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Regular Meeting Minutes
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 98
March 25, 2021 - 6:30 PM.
Berwyn North District Office
6633 W 16th Street; Berwyn, IL 60402
+1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 987 9764 1967
Passcode: 994610

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 6:34 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mounce, Swade, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, and Kulis-Kearns Valeriano
Members Video Conference: Arenella
Members Absent: Pabon

III. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Superintendent, Dr. Michelle Smith and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert Hubbard have been in communication with multiple colleges and universities in an effort to address the predicted teacher shortage. Dr. Smith, Francela Lopez, Eden Barragan, and Stephanie Gage participated in a virtual job fair sponsored by Education Week who is a national education publications. At this event there were 4,000 candidates attending the job fair. District 98 attracted about 18 to 20 candidates.
- B. The objective was to look for dual language, science, special education candidates to fill the positions that are going to be vacant for the next school year. However, by the time the event finished there was only one viable candidate identified out of about 20 people.
- C. Superintendent Smith advises that the Board decide on how interested they are in our district possibly paying for visas for people to come from other countries to teach for our district. There are people interested from Colombia, Peru, and a variety of other places, however, they need visas that would have to be paid for by our district because they don't have the money necessary to cover the cost for the visa. Francela and Dr. Smith spoke to an agency last year that targets teachers from other countries to come here to work, the cost per person would be around \$4,000 - \$5,000.
- D. Dr. Smith & Dr. Hubbard also puts forth the option of trying to grow our own teachers and program assistants if they have 60 college hours district would then pick up 2 years of their education for 4-5 years of service at Berwyn North School District 98.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None stated.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

- A. Member Swade thanked Prairie Oak teachers that held a math night on Tuesday and Ms. Castillo, Ms. Henning, for PreK and Mrs. Jaime for kindergarten for a short hour and they were able to do bingo and counting activities and he wanted to express his gratitude for doing this event for those the best thing that could have been done for students that haven't been able to be in school.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Special Meeting Minutes - 2/24/2021
2. Executive Meeting Minutes - 2/24/2021
3. Regular Meeting Minutes - 2/25/2021
4. Executive Meeting Minutes - 2/25/2021
5. Special Meeting Minutes 3/3/2021
6. Executive Meeting Minutes 3/3/2021

B. Approval of Personnel

1. New Hires:

- a. Marta Rodriguez, Program Assistant at Jefferson Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year.
- b. Michaela Thomas, Program Assistant at Havlicek Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year.
- c. Harrison Waite, Program Assistant at Havlicek Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year.
- d. Erick Dang, Substitute Teacher, Districtwide for the 2020-2021 School Year.
- e. George Ranisavljevic, Substitute Teacher, Districtwide for the 2020-2021 School Year.
- f. Elizabeth Garcia, Substitute Teacher, Districtwide for the 2020-2021 School Year.
- g. Nathaniel Marcus, Substitute Teacher, Districtwide for the 2020-2021 School Year.

2. Leaves:

- a. Arlene Musial, Program Assistant at Lincoln Middle School has requested an FMLA Leave continuation from the originally approved leave that began on January 14, 2021 and ended on February 19, 2021 continuing from March 18, 2021 through April 23, 2021.
- b. Christine Wear, Teacher at Prairie Oak Elementary School has requested a One Year Leave for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- c. Gina Parker, Teacher at Prairie Oak Elementary School has requested an FMLA Leave updated return date. Her leave began January 26, 2021 and updated return date from March 31, 2021 to April 28, 2021.
- d. Janice Brichta, Teacher at Prairie Oak Elementary School has requested an FMLA Leave to begin on April 6, 2021, and returning on June 7, 2021.
- e. Bianca Taylor, Teacher at Havlicek Elementary School has requested an FMLA Leave to begin on April 6, 2021, and returning on April 16, 2021.

3. Resignations:

- a. Leslie Grove, Teacher at Havlicek Elementary School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective the end of 2020-2021 School Year.
- b. Lauren Gomez, Teacher at Lincoln Middle School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective the end of the 2020-2021 School Year.
- c. Evelyn Donelson, PreKinder Specialist at Prairie Oak Elementary School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective the end of the 2020-2021 School Year.
- d. Douglas McGillivray, Teacher at Lincoln Middle School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective the end of the 2020-2021 School Year.
- e. Ana Flores, Teacher at Lincoln Middle School has submitted a Letter of Resignation effective the end of the 2020-2021 School Year.

4. Retirements:

5. Reassignment:
 - a. Vincent Cefali, from Teacher at Lincoln Middle School to Assistant Principal at Prairie Oak Elementary School effective on April 6, 2021.
6. Terminations:
7. Release of Teachers Covering a 1st Year Leave:
 - a. Mary Beth Burke, Teacher at Lincoln Middle School for the end of the 2020-2021 School Year.
8. Failure to advise Superintendent of intent to return, by February 1st, shall be treated as an election not to return to employment and as a resignation from the District (per contract for educators on an approved leave of absence):
 - a. Nicole Jedlowski, Teacher at Lincoln Middle School for the end of the 2020-2021 School Year.
 - b. Kathleen McGowan, Teacher at Havlicek Elementary School for the end of the 2020-2021 School Year.
 - c. Lindsey Mizerek, Teacher at Lincoln Middle School for the end of the 2020-2021 School Year.

