

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

**SEPTEMBER 24, 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 7:15 p.m., in the McClure Junior High School Library Learning Center, 4225 Wolf Road, Western Springs, Illinois 60558.

Ms. O'Connor welcomed visitors and 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: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn. Jeanne Padgett was unable to attend due to a family obligation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Garvin moved, seconded by Mc. McLawhorn, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2018. All voted yes.

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. O'Connor shared that the evening's meeting would include the formal budget hearing. She noted for the Board that while there would be time for questions, the budget presented in last month's meeting had not changed.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Student Enrollment 2018 - 2019**

Dr. Barnhart referenced the 2018 - 2019 student enrollment as of August and noted that the total enrollment of 1,441 students is up 10 students from last year at this time. He also noted, with examples of our current grade levels, that District class sizes tend to increase over time. It is anticipated that with the relatively positive state of the economy, we can expect this slight growth in enrollment to continue in the coming years.

At a recent meeting of Lyons Township area superintendents, the group agreed to recommend to their respective Districts, to obtain an updated Kasarda Enrollment Study in the Fall of 2019. Dr. Barnhart reminded the Board that the District updated projections a few years ago when full-day kindergarten was under consideration.

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**New Staff Overview**

Dr. Barnhart reported that the District has a total of 8 new staff members consisting of 4 teachers (Sarah Funk, 2nd grade at Laidlaw; Tammy Sluis and Thomas Sturm, Language Arts at McClure; and Megan Wieszcholek, 5th grade at Laidlaw), a library learning center director (Monica Fumarolo), and 3 special education teachers (Hailey O'Malley, Vanessa Norman, and Hannah Drogosz). Dr. Barnhart commented that the District was able to attract many qualified candidates to select from, including several with prior experience in D101. The mid-contract compensation adjustments made by the Board have helped attract quality new staff and retain our existing excellent staff.

Dr. Coffey updated the board regarding the after school Fusion program. She shared that previously this program was created and provided in partnership with the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA). However, for this year, our staff requested to take this program in-house, creating our own modules based on our prior experiences with IMSA, and allowing more District students to participate. Participation in the program has significantly increased, and 61% of this year's participating students are girls. Part of the program's continued development is to infuse elements of the program into math and science classrooms to reach even more students. Positive feedback has been received from parents regarding this year's program and the opportunity for all interested students to participate.

**Adjourn to Budget Hearing**

Next, the Board adjourned from the regular Board meeting and begin the budget hearing portion of the meeting. Mrs. Garvin made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting to enter the budget hearing, and Mr. McLawhorn seconded the motion. On roll call, the following answered present: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

Dr. Barnhart began the budget hearing by reiterating the main points from last month's budget presentation, including that the fiscal year 2018 budget was positively impacted by (i) an unexpected payment by the State of funds past-due to the District and (ii) a newly adopted school financing system from the State that, while not providing additional revenue to District 101, did not negatively impact our State aid. He noted that approximately ninety-two per cent of our revenue comes from local sources.

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Dr. Barnhart pointed out that the Education Fund for FY 2019 shows a large increase over last year's budget, which is a function of the December 2017 levy. He reiterated the point from last month's budget presentation that 75 cents of every dollar spent by the District goes to staff salaries and benefits in support of the District's goal to stay competitive in the market to attract and retain talented teachers and staff. Comparatively, per the State's School Report Card data, District 101 allocates a significantly larger proportion of our budget funds to core instruction than the State average.

As Dr. Coffey noted at the August Tentative Budget presentation, the remaining twenty-five percent of the budget can be considered more of the discretionary part of our budget and includes both "must do" items, such as the roof coping, tuck pointing and safety improvements, as well as general upgrades and maintenance to our aging facilities such as bathroom updates. She also noted that with our relatively lean budget, actively managing this 25% is a strategic aspect of the long-term budgeting process. In the past year, the District negotiated lower health care premiums (down 2.2%), copier lease (down 37%), and paper procurement costs (down 1%), which all helped in managing our costs.

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey responded to various questions from the Board members. Highlights and key takeaways include:

- Revenues of \$19.164M, an increase of 2.1% from last year primarily driven by a Consumer Price Index of that same percentage (2.1%).
- Expenditures of \$19.625M, an increase of 4.8% from 2018 actual expenses.
  - Nearly all of this year's anticipated increases are attributable to salary and benefit increases for certified and non-certified staff.
  - Budgeted expenditures are up 3.3% from budgeted expenses for FY 2018.
- When capital expenditures are removed, a fiscal year surplus of \$33,500 is expected.
- Year-end fund balances are projected to be nearly \$9.6M, which represents approximately 49% of the annual budget. Best practice recommendations suggest total fund balances remain between 35-55% on an annual basis. Our current and expected status is in line with those recommendations.

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey shared that the Illinois legislature seems to be pleased with the State education budget, and that as long as statewide revenues continue to meet expectations, State support of the District should remain flat but stable.

