

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

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2019  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

At 6:30pm Public Comment began.

Kate DeProsperis, a parent of a first grade student at Laidlaw, shared her concern with the Board about the number of students in the first grade classes at Laidlaw. She inquired as to the process the Board would be undertaking in determining whether or not there was a need to add another class section. She noted that she has special concern for the "middle ability" students in this large group, as students at the high- and needier levels are most likely to receive the attention they need, she believes.

Stacey Wixted, also a parent of a first grade student at Laidlaw, shared with the Board that while she was a long-time D101 parent, she would encourage better communication to parents about the use of MAP, flexible grading, the process being used to assess the situation, and the size of the first grade classrooms.

The Board thanked both parents for their input and shared that parent participation is a part of the process in determining what is best for all of the students of D101. It was further communicated that a follow-up parent information meeting would be held on October 16 to provide updates, overview additional information, and answer additional parent questions, which should be especially helpful for the almost 50% of first-grade families in this group who are experiencing D101 for the first time with their first grade child.

**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 visitors and Dr. Barnhart and Dr. Coffey.

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

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Lisa Garvin moved, seconded by Meredith Adler to approve the minutes of the Regular and Closed Minutes from the meeting of August 26, 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 summarized the sequence of tonight's meeting and invited anyone interested to remain in attendance. She addressed a question posed during Public Comment regarding how parents can get the Board of Education to review policy or procedure regarding a specific issue. Ms. O'Connor shared that an individual may put together materials in support of their recommendation and request time to discuss with the Board, either as part of the formal agenda or possibly during the Public Comment period. She noted that this was a process parents have utilized in the past regarding full-day kindergarten, bussing, and other issues. Ms. O'Connor commented that the Board is closely monitoring the concerns raised regarding the first grade classroom sizes at Laidlaw, noting that virtually all the Board members participated in the September parent meeting held at Laidlaw to address parent questions.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Barnhart asked Principal Rachel Corrough if she would introduce her student, Libby Greenblatt, who was unable to attend the recent Board meeting where Writing Anthology students were recognized. Principal Corrough asked Libby to stand and be recognized for her work entitled, "Getting My Dog" and congratulated her.

Dr. Barnhart shared that progress has been made in terms of staffing the first grade classrooms at Laidlaw with certified teaching assistants, as well as multiple support staff present in the classrooms on a regular basis. Both Dr. Barnhart and Dr. Coffey reported having made visits to the first grade classrooms and observed that each classroom had established a smooth, and typical, first-grade daily routine. First grade parents received a communication following up on information discussed at the initial parent meeting in September, and he reiterated that a follow-up meeting for first-grade parents would be held the evening of October 16.

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Dr. Barnhart reported that total student enrollment in the District was a 1456, an increase of 17 from last school year. While this total number was closely projected by Kasarda and Associates, the school-specific projections had some major variation. Over the past three years, Forest Hills and Field Park have flip-flopped, with numbers increasing regularly at Forest Hills, while dropping - also relative to Kasarda projections - at Field Park. He noted that D101 would be re-upping with Kasarda this year to get a revised enrollment projection for the upcoming decade, a project being coordinated with the other Lyons Township districts. He went on to share that in the current school year, Field Park is down ten students from last school year, Forest Hills is up thirty-four students, Laidlaw down sixteen students, and McClure has seen an increase of nine students. A discussion ensued on the number of students electing to participate in open enrollment and the class size scenario projection if students remained at their assigned school.

Dr. Barnhart shared that Dan Chick had represented District 101 on ABC7 recently as a guest educator, addressing anxiety and depression in teenagers. Ms. O'Connor added that the Parent Community Network was hosting multiple events on topics regarding bullying and stress management over the next few months at Lyons Township High School.

**Adjourn to 2019 - 2020 Budget Hearing**

At 6:55 p.m., Mrs. Sendaydiego made a motion and Ms. O'Connor seconded to adjourn the regular Board meeting to begin the 2019 - 2020 Budget Hearing. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meredith Adler, Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

Dr. Barnhart shared that the 2019 - 2020 budget before the Board was the same as the tentative budget presented and discussed at last month's meeting. With a new teachers' contract in place through 2023 - 2024, as well as several other State issues static for the time being, the budget reflects stability in terms of salary, revenue streams, and expectations for the foreseeable future. With 92.6% of the budget funded through local taxes, it is imperative that the budget be student and teacher focused in its allocation of resources, and this year's budget meets that expectation. All but .3% of this year's budget increase is to be found in the Education Fund I, with more than \$.76 of every dollar going to support salary and benefits.

The budget before the Board is the result of multiple years of planning. The expected operational deficit, with capital expenditures factored out, is as anticipated, approximately \$141,000. The overall projected budget deficit in FY 20 is \$797K.

