

BUTLER SCHOOL DISTRICT 53  
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS  
Administrative Center  
Butler Junior High School  
Monday, October 15, 2018  
6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Dr. Beatty, Board President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Butler School District 53 to order in the boardroom at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Sally Beatty, President; Laura Bieselin; James Chow(6:06 p.m.arrived); Christopher Edmonds; Lou Paskalides (7.00 p.m. departed); Ahmad Sulaiman, Secretary

Members Absent: None

In Attendance: Heidi Wennstrom, Superintendent; Sandra Martin, Business Manager; Amy Read, Butler Junior High Principal; Chad Prosen, Brook Forest Elementary Principal; Bob Jakupi, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Farheen Beg, Director of Technology; Andrea Prola, Director of Student Services

**CLOSED SESSION 1**

Closed Session according to 5 ILCS120/2(c) 3 for "The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance," and 11 "Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting."

Moved by Mr. Edmonds, seconded by Mr. Sulaiman to move into closed session at 6:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Ayes: Mrs. Bieselin, Mr. Edmonds, Mr. Paskalides, Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Beatty

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Chow

**Motion carried.**

**Return to open session at 6:37 p.m.**

**Reception of Visitors**

Anne Huber, resident of Oak Brook, spoke to the board about a possible housing development within District 53 and referred to the capacity analysis. She stated there would be a significant financial impact and danger to the quality of education due to mass new enrollment. She added on November 6 there is a referendum in which the Oak Brook Park District could purchase the developing land. Jessica Kennedy, an OBPD representative will provide information at the next PTO meeting on October 16. Mrs. Huber requested support from the Board or administration to be present in the meeting and for the Board to provide specific information and facts in writing regarding a plan, possible expenses incurred, physical structural changes. The Board and Superintendent stated all available options are possibilities but it is not possible at this stage to define next steps due to many unknown factors.

Colleen Kowalkowski, resident of Oak Brook and member of "Yes for 86", returned to speak about the bond proposition by the Hinsdale Township High School District 86. She spoke of the upcoming informational meetings sponsored by the group: October 16, 9:00 a.m at Butler Jr. High; October 17, 9:30 a.m at Hinsdale Central; October 17, 7:00 p.m. at Hinsdale Community House; and October 19, 6:00pm an Open House Tour at Hinsdale Central. She encouraged the public to vote yes and visit the website at [yesfor86.org](http://yesfor86.org).

#### **Approval or Modification of Agenda**

Moved by Mr. Sulaiman, seconded by Mr. Edmonds to approve the agenda as presented.  
VOICE VOTE:**Motion carried.**

#### **Board Member Comments**

Mr. Paskalides accused the board of low integrity, policy violation and harassment. He stated he has submitted a FOIA request, reached out to the DuPage Regional Office Educational and Illinois Attorney General in regards to the Boards recent actions on two issues; the open meetings act and applications for Board vacancy. "I cannot be a part of a board I believe members to be of questionable ethics and low standards of integrity." He then resigned. Mr. Sulaiman thanked Mr. Paskalides for his service.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS**

##### **Appointment of Interim to the Butler School District 53 Board Member**

Motion by Mr. Sulaiman, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin to approve appointment of Keith Carlson to the District 53 Board of Education to fill the interim Board vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Elizabeth Chun.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Mr. Chow, Mr. Edmonds, Mr. Sulaiman, Mrs. Bieselin, Dr. Beatty

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**Motion carried.**

##### **Election of Permanent Officers**

Dr. Beatty resigned her position as President.

Motion by Dr. Beatty, seconded by Mr. Edmonds to approve appointment of Dr. Heidi Wennstrom to serve as President Pro Tem to conduct the Board Elections.  
VOICE VOTE: **Motion carried.**

#### **Election of President to the Butler School District 53 Board of Education**

Motion by Dr. Beatty, seconded by Mr. Sulaiman to approve appointment of Mr. Edmonds to serve as the District 53 Board of Education President for the remaining term until the next Special Organizational Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Beatty, Mrs. Bieselin, Mr. Chow

Abstain: Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

**Motion carried.**

#### **Election of Vice-President to the Butler School District 53 Board of Education**

Motion by Mr. Chow, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin to approve appointment of Dr. Beatty to serve as the District 53 Board of Education Vice-President for the remaining term until the next Special Organizational Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Mrs. Bieselin, Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

Abstain: Dr. Beatty

**Motion carried.**

It was stated that there is still one seat vacant on the Board which needs to be filled.

#### **PTO Update**

Mrs. Greco, PTO President, reported on the successful Book Fair at Brook Forest and the upcoming fair at Butler Jr. High on November 8. She graciously thanked all those who help. Mrs. Greco invited the stakeholders to attend the D86 referendum informational meeting at Butler Jr. High School on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. She added that a representative from the OBPD will also be present to discuss their referendum. She invited the community to participate in their joint student council blanket project which will benefit Lurie Children's Hospital and the Will County Advocacy Center. Upcoming events include the Sock Hop at Butler Jr. High and at Brook Forest, the Halloween celebrations and winter after-school sessions.

#### **Discussion/Presentations/Committee Reports**

##### **B & G Committee Report**

Dr. Martin referred to items on their minutes such as sound equipment, desk purchases, repairs on fence, and the new projector at Brook Forest. Chairs for the action item vote are on display for viewing and testing. Due to an emergency at Butler Jr. High, the hot water heater had to be replaced.

##### **DLT Committee Report**

Ms. Biesel discussed items on their agenda such as teacher evaluation, the new operational system Skyward and primary and secondary digital resources used by students. Future discussions will include the new advanced placement or accelerated process at both schools.

