

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

**NOVEMBER 29, 2018
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 6:30 p.m., in the McClure Junior High School Library Learning Center, 4225 Wolf Road, Western Springs, Illinois 60558.

Ms. O'Connor welcomed visitors including a representative from Right At School and a member of the community who is considering becoming a school board candidate.

Ms. O'Connor led 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: Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn. Lisa Garvin and Jeanne Padgett were expected to arrive shortly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Sendaydiego moved, seconded by Mrs. Secord, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2018. All voted yes.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. O'Connor reported that the D102 School Board President organized an informal meeting of the school board presidents of Lyons Township High School District 204 and the school districts that feed into D204 to get to know one another and discuss matters of common interest. One topic raised was the shared services provided by the Township Treasurer Office (TTO). Ms. O'Connor learned at the meeting that when D204 and TTO resolve their current lawsuit, then D204 has the ability (via legislation) to exit the TTO. At the meeting with other districts, Ms. O'Connor commented that (i) D101 strongly believes that settlement of the D204 and TTO lawsuit is a good thing because residents in our district are paying costs in connection with both D204 and TTO in that lawsuit and (ii) D101 previously adopted a resolution supporting a proposal that would allow D101 the option to exit TTO; D101 has not done a complete evaluation to determine if we would opt to exit TTO even if we had the option to do so, but the rationale for supporting the resolution at the time was that it would have the effect of ensuring transparency, cooperation and accountability, which are all good. At the meeting of the districts, the group discussed raising with their respective boards the possibility of working together to pool our questions for TTO and having a joint meeting with TTO for efficiency and to

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support a comprehensive approach to questions and answers. The group also discussed inviting other TTO members to participate. Ms. O'Connor asked the Board to consider if it supports D101 sharing information with other districts relative to TTO, and discussion ensued among the Board members, including recognition that D101 has spent significant time in the past on TTO-related matters. In general, there was support from members for District 101 to participate in the collaborative process and conversation with other districts as it impacts D101 revenue, taxpayers and students. Therefore, a resolution relating to that will be considered by the Board at its December meeting. Separately, Ms. O'Connor reported that the League of Women Voters represented inquiries to Dr. Barnhart regarding TTO.

Discussion continued among board members, including an overview that while most TTOs in Illinois are disbanded, this can only occur through legislative means or through referendum, which requires 100% approval from all participating districts. Ms. O'Connor reported that another district is having the legality of the TTO loan to West 40 evaluated since the TTO does not have its own funds, rather is the custodial entity of participating districts' funds. The Board discussed its concern that if the loan to West 40 is not repaid, then D101 would incur a proportional share of the loss. Locus of control regarding how District funds are invested continues to be an area of concern.

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey reminded the Board that a joint meeting of local TTO member districts' administrative team and Board Presidents was held with Leader Durkin approximately two years ago.

There was support from members for District 101 to participate in the collaborative process and conversation with other districts as it impacts D101 revenue, taxpayers and students.

Mrs. Padgett and Mrs. Garvin arrived at the meeting shortly after Ms. O'Connor began the President's Report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Levy Hearing - December 17, 2018

Dr. Barnhart announced that the annual Levy Hearing would be held during the December 17 Board meeting, as is usual in District 101.

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Veterans Day Ceremony

District 101 holds a Veterans Day Ceremony each year to honor local veterans and students are asked to invite their relatives and neighbors who served our country to attend. This year Field Park Elementary school held the well-attended ceremony with over 25 veterans being honored. The Field Park team and students, as well as students from across D101, did a great job of honoring our veterans in a very nice ceremony.

Field Park Principal Search

Dr. Barnhart reported that the posting for the Field Park Principal position is closed. 46 individuals applied for the position, and he and Dr. Coffey plan to begin interviews in December. Finalists will be interviewed by representatives from the Field Park staff, the Field Park parent community, and the administrative team. Feedback will be provided to the the Board of Education who will interview finalists in late January with a goal of announcing the next Field Park Principal by February 1, 2019.