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Ms. O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Garvin, to return to the regular board meeting. Dr. Barnhart requested a roll call. On roll call, the following answered present: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn. The regular meeting of the board resumed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approve 2018 - 2019 Budget**

Ms. O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lettiere, to approve the 2018 - 2019 budget as presented. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

**Approve Employment of Non-Certified Staff**

Mrs. Garvin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sendaydiego, to approve employment of the following non-certified staff: Amy Czerwinski, Cynthia DeGrace, John Derrah, Stephanie Glisson, Julie Johnson, and London Rideaux. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

**Approve Certified Staff**

Mr. McLawhorn made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Garvin, to approve employment for the 2018 - 2019 school year of certified staff member, Teresa McClow, a Speech and Language Pathologist at McClure, filling a long-term leave position. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

**Approve Retirement Request**

Ms. O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Mr. McLawhorn, to approve the retirement request of Karen Moutvic, Language Arts teacher at McClure, effective the end of the 2022 - 2023 school year. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

**Approve Board Policies #4023 and #4121**

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Mrs. Secord made a motion, seconded by Mr. McLawhorn, to approve Board Policy #4023 "Equal Pay" and #4121 "Tobacco/Vaping Prohibition". On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

Dr. Barnhart asked Mr. Chick to update the Board with information from a recent meeting with local middle school principals. Mr. Chick shared that McClure would be one of the middle schools hosting a parent presentation about the dangers of vaping. The presentation will have an interactive component in the form of a replica teenage bedroom, complete with hidden paraphernalia used for vaping. Parents and the community will be invited to attend the presentation which will take place on November 1 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. While our health classes at McClure cover the dangers of vaping, there was only one disciplinary infraction related to vaping last year.

**Approve Resignation Request**

Ms. O'Connor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Garvin, to approve the resignation request of Emily Spaargaren, a Special Education Teaching Assistant at Field Park, effective September 28, 2018. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS**

**Education Committee**

Mr. Lettiere, Education Committee Chair, shared progress on developing K - 5 standards-based reporting. The Digital Leadership Corps team met with Carl Hooker, and staff feedback was very positive.

Dr. Coffey shared that the standards based reporting exploration was a bottoms-up request from the K-5 team. The committee is working on translating our values into report cards, and investigating how to achieve this using labels, symbols and/or adjectives. The feedback from parents will be important, and a focus group of parents for the initial roll-out of standards based reporting is being considered. The tentative schedule is to roll-out the complete program at the elementary schools next year, with the potential for a partial or

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practice roll-out as early as second semester of –this school year. Following investigation, we believe that Powerschool will be able to support standards based reporting.

**Building Committee**

Mr. McLawhorn, Building Committee Chair, had nothing to report and asked Dr. Barnhart to report on the status of the girls' locker room project. Dr. Barnhart shared that the painting is underway, and completion is expected by the end of October.

**Finance Committee**

Mrs. Sendaydiego reported for the Finance Committee, sharing that September's bill highlights are the summer bathroom renovations, the enhancements to the McClure entryway, and the Laidlaw roofing project. Mrs. Sendaydiego pointed out that expenditures, all in the wages category, expectedly doubled since school is now in session.

Mrs. Sendaydiego moved to approve September payables in the total amount of \$1,773,994.50. Ms. O'Connor seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

Mrs. Sendaydiego reported fund balances of \$15,895,114.04 as of August 31, 2018.

**Policy/Legislative Committee**

Mrs. Secord, Policy/Legislative Committee Chair, noted that policies to discuss later in the meeting include Drug-Free Workplace, fundraising, and parent organizations.

**Communications Committee**

Mrs. Garvin, Communications Chair, had no report.

**Educational Foundation**

Mrs. Sendaydiego, Board liaison for the Western Springs Foundation for Educational Excellence (WSFEE), reported that the grant window opened September 1. WSFEE is hoping to publish an annual report and has funded a Passports Program grant submission.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:51 p.m., Ms. O'Connor requested a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for approximately 40 minutes to discuss personnel and legal matters. The Board will return to Open Session following Closed Session. Mr. McLawhorn 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, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

At 9:01 p.m., Mrs. Garvin moved to return to Regular Session. Ms. O'Connor seconded the motion. On roll call, the following voted yes: Lisa Garvin, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor, Jamie Secord, Caitlin Sendaydiego, and Todd McLawhorn.

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

**Policy Revision Discussion**

Mrs. Secord led a discussion of the Board through the first-read of revised policy drafts for #4120 Drug-Free Workplace, #1210 Parent Organizations, and #2471 Fundraising. An interactive discussion followed, and it was agreed that Dr. Barnhart and Mrs. Secord would incorporate a handful of additional changes to the policy drafts, with expectations to approve policies #4120 and #1210 in October. The Board also anticipates a second read and discussion on the additionally revised #2471 in October.

**Math Discussions & Updates**

Dr. Barnhart provided the Board with an update on an advanced geometry approach being used in another LT Associate District. Feedback from the McClure math department and D101 Administration is that they do not believe a similar approach would benefit our students, but we will continue to monitor this approach and continue to interface with LT 204 on related topics. A brief full-Board discussion on the issue followed.

**Safety Issue Overview**

Dr. Barnhart provided the Board with feedback and recommendations from the Western Springs Fire Department (WSFD). The issue at hand was an element contained in the FEA Safety Report commissioned by the District in May/June. FEA recommended that we have

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discussions with WSFD about the door magnets used in classroom entry ways. WSFD recommended that they continue to be used because they provide the proper balance between quick lockdown ability for teachers with the need for fire safety precautions. The WSFD asked that we emphasize to our staff that in a fire emergency, magnets are removed to seal off classrooms from hallways, limiting a fire's ability to spread more easily. An interactive discussion followed, with Dr. Barnhart noting that this approach that will be taken by the District is simply for the Board's information. No Board action is necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

At 9:38 p.m., Mrs. Garvin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McLawhorn seconded the motion, and all voted yes.



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



Julie O'Connor  
Board of Education President