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Dr. Barnhart noted that it has been 17 years since the last school referendum, which was April, 2003. He anticipates that another referendum question could be placed before the community within three years, assuming conditions remain as expected.

At 7:12 p.m., following Board questions and comments, Ms. O'Connor made a motion and Mrs. Garvin seconded to adjourn the Budget Hearing and return to the regular board meeting. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meredith Adler, Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approve 2019 - 2020 Budget**

Mrs. Sendaydiego made a motion, and Ms. O'Connor seconded, to approve the 2019 - 2020 Budget. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meredith Adler, Meghan Cahill, Lisa Garvin, Kate Heit, Brett Lettiere, Julie O'Connor and Caitlin Sendaydiego.

**Approve Maternity Leave**

Mrs. Garvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lettiere, to approve the maternity leave request for Angela Barritt, Forest Hills kindergarten teacher, from January 16 through the end of the school year. 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. Heit seconded, to approve the employment of the following non-certified staff: Andy Brown, Barbara Glabus, Monica Hill, Megan O'Malley, Pamela Tawse, Erin Sczepanski and Abby Wenstrup. On roll call, the following voted yes: Meredith Adler, 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 Dr. Coffey continued to host “Coffee with Coffey” to provide opportunities for parents to ask questions about Standards Based Reporting in an informal setting.

**Building Committee**

Mrs. Adler, Building Committee Chair, reported that the library renovation rebid process has begun, with bids due October 15th. There has been no further information regarding the completion of the well project occurring adjacent to Field Park, although Mrs. Burger and Dr. Barnhart shared that the Village shared with them expectations for the project to conclude some time in November. Hillgrove Avenue road closures that will impact Field Park drop-off and pick-up will occur in mid-October according to the Village.

**Finance Committee**

Mrs. Sendaydiego reported notable expenditures this month included approximately \$50,000 for the Renovation for Innovation improvements, tech/instruction facilitator Carl Hooker’s first visit for our Digital Innovators group, and technology infrastructure expenditures.

Mrs. Sendaydiego moved to approve September 2019 expenditures and liabilities in the total amount of \$1,769,849.35.

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.

Mrs. Sendaydiego continued to share that Fund balance is \$15,008,494, approximately \$900,000 below this same time last year.

**Policy/Legislative Committee**

Mrs. Heit, Policy/Legislative Committee Chair, reported that the Board will continue the review of Board policies including the questioning of students by police, ~~the measles vaccine~~, the procedural, not policy, requirements in regards to special education, and the need to establish a threat assessment team and protocol. These will be on-going topics of conversation for the Board and administration in the months to come.

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**Communications Committee**

Mrs. Garvin, Communications Chair, commended Dan Chick for his interview regarding bullying and was proud that our District is out in front of this issue.

**Educational Foundation**

Ms. Cahill, Board liaison for the Western Springs Foundation for Educational Excellence (WSFEE), reported that the grant window opened on September 1st and encouraged those parents, teachers and community members with ideas to submit grant applications. She also shared that the WSFEE dinner dance will be held on May 16 at the Drake.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. O'Connor noted there was one piece of correspondence being sent to parents regarding the upcoming lockdown drills at each of our buildings.

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:19 pm, 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. Heit made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, and Mrs. Sendaydiego seconded. 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 8:03pm, Ms. O'Connor 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**

**Right At School**

Dr. Barnhart reported that Right At School was once again successfully providing before and after-school program options within each elementary school building. This year they are also supplying D101 with employees to staff the lunch/recess period at each school, assistance that is also working out very well.

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**Public Speaking**

Dr. Barnhart shared that the administrative team was moving forward working with Bradley Anderson on their presentation skills and communication efforts. While early in this work, benefits have already begun to be evident for some members of the team. Individualizing and extending this work is the plan moving forward.

**Legislative and Policy Discussion**

Drs. Barnhart and Coffey updated the Board with a summary of each of the policies, procedures, and curricular requirements the District needs to attend to due to new legislative requirements passed down this year. A lengthy discussion followed related to implications for the District, processes related to procedure and policy development, and timelines.

**Anti-Bullying Policy Review**

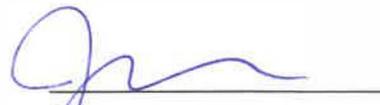
Dr. Barnhart led a discussion about the 2018 - 2019 bullying numbers provided by the building principals. Dr. Barnhart and Ms. O'Connor then led a review and discussion of the current Anti-Bullying policy, as required by law. Following a lengthy and interactive discussion, it was agreed by all parties that our current policy meets District needs at a high level. Dr. Barnhart shared that he would be providing this information to ISBE soon.

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

At 8:30pm, Mrs. Sendaydiego 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