

December 13, 2021

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 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 Jennie Hagstrom, Terry Pavesich and Joanna Vazquez Drexler. Member Christopher Espinoza participated via audio means beginning at 7:22 p.m. and in person beginning at 8:19 p.m. Member Sherell Fuller was absent.

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; Jill Browning, Director of Communications; Courtney DeMent, North High Principal; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were 17 visitors. A copy of the Visitor Roster is attached.

#### **1. STUDENT PERSPECTIVES**

South High Student Board Member Scarlett O'Hara reported on the start of Winter Sports; the December 4 basketball game where Evan's Elves honored deceased classmate Evan Melau by collecting toys and gift cards for families in need; the Winter Fine Arts Festival concert and art show that showcased student talents; and the Winter Play *Rose and Rime*. She congratulated the 299 District 99 students who were named Illinois State Scholars and wished students good luck on finals.

North High Student Board Member Jade Toledano reported on the Veterans' Day event at North High, which she helped organize; the Band and Choir's invitation to perform in the London New Year's Day parade; Mosaic Week, and how the fine arts unites the campuses; and the Sunday vaccination clinic held at North. Ms. Toledano shared last month Daniel Figueroa Iribarren passed away and the North High students have been supportive of each other. Student Board Member Toledano also congratulated the Illinois State Scholars.

The Student Board Members congratulated each other and the Board congratulated the Student Board Members on being named Illinois State Scholars.

Board members who attended the concert(s) expressed how much they enjoyed them and how wonderful the new Performing Arts Center at South High is.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Pavesich moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2021 Business Meeting and the November 15, 2021 Closed Meeting.

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

### 3. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### 4. 2022-2023 CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

Ms. Ziccardi stated there were four courses being proposed: one Science, one Intervention and two Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Mike Heinz, North High Science Department Chair, presented information on the Environmental Sustainability course. He shared it is a biotechnology course; creates new career pathways; is not an AP level course; and is part of the Project Lead the Way curriculum, which offers college transfer credit. South High CTE Department Chair Pat Fardy spoke about the ACCErator course, which teaches students how to run businesses created and funded during the prerequisite INCubator course. Melissa Damewood, North High CTE Department Chair, presented 3D Design and Animation, which is a capstone course and involves using professional software.

Dr. Erin Ludwick, North High Associate Principal for Student Support Services, presented the Advanced Seminar course. She shared the course is designed for junior and senior students who need executive functioning assistance on a daily basis and is a flexible and continuous intervention.

### 5. RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

Dr. Thiele reported the number of cases in students and staff is increasing and this mirrors what is occurring in society. He shared the conversation has begun around a potential change in the exclusionary guidelines.

### 6. 2021 TAX LEVY REQUEST

Mark Staehlin stated the known Tax Cap Limit for 2021 is 1.4%. He noted this year the District will receive a larger than usual amount from New Construction since the Downers Grove Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is coming off and the tax revenue from the growth in that area over the last 23 years will come to the District as New Construction and is not part of the Tax Cap. Mr. Staehlin shared the average homeowner, who owns a \$300,000 home, will experience a \$23 increase in taxes for the year for District 99. Mr. Staehlin stated the Levy Request, which is based on best estimates available at the time, must be approved by the end of the month; in March, the actual numbers from the County will be received.

### 7. SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

Jill Browning reported the Climate Survey was given to students during the school day; participation was voluntary and anonymous; parents were notified in advance and could opt out their student; Panorama was the tool used to administer the surveys; the Administration decided on the content for the surveys; and results for last year's and this year's surveys can be found on the District's website.

Scott Wuggazer reported on the student survey data, which can be broken down by District, School, Grade and Student Groups (EL, IEP, etc.), noting the data will be used to inform Access time and Mustang Way and Positively North lessons. Teacher, staff and family data were reported by Gina

Ziccardi. Ms. Ziccardi shared the data will be used to help better support students and to inform professional development and the strategic plan.

**8. SCHOOL REPORT CARD**

Ms. Ziccardi stated this year the School Report Card data is being released in three phases instead of all at once and many areas have a notation that, due to COVID 19, data is either delayed or impacted. Ms. Ziccardi shared graphs of 4 and 5 Year Graduation Rate data, which shows a decrease for both District 99 and the State; 9<sup>th</sup> Grade on Track data, which is also down for the District and State, and does not take into account students who are back on track after Summer School; and Preliminary SAT data (State data is not yet available) that shows a slight increase in District 99 ELA scores and a decrease in math scores. Gina Ziccardi stated this was to be the first year College and Career Readiness Data was going to be released, but ISBE decided not to release that data because the preliminary data is not reliable and valid. She shared the final assessment data will be released in April and will include data for the State.

Ms. Ziccardi reviewed some of the interventions recently added to assist students, including the waiving of Summer School tuition for 2021, Paper online tutoring, the Path Program, additional social work support, and the addition of the Student Success Coordinator and Interventionist positions.

