

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

**OCTOBER 28, 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 6:45 p.m., in the McClure Junior High School Library Learning Center, 4225 Wolf Road, Western Springs, Illinois 60558.

Ms. O'Connor led 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.

On roll call, the following answered present: Meredith Adler, Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. O'Connor commented that the September 30, 2019 Regular session Board minutes had been slightly revised since the Board had received them last week. There were no requests to further amend these minutes. Mrs. Adler moved, seconded by Mrs. Garvin, to approve the minutes of the Regular and Closed Minutes from the meeting of September 30, 2019.

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

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. O'Connor noted that a local newspaper ran an article which included comments by Marty Brown, a former D101 Board member, on the topic of the lawsuits between Lyons Township High School District 204 and the TTO. She commented that Mr. Brown is certainly within his right to share his own perspective and opinions on the lawsuit as a private citizen, but shared that he is not authorized to speak on behalf of the current D101 Board. If any Board member receives inquiries based on this local article, she asked that they be referred to Ms. O'Connor or Dr. Barnhart.

Ms. O'Connor also shared that a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request had been received regarding email correspondences between Board members and various board members from other LTHS feeder schools. She went on to note that the D101 Board had been invited to meet with representatives from the other feeder schools and Representative

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

**OCTOBER 28, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Jim Durkin previously to discuss how to best improve the collective relationship with the TTO. In complying with this request, Dr. Barnhart had shared email exchanges between Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Lettiere and the other feeder schools on this topic. The communications that occurred between D101 Board members and board members of other LT feeder districts were aligned with the authority and intentions of the D101 school board, as discussed with them at that time.

Ms. O'Connor reported that the topic of full day kindergarten was being discussed on specific Western Springs-related social media. Ms. O'Connor shared that full day kindergarten was extensively researched and discussed by the Board and members of the community in 2015. The 2015 discussion evaluated half-day kindergarten, which is mandated by the State of Illinois, versus full-day kindergarten, as well as a creative extended-day kindergarten option that provided a hybrid option between full-day kindergarten and after-school care. This information has been assembled for the new board members in order to give them historical background. She noted that there does not appear to be any new information out there that might cause the Board to reconsider this issue; however, Ms. O'Connor emphasized that the 2015 decision does not preclude this topic from being re-evaluated by the Board in the future.

Ms. O'Connor shared that the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) will soon be voting on a proposal to decide whether or not they will support legislation to allow school staff to carry guns in class. The D101 Board of Education is not a member of the IASB and therefore, does not get a vote.

In conclusion, Ms. O'Connor informed the Board that a follow-up parent meeting was held on October 16 at Laidlaw school to provide the opportunity for face-to-face conversation regarding the Laidlaw first grade classroom size issue. The meeting was attended by Dr. Barnhart, Ms. DeBartolo, several D101 Board members and approximately fifteen parents and a good discussion ensued.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Barnhart shared that next month the Board would be recognizing the McClure Girls' 8th grade basketball team for completing their undefeated season in grand fashion, winning the Hodgkins Park District championship tournament last week with a literal "buzzer beater."

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

**OCTOBER 28, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

On the topic of full-day kindergarten as referenced by Ms. O'Connor, Dr. Barnhart reminded the Board that currently Laidlaw uses 1.5 classrooms for kindergarten's 3 half-day sessions and Forest Hills and Field Park each use 1.0 classrooms for their morning and afternoon half-day kindergarten sessions. Since half-day kindergarten is mandated by the State, if D101 moved to full-day kindergarten, the space required would increase to 3.5 classrooms at Laidlaw and 2.5 classrooms at Forest Hills and Field Park. Ms. O'Connor added that while space is certainly a factor, the Board and the administration have always agreed that if full-day kindergarten was determined to be in the best interest of the students, the space issue would be resolved. One resolution that was considered in 2015 was having all students enrolled in half-day kindergarten at one school location; however, that approach conflicts with the long-held belief that our neighborhood schools approach is in the best interest of all of our students. Dr. Barnhart also noted that the 2013 building renovations did take into account potentially needing to accommodate full-day kindergarten, hence the inclusion of new construction kindergarten-ready classrooms being built next to current kindergarten classrooms.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the impact of the Illinois legislature mandating full-day kindergarten and the possibility of universal pre-kindergarten being mandated by the State.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Accept Retirements**

Mrs. Garvin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Heit, to approve the retirement of Mike Wilkin, Director of Maintenance and Operations, effective September 30, 2019.

