

September 20, 2021

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in regular session at 6:33 p.m. on Monday, September 20, 2021 at the Administrative Service Center.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, the following Board members answered present: Nancy Kupka, President; Mike Davenport, Vice President; and Members Christopher Espinoza, Sherell Fuller, Jennie Hagstrom, Terry Pavesich and Joanna Vazquez Drexler.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Mark Staehlin, District Controller; Rob Lang, Assistant Superintendent for Staff Services; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There was one visitor. A copy of the Visitor Roster is attached.

1. **2021-2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Mark Staehlin stated the budget was presented as tentative on August 16, 2021 and has been on display for the mandatory 30 days – from August 17, 2021 through today. He stated no one contacted him or the District. Mr. Staehlin shared no changes were made to the tentative budget since the original presentation.

Mr. Staehlin explained the Budget Hearing was held at the Administrative Service Center because that is where the Hearing was publicized to occur, and that following the Hearing, the meeting would recess and reconvene at South High so more people could be accommodated.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021-2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

President Kupka opened the Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Tentative Budget.

No one addressed the Board.

Member Vazquez Drexler moved and Member Pavesich seconded the motion that the Board of Education close the Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Tentative Budget.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Vazquez Drexler, Pavesich, Davenport, Espinoza, Fuller, Hagstrom and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

3. **RECESS AT THIS LOCATION AND RECONVENE IN FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES IN THE AUDITORIUM AT SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL, 1436 NORFOLK, DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS.**

Member Fuller moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion that the Board of Education recess at this location and reconvene in fifteen (15) minutes in the Auditorium at South High School, 1436 Norfolk, Downers Grove, Illinois.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Fuller, Davenport, Espinoza, Hagstrom, Pavesich, Vazquez Drexler and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 6:46 p.m.

4. RECONVENE AT SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

The meeting was reconvened at 7:01 p.m. at South High School with the following members of the Board of Education in attendance: Nancy Kupka, President; Mike Davenport, Vice President; and Members Christopher Espinoza, Sherell Fuller, Jennie Hagstrom, Terry Pavesich and Joanna Vazquez Drexler.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Rob Lang, Assistant Superintendent for Staff Services; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Mark Staehlin, District Controller; Jeree Ethridge, Assistant Controller; Courtney DeMent, North High Principal; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were 40 visitors. A copy of the Visitor Roster is attached.

President Kupka stated the Board convened its meeting at 6:33 p.m., with a quorum present, at the Administrative Service Center, where the Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Tentative Budget was held. The Board recessed at the Administrative Service Center and is now reconvening at South High School where it will proceed with the rest of the meeting, starting with the Approval of Minutes.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Pavesich moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the August 16, 2021 Business Meeting; the August 16, 2021 Closed Meeting; the September 13, 2021 Workshop Meeting; and the September 13, 2021 Closed Meeting.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Vazquez Drexler, Davenport, Espinoza, Fuller, Hagstrom and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

6. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Hois shared Wake Up D99 objects to the proposed policy changes to Board policy 2.230, *Public Participation at School Board Meetings* as they do not allow sufficient speaker time and asked the Board to table or vote down the proposed changes. Janet Winningham spoke in favor of the proposed policy changes, noting the changes prioritize District residents and that a Board meeting is a meeting in public and not a town hall meeting with the public.

7. BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION

Dr. Thiele shared the District 99 Board was one of 35 school districts recognized this year by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) for its governance practices. Those in attendance acknowledged the Board's recognition.

8. RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

Dr. Thiele provided an update on the State mask guidelines, stating masks are still required inside and can be removed when outside, and the requirement for all K-12 educators to be fully vaccinated or to

get tested weekly. He reported on the District's online COVID Dashboard and informed the Board the number of cases to be considered an outbreak by IDPH changed from five to two; therefore any transmission at school is considered an outbreak.

Dr. Thiele shared information on Test to Stay (TTS), an option for all schools per Executive Order, but the DCHD does not support, for close contacts who have not been vaccinated. He stated for a school to use the TTS protocol universal masking is required. Hank Thiele noted parental consent would be required and if a student tested on days 1, 3, 5 and 7 they could remain at school as long as they tested negative. The District is investigating, with its partner districts, using a 3rd party lab for the testing and there would be no cost to the District or the family for the testing, according to Dr. Thiele.

9. SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

Dr. Thiele stated there is a requirement to report to the Board on school wellness every three years. Scott Wuggazer highlighted the outreach efforts to provide meals to students throughout the 2020-2021 school year and specifically acknowledged Chartwells and Jeree Ethridge, Assistant Controller, for their efforts to ensure students received food. He stated a food service program update will be provided in June of 2022, as the District exited the National School Lunch Program this year.

10. FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Dr. Thiele shared, as part of the District's Common Experience work, there has been a shift away from a cumulative 90-minute exam in many courses and therefore there will no longer be an alternative bell schedule for exams the last week of the semester. He noted there will be a schedule, by department, the last week of the semester which will limit the number of exams a student may have on one day.

Member Davenport expressed his support of the change, noting the increase in instructional time and the flexibility it provides as positives. Member Hagstrom stated she did not support the change and felt the change was a disservice to students on a four-year college trajectory path, as sitting for a 90-minute exam period helps prepare students for college exams and longer standardized tests.

11. 2021-2022 GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Gina Ziccardi reported on the 2021-2022 grant allocations for Title I, II, III, IV, CTEI and Perkins, noting the allocation amounts have been similar for the last five years. She also provided information on the three ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Grants, which are new.

Dr. Thiele stated approval of the grants is an Action Item tonight.

12. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ESSER - USE OF FUNDS

Ms. Ziccardi shared ESSER I funds were primarily used for math courseware, digital textbooks, healthcare services and transportation costs for meal delivery; and use of ESSER II funds included an HVAC chiller at North High, saliva screening, health care services and instructional supplies. She explained ARP ESSER funds, (approximately \$2.8M) came with more requirements than the first two ESSER grants, one of which is that 20% of the ARP funds must be used to address learning loss, and the grant period is from March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024. Ms. Ziccardi then detailed some of the

uses of the ARP ESSER funds, which include: personnel, such as Interventionists, Student Success Coordinators, ESY and Summer School teachers; and resources, such as Paper Online tutoring, math courseware, tech tools and PPE; Summer School transportation; and capital projects.

Ms. Ziccardi reported her presentation and a Google form are posted on the website for the public to provide feedback on the District's use of ARP ESSER funds. She stated the feedback will be reviewed and the District will reassess and revise the plan as needed.

13. PROPOSED NEW BELL SCHEDULE FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR UPDATE

Hank Thiele provided an overview and draft of the proposed hybrid block schedule, consisting of three regular days and two days where students see half of their teachers, being planned for the 2022-2023 school year. He shared benefits of the schedule, which include: increased instructional time, the ability for students to get additional help during the day, increased access to CSSS and the opportunity for students to use and develop their executive functioning skills. Dr. Thiele provided the timeline, which includes gathering feedback from stakeholders, for bringing the final version of the schedule to the Board to seek approval.

Student Board Members O'Hara and Toledano both expressed support for the hybrid schedule.

14. FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL PROJECTION

Mark Staehlin presented the 5-year financial projections for the District, noting a conservative approach was taken. He stated most of the District's expenses and revenues are tied to CPI-U and District 99 has the 2nd lowest high school tax rate in DuPage County. Mr. Staehlin explained the positive effects of the three TIFs that will be coming off in the next few years, with the Janes Avenue TIF providing an additional \$430,000 this year, the Downtown Downers Grove TIF \$1M-\$1.1M in 2022-2023 and lastly the Ogden Avenue TIF \$500,000 in 2026-2027. Another positive he shared was the \$2M transfer to debt service for large projects, paid out of revenue not taxes, will fall off the budget next year. Mr. Staehlin asked the Board to let him know if it is not comfortable with any of the projections.

15. ADMINISTRATOR/TEACHER SALARY AND BENEFIT REPORT

Dr. Thiele stated the Administrator/Teacher Salary and Benefit Report is posted on the District's website.