C. Approval of Authorization of next month's payroll

1. Approval of Invoices – \$ 1,030,018.54
2. Approval of Monthly Payroll – \$ 1,832,638.74
3. Approval of Authorization of next month's payroll – April

D. Approval of Building Use Applications

1. Building Use - North Berwyn Park District - Prairie Oak Elementary School Gymnasium - 6/1/2021 - 8/6/2021 - (M-F) All Day
2. Building Use - North Berwyn Park District - Prairie Oak Elementary School Gymnasium - 6/7/2021 - 8/2/2021 - (M-Th) Evenings

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Board approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: A. Approval of Minutes, Items 1-6; B. Approval of Personnel, Items 1, 3-4, & 6-8, (Tabled: B2 & B5), C. Approval of Finances, Items 1-3, and D. Approval of Building Use Applications, Items 1-2 as submitted.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of NWEA Map Assessment

APPROVAL OF NWEA MAP ASSESSMENT

Member Arenella moved and was seconded by Member Paul-Emile that the Board approve the purchase of the NWEA Map Assessment.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

B. Approval of the 2021-2022 School Calendar

APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Board approve the 2021-2022 Tentative School Calendar.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

C. Approval of the 2021-2022 Schedule of Regular Board Meeting Dates

APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 SCHEDULE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Arenella that the Board approve the 2021-2022 Schedule of Regular Board Meeting Dates.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

D. Approval to Authorize Wight & Company's Services and Fees for the Jefferson STEAM/STEM Project

APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE WIGHT & COMPANY'S SERVICES AND FEES FOR THE JEFFERSON STEAM/STEM PROJECT

This item was tabled for the April Board Meeting.

E. Approval of Havlicek Elementary Asbestos Abatement Budget

APPROVAL OF THE HAVLICEK ELEMENTARY ASBESTOS ABATEMENT BUDGET

Member Swade moved and was seconded by Member Paul-Emile that the Board approve M & O for the Havlicek Elementary Asbestos Abatement Budget

F. Approval of E-Rates:

1. Managed Services – Sentinal 2 year Contract

APPROVAL OF E-RATE MANAGED SERVICES-SENTINAL 2 YEAR CONTRACT

Member Swade moved and was seconded by Member Paul-Emile that the Board approve the E-Rate for Managed Services – Sentinal 2 year contract.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

2. Fiber Optic Wan

APPROVAL OF E-RATE – FIBER OPTIN WAN

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Board approve the E-Rate for Fiber Optic Wan.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

G. Approval of Fine Arts Curriculum Specialist Position

APPROVAL OF FINE ARTS CURRICULUM SPECIALIST POSITION

This item was tabled for further discussion by the Board.

IX. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Monthly Fund Report

Regina Johnson, Business Manager, presented the monthly fund report to the Board and community.

B. Upcoming Events

March 26

End of Quarter 3

March 29 - April 2

Spring Break - No School

April 5

Conference Exchange Day - No School

April 6

Teacher Institute Day - No School

April 7

Classes Resume

April 29

BOE Meeting - District Office - 6:30 p.m.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Donna Miller, wanted to mention that Havlicek had a Bingo Night on Tuesday. She also shared to the Board that parents and students let her know that they missed the big Bingo gift by one number and that the event was well received and everyone had a good time.

B. Ms. Miller, also wanted to thank District 98, Berwyn North school nurses, and the National Guard for working with Morton East High School in Cicero and setting up a vaccination site. The site was well put together and it only took her 40 minutes to get her first vaccine. Her second shot is due the first day of Spring Break and she hopes to have no reaction from it. Ms. Miller is thankful to have been able to receive the vaccine.

C. Dr. Smith thanked the school nurses for a great job and added that all district staff that wanted to get vaccinated have now been vaccinated.

XI. BOARD COMMENT

A. Member Cuevas wanted to thank District 98 for looking into partnering with local vaccination sites in the area for our local senior population. Berwyn North is planning on busing seniors to the vaccination sites. Maria Teresa Barajas will be working with pillars whom are already working with seniors to get them vaccinated and help transport them to get vaccination sites in the Berwyn area. District 98 is willing to provide transportation on Saturdays if needed in order to help our seniors. Mrs. Cuevas is very grateful for all the work Berwyn North is doing with the community.

XII. ADJOURNMENT MOTION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, District 98 adjourn to Executive Session at 7:27 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2021 for the purpose of discussing the following items:

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5ILCS 120/2(c) (1).
2. Student disciplinary cases. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

3. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding must be recorded and entered into the minutes of The closed meeting; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
4. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

MOTION TO RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, District 98 reconvenes from Executive Session at 9:33 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL; ITEM B. #2 LEAVES OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Arenella that the Board approve the Item Leaves B-2 of the Consent Agenda.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL; ITEM B. #5 REASSIGNMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Board approve the Item Reassignments B-5 of the Consent Agenda.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 3 YEAR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR STEPHANIE MITCHELL FOR THE 2021-2024 SCHOOL YEARS AS THE FINE ARTS CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

Member Arenella moved and was seconded by Member Paul-Emile that the Board approve the 3 Year Employment Agreement for Stephanie Mitchell for the 2021-2024 School Years as the Fine Arts Curriculum Specialist.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. None stated.

XIV. OLD BUSINESS

A. None stated.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Member Paul-Emile moved and was seconded by Member Cuevas that the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education, District 98 adjourn at 9:40 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Swade, Arenella, Paul-Emile, Cuevas, Kulis-Kearns Valeriano, and Mounce.

Dr. Michelle Smith, Secretary

Adam R. Mounce, President

Jessica Ibarra

Visitors: 32 video conference participants