

February 22, 2021

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021 at South High School.

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

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Jim Kolodziej, Director of Physical Plant & Operations; Janice Schwarze; North High Principal; Ed Schwartz, South High Principal; Student Board Members Zoe Boyd and Sam Bull; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

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

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

North High students Anika Oplanic and Edie Pawlak shared activities students participated in to spread kindness during the month of February, including making fleece blankets to donate, and purchasing and decorating Feed6 Pantry Packs.

The Board thanked the students for their work in spreading kindness.

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

Student Board Members Boyd and Bull reviewed the successes of sports and activities in their respective schools. South High Student Board Member Boyd also shared upcoming events, including the spring musical and a choir concert in March. North High Student Board Member Bull commented students like being in school, like the bell schedule, and students who are in the hybrid model want more in-person time and students who are in the remote model want to stay remote.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Pavesich moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2021 Business Meeting and the January 25, 2021 Closed Meeting.

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

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

There were no public comments.

**5. 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR UPDATE**

Ms. Ziccardi updated the Board on student use of Paper, the 24/7/365 online tutoring service the District is providing for students. She noted students are using the service, feedback is positive and the primary area of usage is math.

Dr. Thiele shared the CDC and USDE released a new document that contained more clear guidance for schools. He reviewed the key themes of the guidance, which included mitigation, physical distancing if possible, screenings and community transmission. Dr. Thiele provided the new CDC indicators for community transmission and how they translate to what learning model a school may use. He shared the timeline for forming a task force to develop recommendations for a full in-person learning model.

Dr. Thiele shared 77% of staff have been vaccinated and 1,170 doses of the Pfizer vaccine have been allocated to the District 99 Consortium; with the vaccine clinic being held on Sunday at South High School.

**6. BOARD REPRESENTATION ON THE PARENT TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Dr. Thiele asked two Board members to volunteer to serve on the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee. Members Vazquez Drexler and Fuller volunteered.

**7. OVERVIEW OF HIRING PROCESS**

Jeff Bergholtz, Director of Human Resources, provided an overview of the hiring process from when the Principal determines need and applicants complete a written and online video application through the Department Chair calling the successful candidate and making an offer. Mr. Bergholtz shared the Department Chair from both campuses, the Designated Administrator and teachers from the department are involved in the interview process, and there is a final interview with the Building Principal and the Associate Superintendent.

Dr. Thiele noted there is an emphasis on diverse candidates and District 99 has a good reputation due to the equity and inclusion work occurring in the District

**8. PROPOSED STUDENT FEES FOR 2021-2022**

Dr. Thiele stated there is no increase in student fees proposed for 2021-2022 and the Board will vote on the 2021-2022 fees in Action Items.

**9. AMENDMENT TO THE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT PLAN**

Dr. Thiele stated the Amendment will allow staff to roll over flexible spending dollars and approval of the Amendment is part of the Consent Agenda.

**10. CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL**

Hank Thiele stated approval of the Capital Projects are in Action Items.

Jim Kolodziej shared the Board is being asked to approve three contracts: resurfacing the tennis courts and replacing a portion of the roof at South High, and replacement of the chiller at North High. He noted all three projects came in under budget and the proposed contractors are all familiar to the District.

#### **11. MASTER FACILITY PLAN PROGRESS**

Dr. Thiele noted the contingency increased primarily due to changes in scope related to firm alarm code. He stated the project is on budget, there are additional contractor allowances that may return to the District and the project will be completed on time.

#### **12. 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.

#### **13. CONSENT AGENDA**

President Kupka acknowledged the \$2,000 donation from the Foundation to the South High music program. Member Pavesich shared donations to the Foundation make the Foundation grants possible and encouraged the community to visit the Pizza Wars donors listed on the Foundation website

Member Pavesich moved and Member Fuller 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; Appointments-Classified; B. Personnel Report - Retirements-Certified; Resignations-Certified; C. Financial Pages, D. Amendment to the Flexible Spending Account Plan; and E. Acceptance of Donation - District 99 Education Foundation.

