

October 5, 2020

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in a Workshop session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2020 at South High School.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, the following Board members answered present: Mike Davenport, Vice President/President Pro tempore; and Members Sherell Fuller, Daniel Nicholas, Terry Pavesich, Rick Pavinato and Joanna Vazquez Drexler. Nancy Kupka, President, was absent.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Mark Staehlin, District Controller; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; Janice Schwarze, North High Principal; Student Board Members Zoe Boyd and Sam Bull; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were no visitors.

**1. STUDENT PERSPECTIVES – SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL**

South High freshmen Gianna Caponigro, Maija Flannery and Amelia Oskorep, who were all part of the freshman play *Zoomies*, shared how much they enjoyed meeting new people and making connections with staff while working on the play. All said they would be continuing with drama at South High.

The Board thanked them for sharing their experience.

**2. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Student Board Members Zoe Boyd and Sam Bull both stated students are optimistic about returning to in-person learning. Member Bull, North High Student Board Member, noted freshman have not felt connected to the DGN family and returning to in-person learning has made them more excited. He also shared information on the fall play, *Snoopy*, and some of the activities planned for Homecoming. Member Boyd, South High Student Board Member, shared Homecoming was a good morale booster and the South High Girls' Cross Country, Girls' Swim & Dive and Girls' Tennis Teams are all undefeated.

**3. CLIMATE SURVEY/REMOTE LEARNING FEEDBACK**

Dr. Thiele shared the first climate survey of parents, students and staff has been completed and the data will be presented at the next Board meeting. He noted the survey would be repeated throughout the year and committees are being formed to process the feedback and make recommendations.

**4. 2020-2021 RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING**

Dr. Thiele stated DuPage County remains at the Moderate Transmission Level and shared the District's website now shows the cumulative number of students and staff that have tested positive for COVID, which is something both staff and the community requested. Board members asked if the number could reflect how many current active cases of COVID there are in

the District. Every Monday, according to Dr. Thiele, the health department provides the District with metrics and, as these trend up or down, he will keep the community informed. He stated the District will continue to follow the safety guidelines established by the health department.

Dr. Thiele reviewed the schedule thru Winter Break. He shared freshmen are starting back this week. He stated the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> will be fully remote due to a Remote Learning Planning Day (Monday), SAT testing for seniors (Wednesday), and Parent Teacher Conferences (Friday) all being scheduled that week. The week of the 19<sup>th</sup> all students that selected the Modified Hybrid option will be back for in-person learning using an A B schedule, according to Dr. Thiele.

**5. 2020-2021 DISTRICT GOALS**

Dr. Thiele stated, in a normal year, he would be providing the Board with a mid-year goal update, but this year the focus has been on returning students to school for in-person learning. He noted long range goals have continued to be addressed and administration will be starting to work on Semester 2 goals, which include expanding in-person learning.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A 457 (B) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

Mr. Staehlin stated the District currently has a 403 (b) Plan and is looking at adopting a 457 (b) Plan, which would allow employees to make investments for post-retirement and withdraw them before age 59.5 without penalty; 403 (b) Plans have a penalty if funds are withdrawn early. He stated there is no fee for the employee or the District and at the October 19 Board meeting he will be recommending the Board vote to allow administration to sign an agreement to adopt a 457 (b) Plan.

**7. FIRST STUDENT BUS CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

Mr. Staehlin shared the purpose of the Amendment is to secure transportation and ensure there is a base of drivers to handle the 92 routes of Districts 99, 58 and 68 as the Districts move between hybrid and fully remote learning. He stated First Student will provide payroll documentation to the Districts to prove they have drivers available.

Dr. Thiele stated the Board would be taking Action on the Amendment at the October 19 Board meeting.

**8. PRESENTATION OF 2020C BOND NOTIFICATION**

Mr. Staehlin notified the Board the bond sale took place on October 2, 2020 and was within all the parameters established by the Board. He reviewed the pertinent points of the Notification of Sale document provided to the Board, including interest rates and due dates, purchaser, placement agent and paying agent. Mark Staehlin stated the Bond sale provides a safety net for the District and is needed because of the losses last year and the anticipated losses over the next two years.

**9. TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS**

Gina Ziccardi stated the Board approved two policies last month – new policy 2.265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, and revisions to policy 2.260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. Ms. Ziccardi stated Title IX is about full participation, regardless of sex, and the District takes its compliance with Title IX very seriously. Ms. Ziccardi reviewed the changes to Title IX that went into effect on August 14, 2020, which included the definition, the very strict protocols that must be followed when a complaint is received, website posting, the prescribed specific roles of staff in the complaint process and the required training. She noted 28 staff members have been trained for specific roles, with several people cross-trained.

Dr. Thiele stated the Board would be receiving Title IX training in the next few months and commended Ms. Ziccardi for her leadership as the Title IX Coordinator in ensuring the District is adhering to all of the new regulations.

Student Board Member Boyd inquired about using Anonymous Alerts to report complaints. Ms. Ziccardi acknowledged Anonymous Alerts is a great way to communicate concerns and if an Alert is received that eludes to a concern of a sexual nature she is one of the individuals informed.

Dr. Thiele stated a couple of times a year students and families are sent information about making complaints.

**10. MASTER FACILITY PLAN PROGRESS**

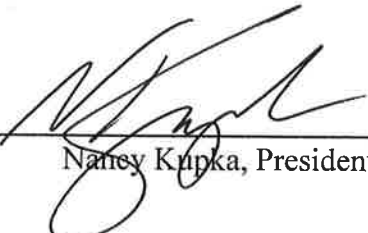
Dr. Thiele shared pictures of the Dunham Drive at South High, which is now complete, and the steel roof on the Commons at North, noting how much light comes through around the edges.

**11. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Pavesich moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the six members in attendance, the Vice President/President Pro tempore declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

  
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Nancy Kupka, President

  
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Juli Gniadek, Secretary