2019 - 2020 Calendar

Dr. Barnhart reported that in addition to the the two calendar options that were part of the board packet, there was a third option, labeled Option C, at each board member's place.

Dr. Barnhart noted that Option C includes the addition of trimesters for the elementary schools in support of the Standards Based Report Card Committee's recommendation to pilot a standards-based reporting system at Field Park, Forest Hills, and Laidlaw next year. Option D also includes adjustments to meet the new state requirement by the State of Illinois to have a minimum of 176 student attendance days (an increase from 174 days). District 101 calendars have traditionally included 175 student attendance days.

Dr. Barnhart stated that District 101 is exploring e-learning days and no longer needs to wait to become part of the e-learning pilot program (aka "weather pilot program"). D101 has already established broad parameters for what constitutes an instructional day for students. Dr. Barnhart commented that while we weren't expecting our first snow day of the 2018-2019 year to occur in November, we will not need to add a day to this year's calendar due to the November 26 snow day.

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ACTION ITEMS

Approve Revised Fundraising Policy #2471

Mrs. Secord made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sendaydiego, to approve the revised Fundraising Policy #2471. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jeanne Padgett, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

Approve Village Temporary Construction Access Easement Resolution

The Village of Western Springs has requested access to land at Field Park in order to construct a Village well. By allowing this access, the District will receive nominal compensation from the Village in accordance with applicable law. In conversations with the Village and participation in two planning meetings, the District has made it clear that safety for D101 students must be a priority. Additionally, D101 must have the right to make adjustments to fences, etc., in support of this priority. The District's legal counsel reviewed the related documents and worked directly with Village counsel to make the changes necessary to ensure that the project allows for as normal an experience for our students and families as is possible.

Dr. Barnhart reported that the construction was slated to begin at the start of 2019 and is expected to be completed midway through baseball season, which is relevant because the baseball fields at Field Park will be affected. The ensuing Board discussion included a request for Dr. Barnhart to ask the Village about (i) the background checks for workers that will be in the areas outside (but nearby) the school, (ii) confirmation that the structure at the new well site will not be on District property, and (iii) reiteration that the land the Village requires be returned to pre-construction condition.

Ms. O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sendaydiego, to approve the Village Temporary Construction Access Easement Resolution that was in the Board's advance meeting materials. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jeanne Padgett, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

Approve Non-Certified Staff - Lisa Ciaravino

Ms. O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Garvin, to approve non-certified staff Lisa Ciaravino. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jeanne Padgett, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Education Committee

Mr. Lettiere, Education Committee Chair, asked Dr. Coffey to report on the progress of the standards based report card committee. Dr. Coffey reminded the Board that while last year, the standards based report card committee consisted of K - 8th grade representatives and was focused on research, this year the committee is comprised of a team of kindergarten through 5th grade teachers and specialists who are building the framework of a standards based report card and establishing the process of converting traditional report cards to standards based report cards. Three levels of staff communications have been developed which review committee rationale for shifting to standards based report cards, explain how changes will be implemented for each content area, and anticipated impact at each grade level. These presentations provide consistent feedback opportunities between committee representatives and the broader elementary staff.

Building Committee

Mr. McLawhorn, Building Committee Chair, reported the girls' locker room at McClure is nearing completion and the installation of cameras at the elementary schools have been finalized. The District has received initial renderings for the renovations to the Field Park library and computer lab, and the renderings have been reviewed by representatives from the Field Park staff.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Padgett reported for the Finance Committee that there was a substantial amount of facility improvements this month, approximately \$120,000 that included the repair of the Laidlaw roof, security cameras installations at the three elementary buildings, and finalization of the renovations of the McClure office and McClure girls' locker room.

Mrs. Padgett moved to approve October payables in the total amount of \$1,688,143.22 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.

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Mrs. Padgett reported that fund balances were running within \$100,000 of this time last year at \$13,556,595.39 for October 2018.

