

Minutes of an Instructional Board of Education Meeting of  
McHenry Elementary School District 15, McHenry and Lake Counties, Illinois,  
Edgebrook School, 701 N. Green St., McHenry, IL 60050  
September 7, 2021

The Instructional 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, Arne Waltmire, Patrick DeGeorge

Absent: None

Others present: Superintendent Josh Reitz, CSBO Jeff Schubert, Assistant Superintendent Fred Laudadio, Director of English Learners Maureen Cassidy, Director of Student Services Kelli Catini, Director of Learning Jacquie Duginske and various staff and citizens.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of a Regular Board of Education Meeting September 7, 2021

PERSONNEL REPORT

CERTIFIED NEW HIRES

Rachel Highland Teacher/LM&RW \$44,216.00 effective 9/27/21

CERTIFIED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nicole Powell

NON-CERTIFIED RESIGNATION/TERMINATION

Laurie Roby ParaPro/RW effective 9/14/21

Vera Grandt Custodian/MMS effective 9/21/21

Laura Smyczynski Caf /RW effective 9/16/21

NON-CERTIFIED NEW HIRES

Benjamin Larsen Caf /RW \$12.00/hr. effective 8/31/21

Danielle Toski Playground/VV \$12.00/hr. effective 8/30/21

A motion was made by Synek second by Waltmire to approve the consent agenda.

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

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Landmark Property Proposed Sewer Easement

The City of McHenry requested a 15 foot sewer easement in back of Landmark School between Boone Creek and the school playground. They stated the existing sewer is failing and the sea wall is in need of repair.

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### Downtown McHenry TIF Extension

Bill Hobson from the City of McHenry shared a PowerPoint presentation to the board regarding a TIF extension until 2025. Mr. Hobson shared the plans on the redevelopment of areas in McHenry. All taxing bodies must agree to the extension.

### Superintendent's Report

First, I want to take a minute to welcome many of our administrators here tonight for this Instructional Board Meeting. Our last Instructional Board meeting, we believe, was February of 2020. Since that time we have gone from completely virtual meetings, to hybrid meetings, and are now, hopefully, moving back to getting opportunities for our talented team of administrators to showcase great things going on in their buildings.

I want to also take a minute to publicly thank our administrators for the tremendous job they have done in leading their schools, and staff and students through these really difficult times. The job of an administrator has always been unpredictable and the phrase, "other duties as assigned" grants a LOT of flexibility, but the work our administrative team has done over the past year and a half truly is remarkable and I'd like to extend all of our appreciation for what they have done for our community.

At last week's meeting, I spoke about the work we did as a District in response to the Executive Order issued by Governor Pritzker last Thursday that mandated vaccinations for all school personnel OR at least weekly COVID testing for non-vaccinated individuals. Upon hearing that order, we tried our best to spring quickly into action so that we'd be in compliance with this order and that we'd have supports in place for staff to get through this. One quick support we put in place was the offering of on-site testing for all staff two times a week at two of our building locations (one on the west side of town at Valley View School and one on the east side of town at Hilltop School).

At about 3:00 PM on Friday we were ready to send out a quick reminder to staff about these supports and the rules we had outlined for folks to follow, but were met with an announcement from the Governor's office that the deadline for implementing the mandate had been extended from September 5th to September 19th.

Due to that extension, staff now have an additional two weeks to either get vaccinated and provide us with those records, or have a two week delay in providing us with COVID test results. We do plan on sending updated deadlines and more clarifying information, but learning a lesson from last week, we are going to wait a few days in the hopes that we receive clearer information on the State. Just as soon as we get that, we will share it out with staff.

Last week we also talked about SHIELD testing so here's a quick update on that. Late last week we sent out an initial email about SHIELD and as of today, we have had 180 staff and 330 students choose to opt-in. We will be sending a reminder communication soon and then working with SHIELD to properly roster folks so that we can map out the

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logistics of how and when this will work in our schools. Hopefully soon we will have a more concrete plan to share with people.

Next, beginning of the year testing season is upon us. A critical part of ANY school year is to conduct important assessments with our students to get an accurate picture of them as children, students, and learners. This year, maybe more than ever, this effort is of primary importance. Because of this, teachers are engaging in STAR testing, KIDS testing if you are a kindergarten teacher, and various other individualized assessments that they have created to learn as much about their students as they can in order to best meet their needs. We sent a message out to families this past week informing them about STAR testing which is one of our more comprehensive tests so we are excited about that and look forward to the important information it will provide us.

And lastly, just a reminder that our next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21st at McHenry Middle School.

Instructional Program—Edgebrook School

Dr. Laudadio introduced Edgebrook Staff Members Shari Clark, Megan Young, Jen Miller, Carolyn Jergensen, and Emily Bailey. The staff shared a presentation on Edgebrook School and how unique they are. The school hosts a Bilingual Program, PreK Program, Adjusted Learning Program, SAIL Program, and a general education program. The motto for this year is “First the Heart, then the Mind.” They feel it is important to teach the whole child, and whole brain learning. The Board thanked the staff for sharing Edgebrook with them.

Public Acts 096-0434 & 97-609

A motion was made by Morley, second by McDonnell to approve Public Acts 096-0434 & 97-609. These Acts reflect TRS staff salaries and benefits and IMRF staff salaries over \$75,000.

Voting aye: McDonnell, Mihevc, Morley, Stauner, Synek, Waltmire, DeGeorge  
Voting nay: None  
Absent: None

Motion carried.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Waltmire second by DeGeorgeto adjourn into Closed Session to discuss setting a price for sale or lease of property by a public body.

Voting aye: Mihevc, Morley, Stauner, Synek, Waltmire, DeGeorge, McDonnell  
Voting nay: None  
Absent: None

Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Stauner second by Synek to reconvene into Open Session

Voting aye: DeGeorge, McDonnell, Mihevc, Morley, Stauner, Synek, Waltmire  
Voting nay: None  
Absent: None

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Motion carried.

A motion was made by Morley, second by Waltmire to approve the lease agreement between District 15 and Amazon Prime.

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

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by DeGeorge, second by Morley to approve the Landmark Property Proposed Sewer Easement

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

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Synek, second by Stauner to approve the Downton McHenry TIF Extension

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

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by DeGeorge second by Synek to adjourn the meeting.

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

Voting nay: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

  
Chad Mihevc, President

  
Rachel McDonnell, Secretary