

October 16, 2023

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 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; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Jeree Ethridge, Chief School Business Official; Jill Browning, Chief Communications Officer; Student Board Member Nahla Mokkath; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

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

1. STUDENT PERSPECTIVES – NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

North High Students Isabella Cervantes, Pallavi Fisher, Andrew Hardy and Addison Potter, who are all leaders in the Everyday Leadership Inspired Through Example (ELITE) Club, shared that Club members assist in planning assemblies and Spirit Week and help to improve the culture and student experience at North High. Reasons the students gave for joining ELITE included wanting to be more involved in school, grow as a leader, see different sides of people and being someone others can look up to.

The Board thanked the students for sharing their information.

2. GROVE EXPRESS FOUNDATION JUNIOR BOARD MEMBERS

Addie Potter, Gina Liu, Meida Kuzminskas, Sara Ryan; Joe Grippo, Kamryn Gillespie, Junior Board Members of the Grove Express Foundation shared the race on Thanksgiving Day has been going on for 20 years, with the funds raised going back into the Downers Grove community. The students spoke about the various opportunities available to them as Junior Board members, including assisting with advertising, coordinating volunteers and helping on race day. Reasons students gave for wanting to be Junior Board members included branching out more, providing service to the community, fun, the family aspect and the coming together as a community. President Renner noted over \$250,000 has been given back to the community from the race.

3. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Student Board Member Mokka shared this is Homecoming week at South High, the theme is Barbie, activities are planned every day, there will be fireworks at half time of the football game on Friday and the dance will be held indoors on Saturday – the first time since COVID. She shared the success of the fall sports teams, including Golf, Cross Country and Tennis.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Pavesich moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2023 Business Meeting and the September 18, 2023 Closed Meeting.

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

5. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

6. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Thiele recognized the Building Principals, Deans and Activities Directors on the occasion of Illinois Principals Week and thanked them for their work. He shared the Board received the IASB School Board Governance Recognition at the IASB Division Meeting and noted the Board has received this award, when eligible, since 2017. North and South High received Merit Awards for their Master Facility Plan Projects from the American Institute of Architects: Northeast IL, according to Dr. Thiele.

7. CALENDAR YEAR 2024 MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VISION PLANS AND PREMIUMS

Dr. Thiele stated HUB, the District's insurance consultant, is recommending a change in both the deductible amount and premium costs, which are in line with industry standards, for the District's PPO/self-insured plans. He shared HUB's recommendations were brought to the Insurance Committee, which includes members of all the employee groups. Dr. Thiele stated the insurance premiums are an Action Item this evening.

8. SAT DATA

Gina Ziccardi provided cohort data for the Class of 2024 – the only cohort group the District has that has taken both the PSAT 10 and the SAT. She stated, for both tests, the Class of 2024 cohort exceeded the College Board Benchmarks in Evidenced Based Reading & Writing (EBRW) and Math. Ms. Ziccardi also provided SAT average score data for all District 99 students who took the SAT in April 2023, noting this group also exceeded the College Board Benchmarks in EBRW and Math. District 99 5 year SAT scores were shared with the Board by Gina Ziccardi. She noted in 2020 the exam was not administered.

Ms. Ziccardi explained, the School Report Card, which is due out on October 30, provides comparison SAT data for Illinois test takers only, while the College Board is based on National data.

9. HIRING UPDATE

Dr. Lang reported the District has taken steps, including providing lunch and increasing pay to market rate, to ensure Guest (Substitute) teachers feel more welcome in District 99. He noted last year there were 78 people on the list, and District 99 was not always their first choice for substituting, and this year there are 97 people on the list who are eager to substitute in District 99.

Rob Lang shared job fairs and an increase in the starting rate for paraprofessionals and job coaches has resulted in the District being able to recruit new hires from private industry. He provided comparison data from the 2021-2022 school year, where there were 27 unfilled positions and 11 new hires, to the 2023-2024 school year, where there are 3 unfilled positions and 22 new hires. He did note that in 2023-2024 the District is employing 9 agency staff.

Dr. Thiele recognized the Support Staff Association leadership, who were present at the Board meeting, for their willingness to address this high need mid-contract and come to the table to meet the needs of students.

10. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

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

11. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Thiele noted there is an updated Personnel Report in BoardDocs that reflects the removal of Machell Roberts from the Appointment-Classified section.

Member Pavesich moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which includes: A. Personnel Report - Appointments-Classified; Transfer of Position-Classified; B. Personnel Report - Retirement-Certified; Resignation-Classified; C. July and August Treasurer's Report and September Financial Pages; D. Student Trips/Tours; E. Acceptance of Grant - Illinois Press Foundation; and F. Acceptance of Donation - District 99 Education Foundation.

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

Dr. Thiele thanked the Foundation for their generous donation.

12. CALENDAR YEAR 2024 MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VISION PLANS AND PREMIUMS

Member Espinoza moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the calendar year 2024 Medical, Dental and Vision Plans and Premiums as presented.

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

13. OLD BUSINESS – SECOND READING AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES

The Policy Committee brought the following Policies forward for Second Reading and Approval. Dr. Thiele stated the Policies were reviewed at the last meeting and no follow up questions were received from the Board or the Policy Committee.

Member Pavesich moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Policies as presented.

- 2.110, Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers
- 3.40, Superintendent
- 4.45, Insufficient Funds Checks and Debt Recovery
- 4.60, Purchases and Contracts
- 4.100, Insurance Management
- 5.30, Hiring Process and Criteria
- 5.90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
- 5.125, Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct
- 5.150, Personnel Records
- 5.230, Maintaining Student Discipline
- 5.260, Student Teachers
- 6.135, Accelerated Placement Program
- 6.230, Library Media Program
- 7.180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- 7.275, Orders to Forgo Life-Sustaining Treatment
- 7.305, Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

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

14. NEW BUSINESS

None.

15. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Ilene Briner; Paul Drabik; Terrence Newsome, President, Parents Involved in Education; and Ed Briner expressed concerns about the teaching of gender identities and books related to non-traditional gender identities in the schools and advocated that more attention be paid to math, science and reading.

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

Member Hagstrom reported September 22 was the first LEND meeting of the year and State Senators and Representatives were in attendance. She shared some of the items being addressed include polling place legislation, bus driver legislation and the expansion of teacher credentials for the teaching of dual credit and dual language courses.

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

Dr. Thiele reported the hiring of a new director is the key focus.

18. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Member Pavesich reported the criteria for the Mark McDonald Scholarship is being finalized and the Foundation has some new Board members.

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

Member Dawson reported the Annual Conference is November 17-19 where there will be speakers, workshops, opportunities to learn best practices and network with individuals from other districts across the State.

20. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

President Renner announced the following meeting dates:

November 6, 2023 Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC


November 20, 2023 Regular Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC


21. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Pavesich reminded the Board about the Ribbon Cutting at T99 on Monday the 23rd, the Open House on Saturday the 21st at North High and the South High Homecoming Parade on Friday.

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Pavesich moved and Member Fuller 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 7:44 p.m.


Don Renner, President


Juli Gniadek, Secretary

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

OCTOBER 16, 2023

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Christine Christensen
Maria Georgiou
Paul Drabik
Adele Mitchell
Steve Briner
Glenn Gibson
James Kelly
Chris Kelly
Ed Benton
Frank
Skylar Heiman
ANGELO Gonzalez