

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

**NOVEMBER 14, 2019
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Lonzo inquired as to the District's public stance on the issue recently in the media regarding a resolution under consideration by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) relating to arming teachers with guns.

The Board thanked Ms. Lonzo for her public inquiry and responded that District 101 does not have a resolution on this topic under consideration, as the District is not a member of the IASB.

Dr. Barnhart shared some background on the pending legislation regarding arming teachers. The IASB has requested that one designee from each of its school board members cast a vote on this topic. Dr. Barnhart reiterated that since our Board is not a member of the IASB, we do not have a delegate, and therefore, we do not have a vote. He went on to say that while District 101 has never taken a public position on the issue, there has never been an inclination of the Board or Administration to arm our staff. The position of whether or not this type of decision should be a State- or local level decision is a larger policy matter.

Ms. Lonzo thanked the Board for the information and shared that Mrs. Corrough has done a wonderful job sharing relevant information about the current lockdown drill procedures for students at Forest Hills and asked how she could become more informed about District security.

Ms. O'Connor and Dr. Barnhart replied that the best way to learn more about the Board's conversations on safety and security is to attend Board meetings and/or read our meeting minutes that are posted on the D101 website. Dr. Barnhart continued that there are twice yearly drills that include both students and staff, and are run jointly with Western Springs Fire and Police Departments. Dr. Barnhart also commented that even if statewide legislation is passed related to arming teachers in schools, local control on this topic for each school district is anticipated to remain in force.

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 6:45 p.m., in the McClure Junior High School Library Learning Center, 4225 Wolf Road, Western Springs, Illinois 60558.

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Ms. O'Connor asked a student in attendance to lead the Board of Education and those in the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. O'Connor acknowledged the presence of Dr. Barnhart and Dr. Coffey and guests, including the parents and players of the 8th grade girls basketball team and coach Dan Leddy.

On roll call, the following answered present: Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor and Caitlin Sendaydiego. Mrs. Adler was absent due to a family obligation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Garvin moved, seconded by Mrs. Heit to approve the minutes of the Regular and Closed Minutes from the meeting of October 28, 2019.

On roll call, the following voted yes: Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. O'Connor had no report given the short amount of time since the previous meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Barnhart shared that he has three quick updates for the Board, and then we would move to the best part of the agenda, congratulating the basketball team members in attendance tonight.

Dr. Barnhart reminded the Board that the annual levy hearing would be held at our December 16 meeting, preceded by the Board's Finance Committee meeting. He continued with congratulations to all of the schools, but especially to Forest Hills, who hosted the annual D101 Veterans Day Assembly. The assembly went extremely well and was attended by 15 local Veterans. Dr. Barnhart then commented that the upcoming week is American Education Week and D101 staff would be celebrated in recognition.

Dr. Barnhart introduced Principal Dan Chick who introduced Dan Leddy, coach of the undefeated 8th grade girls basketball team. Coach Leddy shared that this team had gone undefeated for both their 7th grade and 8th grade seasons, finishing the current season with a 15-0 record. He then introduced each member of the basketball team and the girls received a round of applause.

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Dr. Barnhart congratulated the girls, sharing with the Board that the championship game was won by an absolute buzzer beater. Ms. O'Connor commented that she enjoys recognizing both the academic and athletic accomplishments of D101 students and hopes the girls keep up the good work as they move into high school next year.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve Non-Certified Staff

Mrs. Sendaydiego made a motion to approve non-certified staff of: David Espinoza, McClure Evening Custodian; Shaun Gartman, Lisa Lopez and Nancy Stoettner, Special Education Assistants. Ms. Cahill seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

Approve PTAB Resolution

Dr. Barnhart commented that the District's primary attorney, Mr. Nemanich, moved from Hinshaw and Culbertson to Klein Thorpe a couple of years ago. When we have a tax appeal and wish to utilize his services, the Board has to grant approval for him/them to represent us with the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) via the included Resolution.

Mrs. Heit made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lettiere, to approve the PTAB Resolution. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

Approve Leaves

Ms. O'Connor made a motion to approve the maternity leave request for Megan Wieszcholek, 5th grade teachers at Laidlaw. Ms. Garvin seconded the motion.

On roll call, the following voted yes: Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Education Committee

Mr. Lettiere, Education Committee Chair, reported that the Standards Based Report Card format would be sent to parents next week and asked any Board members who received them on behalf of their students to please share their feedback.

Building Committee

Mrs. Adler, Building Committee Chair, was absent so Dr. Barnhart reported that Metropolitan Corporation met all Board parameters for approval of low bid for the renovation of the Field Park library. The work will begin over Thanksgiving week and the plan is for work to be completed by mid-January.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Sendaydiego reported for the Finance Committee, that the bills this month were as expected. One invoice that stood out was for the attendance of 12 staff members at a conference on building emotional resilience in students. A second invoice of note was for our LADSE classes and services. Mrs. Sendaydiego moved to approve November 2019 expenditures and liabilities in the total amount of \$1,566,967.12; Ms. O'Connor seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

Mrs. Sendaydiego reported the Fund Balance was \$12,915,757.47 at end of October and shared that the gap between this year and last year's fund balance was investigated and, as expected, it was confirmed that while we are \$600,000 below this time last year in our fund balance, we are \$700,000 ahead in expenses, thus the year-to-year comparison makes sense, more so than last month's nearly- one million shortfall from the same period last year.

Policy/Legislative Committee

Mrs. Heit, Policy/Legislative Committee Chair, had no report.

Communications Committee

Mrs. Garvin, Communications Chair, reminded the administrative team to forward information for the June 2020 Board newsletter now and throughout the year.

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Educational Foundation

Ms. Cahill, Board liaison for the Western Springs Foundation for Educational Excellence (WSFEE), reported that WSFEE members reviewed and approved a grant to split the cost for elementary risers just in time for the upcoming holiday performances.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. O'Connor noted there was no correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

At 7:04 pm, Ms. O'Connor requested a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for approximately 45 minutes to discuss personnel, legal, and negotiations matters. The Board will return to Open Session following Closed Session, and will check for any remaining attendees. Mrs. Garvin made a motion and Mrs. Heit seconded to adjourn to Closed Session. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 8:16 pm, Mrs. Garvin moved to return to Regular Session. Ms. O'Connor seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

OTHER

Calendar Discussion

The full Board engaged in an interactive discussion about the two draft calendars provided for their review for the 2020-21 school year. Following these discussions, it was agreed that several changes that merged ideas found in each of the two original drafts should be integrated into a new draft for consideration. Dr. Barnhart noted that he would create this for the Board's review in December, and would also forward this new draft to WSEA to gather teacher feedback. It is likely that January will be our month to approve next year's school calendar, a timeline very much in line with our normal parameters.

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Finance and Building Committee updates

It was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet at 8:00 am on Friday, November 22 if member Meredith Adler could attend. Dr. Barnhart would facilitate the related calendar communication. Dr. Barnhart and Mrs. Sendaydiego shared that the following topics would dominate the Finance Committee's agenda:

- Preparation for the December 16 Levy/Levy Hearing
- Review of the Draft FY 2019 Audit
- Preparation of the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) portion of the FY 2019 audit

Legal & Policy Discussion

Dr. Barnhart provided a brief update on a couple of policy/procedure issues related to the recent legislative changes enacted in Illinois.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

At 8:50 pm, Mr. Lettiere moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Heit seconded the motion, and all voted yes.



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



Julie O'Connor
Board of Education President