTERN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 101**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2019
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

National Board Certification Cohort

Dr. Coffey reported that, in addition to the eleven D101 staff who received National Board certification in the 2016 - 2018 cycle, there are two staff members currently in their second year of the 2017 - 2019 cycle. Additionally, she has new commitments from fifteen staff members to participate in the 2019 - 2021 cycle, allowing for D101 to again experience the benefits of having its own, locally-housed National Board cohort. The newest cohort consists of 7 McClure staff members, 7 Laidlaw members and 1 from Forest Hills. Dr. Coffey reminded the board that the majority of the most recent NB cohort consisted of Field Park staff.

ACTION ITEMS

Accept Retirement

Dr. Barnhart referenced the retirement letter submitted by June Gripp, a member of the board office administrative staff and effective June 28, which is in addition to the retirement of board office administrative assistant Mary Zebert that was approved last month. Dr. Barnhart commented that Mrs. Gripp's retirement was ahead of expectations, but acknowledged Ms. Gripp has spent over 19 years at the District, including significant time at Forest Hills prior to joining the board staff.

Ms. O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lettiere, to accept the retirement of June Gripp, Board office assistant. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jeanne Padgett, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Education Committee

Mr. Lettiere, Education Committee Chair, had no report.

Building Committee

Mr. McLawhorn, Building Committee Chair, reported that the committee will be receiving bid estimates for the Field Park library renovation.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Padgett reported for the Finance Committee that this month's financials included a few noteworthy items, including approximately \$1,700 for the repair of burst pipes due to cold temperatures at the end of January, with one more related repair still outstanding at Forest

**WESTERN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 101**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2019
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Hills. The Board expressed their appreciation to the D101 staff who came to work at 4am during the extremely cold weather to attend to the heating system, faulty pipes, etc. Additional noteworthy items of expense were curriculum spending, fusion supplies and anticipated staff development expenses. All else were as expected.

Mrs. Padgett moved to approve January expenditures and liabilities in the total amount of \$1,300,356.79 and Mr. McLawhorn seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jeanne Padgett, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

Mrs. Padgett reported that fund balances were \$8,856,637.66 for January 2019; \$2.9 million behind where we were last year. Mrs. Padgett noted that this discrepancy is based on the influx of property taxes received earlier than normal last year due to anticipated tax law changes, and Mrs. Padgett expects that in about two months time, we should be back on track in comparison to last year.

Policy/Legislative Committee

Mrs. Secord, Policy/Legislative Committee Chair, reported on a minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour would be the standard by 2025, with a incremental increase occurring each preceding year. Dr. Barnhart commented that it is likely that school districts will be exempt from this requirement, but that has yet to be clarified.

Mrs. Secord reported that the 8000 policy series and a new policy and bike and pedestrian safety will be discussed in Other later this evening. The 9000 board policies will be reviewed and discussed during the March board meeting. Mrs. Secord commented that reviewing board policies imparts a lot of good information and it might make sense for all new board members to read at least the 8000 policies as a starting point to better understand how the board operates.

Communications Committee

Mrs. Garvin, Communications Chair, reported that her committee is planning on the newsletter being ready to be shared near school year's end. She requested board members share with her any significant, newsworthy items from their child's building for incorporation into the newsletter. Board members commented that Principal Chick's plan to shave his head in support of the St. Baldrick's fundraising at Forest Hills was newsletter-worthy.

**WESTERN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 101**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2019
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Educational Foundation

Mrs. Sendaydiego, Board liaison for the Western Springs Foundation for Educational Excellence (WSFEE), reported that no new grants have been awarded. Additionally, everyone should save the date of May 13th for the WSFEE biannual golf and tennis fundraising event. Mrs. Sendaydiego noted that event registration is not yet open.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. O'Connor noted there was no correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

At 7:36 p.m. Ms. O'Connor requested a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for approximately 40 minutes to discuss personnel, negotiation, and legal matters. The Board will return to Open Session following Closed Session. Ms. O'Connor made a motion and Mrs. Garvin seconded, to adjourn to Closed Session. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jeanne Padgett, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 9:51 p.m., Ms. O'Connor moved to return to Regular Session. Mr. McLawhorn seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jeanne Padgett, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

A check of the McClure library resulted in no awaiting meeting attendees.

OTHER

Policy Discussions

Mrs. Secord led a discussion on the 8000 series policies, highlighting a handful of edit and update suggestions. As well, it was agreed that all members should forward suggestions and questions regarding updating this series to Mrs. Secord who will combine and forward to Dr. Barnhart for updating and distribution back to members. The updated 8000 series will be included for adoption via action item at the March meeting. Additionally, reviews of the first draft of policy 6100 (pedestrian/bike safety) and a revised policy 3030 (purchases) were reviewed, with auditors' recommendations included in the revised #3030. These policies also will be included for approval at the Board's March meeting. .

**WESTERN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 101**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2019
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Succession Planning Discussion

The Board initiated their annual planning with discussions related to leadership within the District to the succession planning associated with the District's Superintendent position. Additional conversations and contractual considerations will continue through the March Board meeting.

McClure Assistant Principal Search - Plan and Timeline

Dr. Barnhart reported that, to date, we have received fifty-six applications for the McClure Assistant Principal/Principal Designee position. Ms. O'Connor reported that the District's process is to conduct candidate interviews with parent, staff, and administrative interview committees who will provide feedback to the Board. New for this process will be the addition of a student interview committee who will also provide feedback for the Board's consideration.

TTO Discussion

The Board discussed sending a letter to House Leader Durkin to again emphasize the importance of re-introducing legislation to provide D101 and the other Lyons Township districts autonomy in deciding whether or not to remain a member of the Lyons Township Treasurer's Office (LTTO). Ms. O'Connor will recommend adjusted language within the letter to reflect the Board's discussion and feedback. She noted a plan to share this letter with the other Township Board Presidents. If they prefer different language, it was agreed that D101 could send a stand-alone letter, as the concepts identified were consistent with the other Lyons Township districts.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

At 10:10 p.m., Mr. McLawhorn moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Padgett seconded the motion, and all voted yes.



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



Julie O'Connor
Board of Education President