

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in a Workshop Meeting with Action Item at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2023 at the Administrative Service Center.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, the following Board members answered present: Don Renner, President; Terry Pavesich, Vice President; and Members Kara Casten, Ken Dawson, Christopher Espinoza, Sherell Fuller and Jennie Hagstrom.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Rob Lang, Assistant Superintendent for Staff Services; Travis McGuire, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Resources; Jeree Ethridge, Chief School Business Official; Jill Browning, Chief Communications Officer; Jeff Bergholtz, Director of Human Resources; Courtney DeMent, North High Principal; Arwen Lyp, South High Principal; Student Board Members Gianna Hunsche and Nahla Mokkaath; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were no visitors.

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

North High students Leela Khuntia and Henry Conkright, members of the Asian American Pacific Islander Student Union (AAPISU) Club, shared the goals of the Club include learning about the different aspects of AAPI cultures. They provided a list of possible events for this year and spoke about the potluck that was already held, where there were thirty different food items with eleven ethnicities represented. Dr. DeMent noted the AAPISU has an active and very positive social media page.

The Board thanked the students for attending and presenting.

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

North High Student Board Member Gianna Hunsche recognized the Boys Cross Country Team who finished 7<sup>th</sup> at the Nationals; the Girls' Cross Country Team, who finished 16<sup>th</sup> at the Nationals; and the Football Team, who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State. She shared teachers are providing support for students as they prepare for finals.

South High Student Board Member Nahla Mokkaath spoke about the Students vs. Staff Scholastic Bowl, cocoa in the Commons during December and the December Spirit Week.

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

There were no public comments.

**4. 2024-2025 COURSE PROPOSALS**

English Department Chairs Chris Bronke, North High, and Tracy Sebastian, South High, presented the new proposed course Modern Rhetoric. Ms. Sebastian shared this course is portable to COD; students

who demonstrate competency in this course will be able to move directly into a credit bearing English course at COD and will also have the ability to register for other credit bearing courses. Dr. Bronke stated this is a process-based course, with less focus on literature and a larger focus on writing and research. Ms. Ziccardi noted the District will apply for portability to the other community colleges in the State after the pilot with COD next year.

Jerry Lowrey, South High Fine Arts Chair, shared the new proposed sequence for Acting, which differentiates between Acting for Stage and Acting for Screen, and includes an Honors level capstone course, Advanced Acting Studio.

North High Fine Arts Chair, Gina Wych, presented the proposed Beginning Band course, which is targeted at students with no or limited instrumental experience; students looking to learn a second instrument; and students looking at a career in Music Education. Ms. Wych also presented the proposed Introduction to American Music course. She stated it is anticipated this course will be a dual credit offering and will appeal to both music majors and students interested in understanding history through the lens of music.

Dr. Thiele stated the courses presented would be up for approval at the next meeting.

#### **5. COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELING OVERVIEW**

College and Career Counselors Lavon Robinson and Adrienne Nolan, South High, and Teri Manderino, North High, shared information on District wide events such as FAFSA nights in English and Spanish, Conquering College Costs, and a College and Career Exploration Night, and events unique to their respective campuses. Ms. Manderino and Ms. Nolan reported on college graduation rates and the top ten schools chosen by students at each school. Mr. Robinson shared information on Illinois schools that offer free tuition, based on family income, and out of state schools that are less expensive than Illinois State.

Dr. Thiele explained the counselors revamped their program to fit into Access periods so all students receive the information, and no one is missed.

#### **6. PURCHASE OF USED ACTIVITY BUSES**

Dr. McGuire stated there is a statewide shortage of bus drivers and the purchase of four used activity buses will significantly assist with transportation for both curricular and co-curricular needs, noting the spring sports season is the busiest season. Dr. Thiele shared this is an unbudgeted expense and one bus will go to South High, bringing their total to seven, and three will go to North High, bringing their total to six. Dr. Thiele stated the Administration recommends the Board take Action tonight and authorize the purchase of the busses.

#### **7. PURCHASE OF FOUR USED ACTIVITY BUSES**

Member Espinoza moved and Member Pavesich seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the purchase of four 14-passenger 2017 Chevrolet Starcraft activity buses at a cost not to exceed \$59,754.00 each.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Espinoza, Pavesich, Casten, Dawson, Fuller, Hagstrom and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

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

There were no public comments.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

Member Pavesich moved and Member Fuller seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); and collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Pavesich, Fuller, Hagstrom, Casten, Dawson, Espinoza and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

President Renner stated after coming out of Closed Session the Board will not be taking any Action, other than to Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 7:58 p.m.

**10. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION**

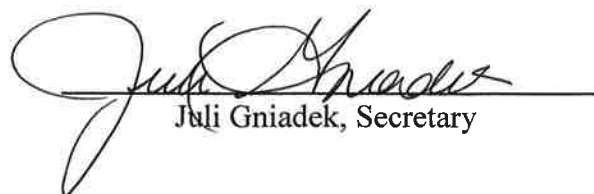
The meeting was reconvened in Open Session with the following members of the Board of Education in attendance: Don Renner, President; Terry Pavesich, Vice President; and Members Kara Casten, Ken Dawson, Christopher Espinoza, Sherell Fuller and Jennie Hagstrom.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Rob Lang, Assistant Superintendent for Staff Services; Jeff Bergholtz, Director of Human Resources; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

**11. 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 seven members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

  
Don Renner, President

  
Juli Gniadek, Secretary