**9. POLICY 3.70, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT EXPERIENCES**

Dr. Thiele stated the addition of this position is an item on the Consent Agenda and the goal is to create redundancy in the area of student learning, especially since Gina Ziccardi has submitted her retirement letter.

**10. REPORTS FROM THE IASB/IASA/IASBO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Board members shared information they learned at the Joint Annual Conference and which sessions they found valuable.

**11. 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.

**12. CONSENT AGENDA**

President Kupka recognized the Foundation for its generous donation.

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 - Transfer of Position-Classified; Appointments-Classified; Leave of Absence-Classified; B. Personnel Report - Retirements-Classified; Resignations-Classified; C. Increased Substitute Wages for Former Full Time D99 CMG and Support Staff Employees; D. Financial Pages; E. Waiving of First Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 3.70, Director of Student Experiences; and F. Acceptance of Donation - District 99 Education Foundation Grants.

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

**13. APPROVAL OF THE 2021 TAX LEVY**

Member Pavesich moved and Member Davenport seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Certificate of Tax Levy, the Certification of Certificate of Tax Levy, and the Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Law as presented.

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

**14. APPROVAL OF THE 2022-2023 CURRICULUM PROPOSALS**

Member Vazquez Drexler moved and Member Pavesich seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 2022-2023 Curriculum Proposals as presented.

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

**15. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**16. NEW BUSINESS**

None

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

Rich Brennan, Noel Manley, Carol Jeanne Davis, Marcella Cheaure, Tabitha Irvin, Ilene Briner and Laura Hois addressed the Board on one or more of the following topics: mask mandates, vaccination, equity, *Gender Queer*, racism, the Climate Survey, parental rights, student representation on the Board, membership in the NSBA, Open Meetings Act potential violation, curriculum and CRT.

President Kupka thanked those in attendance for their comments.

Due to the limited number of visitors allowed, an online Public Comment form was available the day of the meeting. The comment received is included in the Minutes.

**18. REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION NETWORK OF DUPAGE (LEND)**

No report.

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

Member Vazquez Drexler reported SASED is struggling with staffing.

**20. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

No report.

**21. REPORT ON ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS (IASB)**

Member Espinoza reported IASB Resolution #2, Student Safety and Protection Plan (allows district employees to carry firearms) did not pass, and Resolution #15 Child Safe Gun Storage was not voted on because it was beyond the scope of the Delegates.

**22. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

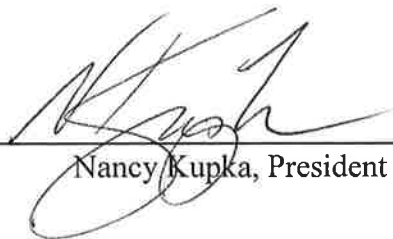
President Kupka announced the following meeting dates.

January 10, 2022      Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC

January 24, 2022      Regular Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC

**23. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business or discussion, Member Pavesich moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the six members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



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Nancy Kupka, President



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Juli Gniadek, Secretary

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# Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 13, 2021

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Linda Schranz
Noel Mandy
Tabitha Irvin
Carol Davis
Marcus Cheave
RICH BRENNAN
Laura Hois
Irene Briner
Bo Briner
Lindsay Stevenson
Sneha Dhandapani
Daniel Hebeard
Margen Marquez
Annie Wick
Cara Ding
Curt Slipk
PAULA Slipk

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form  
December 13, 2021 Board Meeting**

Block scheduling is extremely disruptive to the current junior class. Too many "solve as" issues moving forward. It should be postponed a year. This seems like a major push unilaterally made by Dr. Theille and not taking into account the tax payers, parents and majority of the student body. This programming will not increase performance, equity or student achievement. This will further dampen academic achievement, and lead to more behavioral issues at school.

Why did DGN Fine Arts and the BOE agree to international travel (winter 2022) for the DGN marching band and choir during a time of confusing covid policy and possible 10 day quarantines in London. I feel they should have stayed domestically. What staff will stay with a possible positive student for 10 days in another county? Will you provide transportation to get a parent there for any medical treatment and costs associated with an international illness plan. I am aware of the meeting today to answer these questions, but it leaves a very large question of is this in the best interest of the students at DGN?

Carrie  
Swenson

I am shocked and dismayed that there is a teacher program that ONLY supports POC attending. I know 2 students looking to become educators and this type of discrimination was NOT okay decades ago and is NOT okay now.

What is the policy regarding the close circuit video surveillance within the common areas in each building? If a student is accused of a crime within the school, and there is surveillance of this crime, are parents allow to see the incriminating footage? How long is the surveillance kept? What is done with this video images upon the end of each year? These are minors and I don't remember signing and implied consent of video taping of my students. I also did not see one policy regarding how, what or anything regarding video taping the children throughout the day. My daughters car was damaged in the parking lot. She was denied footage. Why? If parents request to view a video, are they allowed to see it? If a student is accused of a crime, or there is a crime being committed, do the legal guardians have the right to see this? It seems like an awful lot of issues without policy moving forward. Where is the policy for this