16. MASTER FACILITY PLAN PROGRESS

Dr. Thiele reported there is about \$50,000 in the contingency; funds remain in the FFE allowance, but will likely be used; and he anticipates providing a final accounting of the money and projects to the Board in January. He noted the project continues to be on time and on budget.

Dr. Thiele shared over 900 people, many of them alumni, attended the Ribbon Cutting event at South High and the Celebration is scheduled for North High on September 25.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Dr. Thiele reported the District had Freedom of Information Act requests this month and they are posted on the District's website.

18. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Pavesich moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which includes: A. Personnel Report: Appointments-Certified; Leave of Absence-Certified; Transfer of Position-Classified; Appointments-Classified; Salary Increase-Exempt; Rate Increases-Substitutes; B. Personnel Report: Retirement-Certified; Resignations-Classified and C. Financial Pages.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Davenport, Espinoza, Fuller, Hagstrom, Vazquez Drexler and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

19. APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 BUDGET

Member Davenport moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 2021-2022 Budget as presented.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Davenport, Vazquez Drexler, Espinoza, Fuller, Hagstrom, Pavesich and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

20. APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 GRANTS

Member Davenport moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 2021-2022 Grants as presented.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Davenport, Vazquez Drexler, Espinoza, Fuller, Hagstrom, Pavesich and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

21. OLD BUSINESS – SECOND READING AND APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 2.230, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Member Pavesich moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve Board Policy 2.230, *Public Participation at School Board Meetings*.

Member Davenport shared the Policy Committee met and discussed the policy and noted the revisions add clarity to the policy. Member Davenport then recommended amending the proposed policy to change the first sentence to read "at least 30 minutes" instead of "up to 30 minutes."

Member Pavesich moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve Board Policy 2.230, *Public Participation at School Board Meetings* as amended.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Davenport, Espinoza, Fuller, Hagstrom, Vazquez Drexler and Kupka voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

22. NEW BUSINESS

None.

23. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Maryann Vazquez and Mary Lemanski thanked the Board for their leadership and efforts to keep students safe.

Rich Brennan, Stephanie Trussell, Marcella Cheaure, Larisa Calvarese, Ilene Briner, Jonathan Fisher, Paul Drabik and Christine Martin expressed concerns about the curriculum, including the teaching of bias, equity, sex education and/or the wearing of masks.

Mr. Fisher also raised questions about the budget and Dr. Thiele asked that Mr. Fisher contact him so his questions can be addressed.

Mr. Brennan and Mr. Drabik both provided the Wake Up D99 number – 630-909-3496.

24. REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION NETWORK OF DUPAGE (LEND)

No report.

25. REPORT ON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION IN DUPAGE COUNTY (SASED)

No report.

26. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Member Pavesich reported Young Hearts For Life screened over 2,000 students at South High in September and has a screening planned for North High in October. She shared the Foundation and District 99 sponsored the event and thanked the volunteers who assisted. Member Pavesich stated the Foundation is looking for new members.

27. REPORT ON ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS (IASB)

Dr. Thiele reported the Fall Division meeting is coming up and District 99 is hosting the Spring Division meeting.

28. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

President Kupka announced the following meeting dates:

October 4, 2021 Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – North High Auditorium

October 18, 2021 Regular Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – South High Cafetorium

29. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Davenport moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the seven members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.



Nancy Kupka, President



Juli Gniadek, Secretary



BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Karen Spahr-Thomas

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Pat Brennan
Jocelyn Painter
Julie K. Bechman
M. Brownlie De
Dan DeChene
Alex E Leventis
Irene Briner
BO BRINER
MIKE HAHNE
MARK HERRIOTT
SCOTT MELROSE
JEFF MACK
PAUL DRABIK
Cheryl CLARK
DANIEL J. CLARK
CLARK
JOHN FRANKLIN

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Margann Vasquez
Phil Sadner
Leslie Sadowski Fugitt
EMILY F FRIEL
RICH BRENNAN
Mary Lemanski
Stephanie Trussell
Marcella Cheauce
Larisa Calverese
Kim Hunt
MARY O'DOWD
Janet Winningham
Jaura Hois
Josatha S. Fisher
Lynn Balkan
Ryan Doorhy
Noel Mawley

