

Minutes of a Regular Board of Education Meeting of
McHenry Elementary School District 15, McHenry and Lake Counties, Illinois,
McHenry Middle School, 2120 Lincoln Rd., McHenry, IL 60051

December 7, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Chad Mihevc with the following Board Members present: Lindsay Morley, Rachel McDonnell, Matt Stauner, Jennifer Synek, Patrick DeGeorge, Arne Waltmire

Absent: None

Others present: Superintendent Josh Reitz, Assistant Superintendent Fred Laudadio, CSBO Jeff Schubert, Executive Director of Human Resources Brian Kilinski, Director of English Learners Maureen Cassidy, Director of Learning Jacquie Duginske and various staff and citizens.

President Mihevc called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and asked Mr. Stauner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of a Regular Board of Education Meeting November 9, 2021
 - Personnel Report
- CERTIFIED RESIGNATION/TERMINATION
- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Rachel Highland Teacher/RW & LM | | effective 12/30/21 |
| Ellen Sagendorph Social Worker/RW & LM | | effective 11/29/21 |
| Katie Breitholtz Bil. Spec. Ed Teacher/PK | | effective 5/24/22 |
- CERTIFIED RETIREMENT
- | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Jim Brucker Teacher/DK | | effective 2025/26 |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|
- CERTIFIED NEW HIRES
- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| Esmeralda Carbajal Bilingual Teacher/DK | \$55,450.00 | effective 12/8/21 |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
- CERTIFIED CHANGE IN STATUS
- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Jodi Wickenkamp .6 SLP to .7 SLP/ LM & HT | | effective 11/29/21 |
|---|--|--------------------|
- NON-CERTIFIED RESIGNATION/TERMINATION
- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Kevin Kidd Custodian/MMS | | effective 11/9/21 |
| Logan Peterson Grounds Custodian/Dist. | | effective 11/26/21 |
| Leanne Herda Café/HT | | effective 11/10/21 |
| John Maly Bus Aide/TR | | effective 11/22/21 |
| Abigail Maly Bus Aide/TR | | effective 11/19/21 |
| Phyllis Maly Dispatcher/TR | | effective 12/3/21 |
- NON-CERTIFIED NEW HIRES
- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| David Bryan Bus Driver/TR | \$18.00/hr. | effective 11/3/21 |
| John Costello Bus Driver/TR | \$18.00/hr. | effective 11/3/21 |
| Jim Matteucci Bus Driver/TR | \$18.40/hr. | effective 11/15/21 |
| Noelle Fox Playground/VV | \$12.00/hr. | effective 11/19/21 |
| Justin Settles Bus Driver/TR | \$18.00/hr. | effective 11/18/21 |

Matt Dittmer	Grounds Cust./Dist.	\$14.11/hr.	effective 12/6/21
Joyce Avent	Permanent Substitute Teacher/Dist.	\$200/day	effective 11/30/21
Zach Seward	IT Support Specialist/CO	\$24.00/hr.	effective 12/8/21
Brian Hagy	Custodian/MMS	\$14.11/hr.	effective 12/6/21

NON-CERTIFIED CHANGE IN STATUS

Robin Lucky	Bus Driver to Bus Driver/Cafe/LM	\$12.00/hr.	effective 10/15/21
Diana Gaeta	LM Night Cust. to HT Night Cust.		effective 11/15/21
Danielle Chalfant	HT Night Cust. to DK Night Cust.		effective 11/15/21
Stephanie Maher	Playground to ParaPro & Playground	\$12.00/hr.	effective 11/17/21
Vicki Romme	Bus Aide/Playground to Bus Aide/TR		effective 11/29/21

A motion was made by Morley, second by Stauner to approve the consent agenda.

Voting aye: Stauner, Synek, Waltmire, DeGeorge, McDonnell, Mihevc, Morley

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

I'd like to start off my report tonight by another piece of very Good News in that District 15 has been gifted a truly remarkable donation of 21,000 dollars from some very generous donors who wish to remain anonymous at this time. We were notified of this officially a couple of weeks ago with the intention of the donation being to earmark these funds to help get kids in need *things* that they need. With the establishment of these funds we have been quick at work with our student services department and social workers in particular to help us brainstorm the best way to use this money for its intended and needed purpose, and we believe we have some really great ideas on how we can utilize these funds to serve our students. It is hard to quantify the dramatic scope of how many students and families this donation will impact, but its reach will be profound and will allow us to immediately help so many kids who are in need. I want to thank our generous benefactors for this amazing donation once again as it really is a game changer for our schools in a lot of ways. One more note on this, you will notice that we are voting on the acceptance of this donation later on in this meeting's agenda. According to our existing BOE policy on gifts to the District, it is not a requirement to vote to accept the funds; however, it is considered a Best Practice to do so, so we wanted to officially take action on it in this fashion. In fact, there is an updated PRESS Policy that exists that would support the process of voting on donations like this that we will bring forward at our next meeting for future policy adoption. Frankly, we simply haven't had a situation like this occur in our district for as long as any of us can remember, so the need to update that policy just has not happened. So, in by far the easiest recommendation I have ever made as a Superintendent, I recommend we accept these funds later on in the meeting when it comes up and initiate the process of updating this policy.