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

#### **14. APPROVAL OF STUDENT FEES FOR 2021-2022**

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

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

#### **15. AWARD OF BID - HVAC CHILLER - NORTH HIGH**

Member Davenport moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the lowest acceptable bid for the HVAC chiller at North High School and award F.E. Moran, Inc. of Northbrook, Illinois, a contract in the amount of \$214,100.00.

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

**16. AWARD OF BID - SMALL GYM HALLWAY/STORAGE ROOM ROOF REPLACEMENT - SOUTH HIGH**

Member Davenport moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the lowest acceptable bid for the small gym hallway/storage room roof replacement at South High School and award Olsson Roofing Company, Aurora, Illinois, a contract in the amount of \$167,600.00.

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

**17. AWARD OF BID - TENNIS COURT RESURFACING - SOUTH HIGH**

Member Davenport moved and Member Vazquez Drexler seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the lowest acceptable bid for tennis court resurfacing at South High School and award Sport Surface Pros, Lake Forest, Illinois, a contract in the amount of \$99,900.00.

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

**18. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**19. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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

Carrie Swenson addressed the Board and expressed the following concerns: the timeline for working on the new in-person model, the inability of fine arts students to perform together and the lack of activities for seniors.

Dr. Thiele shared there were eight comments submitted online via the Public Comment form: five encouraging a return to full time instruction, in-person learning; one commenting on summer trips; one commenting on senior opportunities; and one noting the livestream is not working. Dr. Thiele shared there are technical difficulties and the meeting will be posted on the District's YouTube channel.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

Member Pavesich invited everyone to participate in Pizza Wars and to visit the Foundation's website for a list of pizza vendors and coupons. She noted the Foundation is also accepting donations.

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

Member Davenport reported the DuPage Division meeting, which is being held virtually, is March 20 at 10:00 a.m.


**25. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

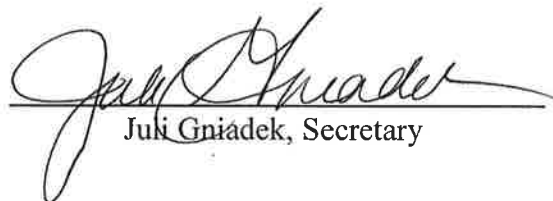
President Kupka announced the following meeting dates:

March 1, 2021	Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – South High School
March 15, 2021	Regular Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – South High School

**26. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business or discussion, Member Vazquez Drexler moved and Member Davenport 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 7:57 p.m.

  
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Nancy Kupka, President

  
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Juli Gniadek, Secretary



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

**VISITOR ROSTER**

**NAME**

<i>Nick A Fox</i>
<i>Camie Swenson</i>
<i>Hootenky</i>

Public Comments Submitted via Google Form  
February 22, 2021 Board Meeting

I would like to advocate for our students to return to full-time in-person learning model immediately. The way the beginning of the school year started was very discouraging, and I'm concerned that the same attitude is still prevailing with the Board. It's causing me to consider one of the local Catholic schools that have been successfully running full-time in-person all year.

If you keep using old assumptions to this problem, you will get the same old results. Our kids deserve better than that. Every school and school district each have their own unique set of circumstances, but many of them have figured out this problem. It's easy to give a list of reasons why the kids won't be back in school full time but our kids deserve better from the Superintendent, the Board and their teachers.

Chris Sporer

Every day that goes by where the kids cannot learn in person is a lost day that they can never get back. It's time to find creative solutions to fix this problem and not wait and hope that things will get better. No more waiting.

Things will not go back to normal anytime soon. It's the Superintendents job and the Boards obligation to find a way to get our children the best education possible. That is not happening right now and you need to find a better way.

I hope that you all have the courage to put the children interests first. If you won't or can't do that, then step down and give others a chance to figure it out. Every day that you don't is a day lost for these kids.

KRISTINA  
PRESERN

It's time. The kids MUS I get back to school, 5 days a week/full time. Anything less than that is a tremendous disservice to our children. So far this year, the board has been EXTREMELY uninterested in bringing the kids back. Doing as little as possible at every turn. TRY HARDER - DO BETTER for these kids. Thank you.