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

**Accept Resignations**

Mr. Lettiere made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sendaydiego, to approve the resignations of Monica Hill, First Grade Teaching Assistant; Alexandria Srbinovski, Sp. Ed. Teaching Assistant and Mary Jane Wilkin, McClure Custodian.

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

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

**OCTOBER 28, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

**Accept Maternity Leaves**

Dr. Barnhart asked the Board to consider the maternity leave request from Katie Johnston at their places in addition to the ones in the board packet. Ms. Cahill made a motion to approve the maternity leave requests for Katie Johnston, 1.0 Special Education Assistant; Katie Maley, Spanish Teacher at Forest Hills and Field Park; and Anna Monahan, Kindergarten teacher at Laidlaw. Mrs. Heit seconded the motion.

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

**Approve Employment of Non-Certified Staff**

Mrs. Adler made a motion and Mrs. Garvin seconded it, to approve the employment of non-certified staff Sandra Novak as a 1:1: Teaching Assistant at Laidlaw.

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

**Approve Semi Annual Release of Closed Session Minutes**

Mrs. Garvin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sendaydiego to approve the semi-annual release of Closed Session minutes from March 2019 through August 2019, excluding the May 2019 minutes.

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

**Approve the Semi Annual Release of Closed Session Recordings**

Mrs. Garvin made a motion, seconded by Ms. O'Connor to approve the destruction of Closed Session recordings from November 2017 through April 2018.

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

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

**OCTOBER 28, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS**

**Education Committee**

Mr. Lettiere, Education Committee Chair, reported that he had seen the Standards Based Reporting report card and it looked good. The report card template will be posted on the website this week.

**Building Committee**

Mrs. Adler, Building Committee Chair, reported that bids were received for the Field Park library renovation and DLA is working with one respondent on their bid to see what adjustments can be made to reduce the cost so that it more closely aligns with our expectations. The Board will further discuss this later in the meeting, with the possibility of acting to approve an apparent low-bidder later in this evening's agenda.

**Finance Committee**

Mrs. Sendaydiego reported for the Finance Committee that Board members may have noticed that we paid ourselves \$48,000 this month and explained that the District collects monies for different programs and then delivers it back out to the appropriate parties following the collection of fees at Registration. A notable entry in this month's financials is payment for the second visit from Carl Hooker who is working with our Digital Innovators team.

Mrs. Sendaydiego moved to approve October 2019 expenditures and liabilities in the total amount of \$1,447,723.83.

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

Mrs. Sendaydiego reported the Fund Balance was \$13,714,355.51 which is 1 million below where we were this time last year. Dr. Barnhart had shared that he expected the difference between the year-to-year fund balances. Some of this difference is due to the lower starting fund balance at the onset of the 2020 fiscal year, but he will look for other detail information in the upcoming days.

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

**OCTOBER 28, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Mrs. Sendaydiego referenced the revised September 2019 expenditures, inclusive of revised and accurate payroll figures, and requested made a motion to approve these expenditures. Ms. O'Connor seconded the motion.

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

**Policy/Legislative Committee**

Mrs. Heit, Policy/Legislative Committee Chair, reported that there had been a recent amendment to the Open Meetings Act. The amendment stated that appointment, employment, compensation, performance and/or dismissal for individuals who serve as independent contractors or volunteers may now be discussed in Closed session of a Board meeting.

**Communications Committee**

Mrs. Garvin, Communications Chair, commented that putting the final SBR report card template on the website was a good idea.

**Educational Foundation**

Ms. Cahill, Board liaison for the Western Springs Foundation for Educational Excellence (WSFEE), reported that WSFEE members toured some of the R4I classrooms and were hoping to get video testimonials from the teachers about how the new classrooms are assisting them and their students. A classroom library grant was approved and the planning for the May dinner dance continues.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. O'Connor noted there was no correspondence.