Also, just a quick note on Parent/Teacher Conferences. As we know, we held our parent/teacher conferences the week of Thanksgiving on Monday and Tuesday. This year, we adopted a primarily virtual format for our conferences and as numbers of COVID seem to be crescendoing it was probably the most prudent decision to conduct them in this fashion. We have surveyed our staff to gather feedback on conferences to see if there are ways we can enhance them. Moving forward, and it's hard to make this call without knowing what the extent of COVID will look like next year, we will likely incorporate both types of formats--an in-person

December 7, 2021

Page 3

experience and a virtual experience. There is of course a value in seeing a teacher live in person and face to face, but we have received a lot of feedback from families about enjoying the convenience of the virtual format. For some sheer numbers to share with the Board, we had over 3,200 conferences held, which at the time of the survey showed about a 95% attendance rate of who teachers had scheduled to see that week, so we are very happy about that.

Brief assessment update: STAR Winter Benchmarking is coming up. STAR is the district-wide assessment that we use to help us determine student growth and performance. This winter window opened up yesterday and will go through the end of next week just prior to break. We look forward to seeing what that data will show us and will report that information out at an upcoming Curriculum Committee meeting. We should also note that the annual State Report Card IAR data was released for Illinois schools last Thursday. That information is available on our website along with a PPT that we gave our Curriculum Committee at last Monday's meeting. The unorthodox part about the Illinois State Report Card release this year is that we are not able to compare our results to State data as that information will not be released to the public until April of 2022. Despite that, we will use the IAR data that we have, incomplete as it is, as a triangulation point with our STAR test information to help us gain a better picture of the performance of our students so that our tremendous staff can continue delivering quality instruction tailor made to their students.

Also, we are happy to announce that SHIELD testing is up and running. We were glad to get this started as we had over 1,000 families interested in participating and just over a 100 staff members who indicated their interest. Inevitably with the implementation of SHIELD, which happens to be coinciding with what appears to be a surge in COVID cases in the region and perhaps the nation, this will mean that more identified cases of COVID positive individuals will happen as well as more close contacts being identified. This is an unfortunate aspect of COVID, but we suppose a necessary consequence that comes with our goal of establishing an accurate perception of COVID prevalence in our buildings. We will continue posting updated health information on our website, but to report tonight, we had, out of 643 SHIELD tests administered over the past six school days, only 18 confirmed positive cases which comes out to a 2.8% positivity rate. This is compared to the overall positivity rate in McHenry County, which is currently at 9.4%. Implementing SHIELD is an important layered prevention strategy that we offer in our District, so we are happy this is up and running. I want to thank our nurses, our teachers, our office staff, and our building administrators who in a lot of ways have been working around the clock to get this program in place and managing it so effectively.

I wanted to also make a quick note that tonight's BOE meeting has been posted two different ways, once in our traditional fashion and the other via BoardDocs. Posting this meeting two ways was part of our transition plan as we begin the implementation of BoardDocs. Starting at our next meeting, we will be fully implementing BoardDocs as our primary method of creating and posting meeting agendas and minutes. We are excited to start this and believe it goes along with our goal of increased communication, collaboration and transparency.

And finally, I want to finish my report by segueing into our next topic on the agenda, which is that of Strategic Planning. The idea of strategic planning has been one that we have had several conversations about over the past few months, and it is one that we have all decided is worthy of

December 7, 2021

Page 4

continued dialogue and discussion. To assist us continue that dialogue, we will be hearing in just a little bit from a member of our audience, Dr. Gary Zabilka, who as a retired superintendent of over 20 years knows a thing or two about strategic planning. We appreciate having Dr. Zabilka here tonight and look forward to continuing our conversations about what Strategic Planning may look like here in District 15.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Morley reported that the committee met on November 29, 2021. The group discussed assessment data from the previous year and shared that the results reflect a year of Covid. Summative designations will remain the same as the previous year with 7 commendable ratings and 1 exemplary rating.

Personnel Committee: Mrs. Synek reported that the committee will meet in January, 2022.

Finance Committee: Mr. Stauner reported that the committee will be meeting on January 19, 2022.

Facilities Committee: Mr. Waltmire reported that the committee will be meeting on January 19, 2022.

Federal/State Funding Update

Dr. Laudadio gave the board a brief update on district funding. As of this date the district has received approximately \$6.2 million dollars. This money will be used for intervention enrichment, tutoring, before/after school clubs, PPE, internet assistance, air quality units and air filtration units on all buses, in addition to many other educational and health oriented items.

At this time, Mr. Mihevc called for a motion to approve the purchase of two utility trucks. A motion was made by Waltmire, second by Synek to purchase the two utility trucks from Gary Lang Auto Group.

Voting aye: Synek, Waltmire, DeGeorge, McDonnell, Mihevc, Morley, Stauner

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

At this time, Mr. Mihevc called for a motion to approve the donation received from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$21,00.00. A motion was made by Morley, second by McDonnell.

Voting aye: Waltmire, DeGeorge, McDonnell, Mihevc, Morley, Stauner, Synek

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Synek second by Waltmire to adjourn the meeting and go into Closed Session to discuss setting of price for sale or lease of property by a public body; discuss

December 7, 2021

Page 5

appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee(s); collective negotiating matters

Voting aye: DeGeorge, McDonnell, Mihevc, Morley, Stauner, Synek, Waltmire

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Morley second by DeGeorge to reconvene into Open Session

Voting aye: DeGeorge, McDonnell, Mihevc, Morley, Stauner, Synek, Waltmire

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Synek second by DeGeorge to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm.

Voting aye: DeGeorge, McDonnell, Mihevc, Morley, Stauner, Synek, Waltmire

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.



Chad Mihevc, President



Rachel McDonnell, Secretary