Downers Grove School Boards are a Tale of Two Cities, whereas D58 is progressive thinking and doing what they can to work collaboratively with families who wish to have students in person and for greater amounts of time, D99 chooses to operate reactively, does not appear to have a systematic plan to increase learning time and is driven by the all board fearing lawsuits and teachers union.

The 99 School Board has provided an excellent educational experience to the community as to what happens when you give too much power to one person (the Superintendent) or do not seek student or family input when making decisions (spending money on a nearly non-used Paper tutoring system). To date, what is the utilization rate of Paper?

Dawn Matune

You may say families are embracing remote learning, when the fact remains that many students are choosing it because its easy, not disappointed as to a change in schedule everyday, and they are tired of being manipulated as pawns for the last year. I am one of the few people I know making my children go in person when they would rather sleep til 5 minutes before class starts and come down in their pajamas to log in to Zoom. Its not that they don't want to be in school, we just know its really not even half the way it should or could be.

What will it take for you as a Board to care about what the students need or want in the little time that is left for this year? You are creating a group of students who will have terrible memories and little affection to return to the institution that failed them. You have given us great pause to wanting our children to participate in a public school system and even more apprehension to supporting any new endeavors you will ask of us in the future.

Jane Smith

If the district is going to limit spectators for events, why would it consider allowing school trips to proceed in June? This seems against the restrictions in place by the district. These trips should be canceled or rescheduled to 2022.

**Public Comments Submitted via Google Form  
February 22, 2021 Board Meeting**

Please survey the teachers, students, and families soon. Gather everyone's desires about getting back to more in-person learning. Where does everyone stand? With teachers beginning the vaccination process, and community transmission numbers going down, many peoples' opinions, about how school should look right now, have changed.

At the very least, you should invite your (approx. 13%) of students, who have IEP's, back into the building after the teachers have received their second dose. Many of these students are suffering more than you realize. It is the scariest thing to witness firsthand. After learning in pernicious environments, for almost a year, these students are at risk of not being able to return to their full academic potential, as their self worth and confidence are declining at such a fast pace. It's imperative that District 99 help this group of students immediately. A year of sustaining remote/hybrid instruction is far too long for vulnerable learners.

Keri Norris

I have a junior at DGS. I have been extremely disappointed with the actions taken by the board and superintendent to get our kids in school full time. When saliva testing was mandatory for students and not for teachers, we decided to have our son go remote. We are VERY against saliva testing, especially when it gave the students ZERO more time in the building. He told me that he was talking to his math teacher and his teacher had no idea the tests were mandatory. Why doesn't staff know what mandatory things are being asked of our students?

Because of the frequent back and forth, we are still keeping our son home, even after the saliva testing became optional. The back and forth is too much for any of us to deal with.

Liz Moravec

Can you please update us as to where we landed in regards to the 10% saliva tests needed last week? How was the 10% decided?

We are frustrated, and mostly, disappointed by your actions thus far and feel like our son has completely missed out on his junior year of school - academically and socially.

I hope any further action taken by the board will help our kids get back in school full time.

Paula  
Duellman

I am glad in person learning has continued and it is great to see that the vast majority of Dist 99 staff have received their first COVID vaccine dose. Sounds like positive movement. So with that I strongly ask to board to look hard at furthering our children education during the remaining months of the 2020/2021 school year. In particular our 800 plus Seniors need MORE. They need to be in school more hours every week, they need more direct check ins by their counselors, they need more direct support in finding scholarship opportunities and navigating the plan to transition to college, they needed more recognition, and they need more answers to planned interactions. What is the plan for Graduation? What about Senior Award Nights? What about Prom? These Seniors have LOST everything about their Senior year. If nothing is started soon this is how they will always remember their High School - as a year that didn't exist. Please move forward with allowing them to have a few positive moments during this unprecedented year. Many Seniors and their families may chose to not even participate in whatever opportunity is presented but at least give them The OPPORTUNITIES. Be creative and generous with our fragile youth because very soon they will be gone.

Robert  
Brandt

The live stream of the Feb 22 2021 Board Meeting is not showing up on the Dist 99 Youtube page. How do we view it live?