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:06pm Ms. O'Connor requested a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel, legal, and negotiations matters. The Board will return to Open Session following Closed Session. Mrs. Garvin made a motion and Mrs. Sendaydiego

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

**OCTOBER 28, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

seconded to adjourn to Closed Session. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meredith Adler, Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

At 7:52 p.m., Mrs. Sendaydiego moved to return to Regular Session. Mrs. Garvin seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meredith Adler, Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

**OTHER**

**Policy Discussion**

Dr. Barnhart overviewed the procedure changes recommended by our legal counsel to bring Policy #5125 – Investigation of Students By Non-School Personnel – into compliance with neg legislative requirements ensuring that parents have say in who may be in the room prior to such an investigation taking place. A short discussion ensued, with all Board members supporting these procedural changes, with an acknowledgement from Dr. Barnhart that formal approval is not needed due to the fact that this is a procedural change rather than a policy change. Its substantive impact, however, necessitated a meaningful conversation at the Board level prior to implementation.

**Miscellaneous**

Dr. Barnhart shared that Mr. Chick had been pursuing a wrestling option for McClure students this year via partnering with Gurrie Middle School in District 105. However, it appears there is some additional logistical steps that need to take place. We will be looking at next year's wrestling season to begin this partnership, with additional information coming to the Board next school year.

Dr. Barnhart shared with the Board that gender neutral signage at each building has been hung to identify gender neutral bathroom options, ahead of the January 1, 2020 legislative requirement. It has been noticed and commented on positively by some interested parents.

**Audit - Management Discussion and Analysis**

Ms. O'Connor overviewed the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) portion of the audit, and the processes generally used by the D101 Board to create it. A short discussion

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

**OCTOBER 28, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

ensued, including likely timelines moving forward into November. Per the Board's agreement that the Board would like to get this process moving forward, Dr. Barnhart would be reaching out to our partner at audit firm Miller Cooper to push for an earlier-than-usual delivery of the MD&A template and Fy 2019 Audit draft.

**School Report Card**

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey briefed over some highlights for the District's 2019 School Report Card that would be unembargoed in the next two days. This overview included:

- Expectations that all four D101 schools would reach the "Exemplary" status, the highest status given by the State. Dr. Barnhart noted that status levels were based on a wide number of criteria including student performance, 5Essentials data, and other indicators correlated with school success.
- They overviewed expected ELA (77%), Math (75%), and Science (83%) proficiency results for all students, results that if confirmed, would be the highest in D101 since the move to PARCC-like testing several years ago.
- Strong likely Academic Growth indicators relative to other high-performing districts and student in both ELA and mathematics.
- Class size, spending, funding, and teacher metrics that indicate strength in performance and preparation, while still being mindful of limited local resources.

**Kindergarten and First Grade**

Dr. Barnhart briefly reviewed some of the 2015 Full-Day Kindergarten materials that were included in Board packets to provide current members with research, historical, and other background details important to know should a revisiting of the FDK issue take place in the near future. A short discussion ensued.

Mrs. Sendaydiego and Mrs. Heit provided the rest of the Board with their impressions of the recent October 16 parent meeting with Laidlaw first grade parents, as they were in attendance that evening. An interactive discussion followed.

**Field Park Library Renovation Bids**

Dr. Barnhart overviewed for the full Board detailed scope and financial details he had learned from DLA lead architect Brian Scully, following Mr. Scully's deep dive into the project bids, including follow-up conversations with Metropolitan Corporation, the apparent low responsible bidder. A lengthy and interactive discussion followed, with Board



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

**OCTOBER 28, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

members seeking to better understand how scope and project details might lead to savings beyond the submitted bids. In the end, the Board was supportive of moving forward with the project, contingent on Metropolitan providing some “not to exceed” guarantees. Dr. Barnhart was asked to follow-up to see if these could be guaranteed in writing.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approve Field Park Library Renovation Bid**

Mrs. Heit made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lettiere, to approve the Field Park Library Renovation bid as submitted by Metropolitan, contingent on the not-to exceed requests discussed by the Board above, guarantees that included potential savings related to the addendum approval for relocating the circulation desk, vendor provided sliding doors, and project delivery over the December to mid-January timeframe.


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

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

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



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



Julie O'Connor  
Board of Education President