Policy/Legislative Committee

Mrs. Secord, Policy/Legislative Committee Chair, reported that she will continue to bring policy revisions to the board. Dr. Barnhart commented that there was a need to create a policy on bicycle and pedestrian walking safety based on recent legislation passed in Illinois. As an aside, Mrs. Secord expressed gratitude and appreciation for the D101 teachers, some of whom participated in over 70 individual parent teacher conferences over two days. Mrs. Secord acknowledged that it is phenomenal that we have that level of participation. The Board agreed with Mrs. Secord's comments and thanked the teachers for their commitment to making conferences a meaningful undertaking.

Communications Committee

Mrs. Garvin, Communications Chair, reported that the committee has a fluid working document from which the June Board newsletter will be created. Mrs. Garvin asked the Board to be sure to visit the D101 website home page that has been frequently updated over the past month with items such as the McClure on the Mic elective, the first graders' Kindness Campaign in collaboration with the Western Springs Business Association, and featured some new content, including a "What I'm Reading" section. Mrs. Garvin also acknowledged Mrs. Hill's development of the *D101 Insider* newsletter created to inform D101 employees about employee benefits. The newsletter also supports work in response to the vibe initiative initiated by the Board. Mrs. Garvin thanked teacher Lisa Swanson who created the graphics for the newsletter. Mrs. Garvin commented that as an employer, the District cannot forget to tell our employees about the benefits that are available to them, which is one of the goals of the D101 Insider.

Educational Foundation

Mrs. Sendaydiego, Board liaison for the Western Springs Foundation for Educational Excellence (WSFEE), reported that WSFEE did not approve any new grants at their last meeting, however the third graders had just attended their WSFEE sponsored field trip to the Chicago History Museum that was supported by a previously-approved Foundation grant. Drs. Barnhart and Coffey are currently writing a WSFEE grant request for innovative instructional space renovations.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. O'Connor noted no correspondence in the Board packet.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

At 7:15 p.m., Ms. O'Connor requested a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss personnel, negotiation, and legal matters. The Board will return to Open Session following Closed Session. Mrs. Garvin made a motion and Mr. McLawhorn 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 7:48 p.m., Mrs. Garvin moved to return to Regular Session. Mrs. Sendaydiego 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

Student Stress Follow-Up

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey overviewed for the Board one of the important processes and tools the District currently uses to proactively identify students under stress, especially those students who are internalizers, as these students are particularly difficult to identify without an express and structured plan and tool. They overviewed how Review 360 is used in this fashion, and connected this update with the eye-opening student stress data included in last month's discussion of the Illinois Youth Survey results. An interactive discussion followed.

Calendar Discussion

The Board held a lengthy and interactive discussion on the calendar drafts presented to them previously. Drs. Barnhart and Coffey reiterated the two factors that were considered and integrated into Draft C and provided to Board members just this evening. Through their conversation, the Board asked that a revised Calendar C be created that included a later first day of school by three days. The concept is that a later start was received well multiple years ago in conjunction with the building expansion project, while

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simultaneously meeting the need of creating a last day of school that did not fall on a Friday. The Board asked that D101 teacher feedback be solicited in advance of the December Board Meeting. Early calendar adoption is helpful for parent and staff planning purposes.

Finance Committee

Dr. Barnhart and Mrs. Padgett overviewed an upcoming Finance Committee Meeting to be held on December 3. At that meeting topics such as the December Levy Hearing, the still-awaited receipt of the FY 2018 audit, and other related issues would be discussed in detail. Dr. Barnhart noted that a full draft levy presentation was included in each Board member's materials. He overviewed some likely highlights of the upcoming Levy, as well as overviewed some of the issues delaying the release of our formal FY 2018 audit. A short interactive discussion followed.

Security Camera Software Opportunities

Ms. O'Connor provided the full Board with an overview of a recent meeting she and Dr. Barnhart had with a software representative. The software company is piloting its weapon detection product in two schools. A lengthy discussion ensued, including topical discussions on the basics of the claimed functionality of the software, monitoring processes, cost structure, and implementation logistics. The Board generally supported further evaluation of the product, and Dr. Barnhart agreed to follow-up and bring more detailed information to the Board in the coming months.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

At 8:53 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



Julie O'Connor
Board of Education President