### **Technology Committee Report**

Mrs. Beg referred to information in the minutes such as completed summer work projects: VOIP, improvement to security cameras, STEM learning labs, and PowerSchool enhancements for parents. Currently, teachers are using social media Twitter to promote educational activities and the committee is reviewing the options for classroom technology presentations.

### **Superintendent Search**

Mr. Edmonds stated what took place by the board since the last open meeting. Two board members were charged with gathering information from search firms which responded. We agreed that we were going to use one of the four responding search firms that we notified the community about. A concern, which led to the resignation of a board member, was addressed regarding the board engagement of a firm before the open meeting vote. Outside counsel was obtain as to how to remedy the action. Dr. Beatty spoke about benchmarks, how searches are carried out, replacement guarantees and price. Mrs. Biesel added the search firm chosen has a greater national pool of candidates, stating "We would like to expand the search to states that have higher ranked education than Illinois does."

### **BOE Committees and BOE Participation**

Mr. Edmonds noted that the committee assignments would be changing and better aligned with the school functions after the board vacancies are complete. It was noted that committee meetings are open to the public and encouraged candidates to apply for the board vacancy.

### **Oak Brook Commercial Revitalization Plan**

A copy of the plan is available in the district office and on the internet and as this was previously discussed in public comments; there was nothing further to be added.

### **Superintendent's Report -**

#### **Principal Appreciation**

In celebration of National Principals' Month, Week, and Day, Dr. Wennstrom encouraged all stakeholders to recognize principals for their actions and presented flowers to Miss Owen, Ms. Read, and Dr. Prosen from the Board of Education. Mrs. Prochaska was not present; flowers were delivered to her office.

#### **FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Requests (2)**

There were two FOIA requests received in the Superintendent's office since the last board meeting. On October 1, 2018, Anne Huber, an Oak Brook resident, requested the most recent enrollment study completed by the architects for District 53. The response was sent on October 2, 2018. The second request came from Louis Paskalides, an Oak Brook resident, on October 9, 2018. Mr. Paskalides requested emails related to Superintendent Search, Ray & Associates,

and contracts signed by Butler 53 Board President in August-October, 2018 as well as any applicant emails and related Butler 53 staff emails and Butler BOE Member emails regarding Interim Board Member vacancy applicants for current Butler Board opening. The FOIA response is in process.

### **Board of Education and OBEA Collective Bargaining Agreement 2018**

The “purple” 5-year Collective Bargaining Agreement was presented at the meeting and the unity of the leadership of OBEA was commended as well as the Board for their completion of the agreement. Dr. Wennstrom reminded teachers how much they are respected, and thanked the leaders of the Board, OBEA, and Dr. Martin for their hard work.

### **Supporting Student Success Partnership**

Ms. Prola invited all stakeholders to Butler Bridge Parent Partnership collaborative meetings, with the next one being in November. Some topics chosen by parents will include Multi-tiered Instructional Strategies, accelerated placement procedures, fostering student independence, transitions between schools, and safe internet use. She expressed gratitude for our partnerships with District 86, LASDE, and OBPD.

### **Brook Forest Building Report**

Dr. Chad Prosen, Principal of Brook Forest reported on school events such as the New York Times best selling author visit, Broadcast club, and International Walk and Bike to School Day. He also noted the upcoming visit of Principals and Ministers of Education from Shanghai on October 22, PTO classroom parties, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and the assembly Music and Mindfulness on November 12. He thanked the many contributors to these events including teachers, students and parents as well as the Board for his recognition and congratulated the new board officers.

### **Butler Junior High Building Report**

Ms. Read, Principal of Butler Jr. High, stated she along with 46 7th grade students just returned from a field trip to Philadelphia. Ms. Read thanked the PTO for their help and support with the previous retreats to Iron Oaks. She informed the board that the girls Varsity volleyball team made it into the final four in the conference tournament. She added tryouts for the fall play, basketball, and cheerleading are all occurring this week. All Jr. High parents are encouraged to attend Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 8th, November 14th, and December 5th by signing up for conferences using the online conference scheduling website. Mr. Read stated that Mrs. Prochaska has introduced “Lunch and Learn” with the purpose of providing students who have accrued a large amount of missing assignments with the opportunity to complete missing work. Ms. Read concluded by thanking Mr. Philips for his computerized sign in/out process for the front office and staff and thanking the board for their continued support of students and staff.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of the September 17, 2018 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of the September 17, 2018 Closed Session

3. Minutes of the October 8, 2018 Special Meeting
4. Minutes of the October 8, 2018 Closed Session
5. Approve employment of Estefany Rozo Olaya, Permanent Substitute, effective October 12, 2018, at a salary of \$19,613, plus benefits
6. Accept resignation of Deanna Dees, Paraprofessional, Brook Forest School, effective September 22, 2018
7. Approve 2 week FMLA leave request of Vickie Galvin, Administrative Assistant, District Office, effective October 9, 2018
8. Facility Usage
  - PTO Sports Boosters      Wednesday, 10/3/18, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
  - Pack 53 Cub Scouts      Thursday, 2/7/19, 3:25-4:45 p.m.
9. Financial Reports

The Board would like to modernize and change the process of reviewing invoices. Dr. Martin explained the current process of approval of disbursements of funds, the board's role of checking work to serve as a method of internal control and transition to Skyward, our new finance and payroll program. Once Skyward is in place, procedures can be reviewed and updated with a goal of automation.

Moved by Dr. Beatty, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Ayes: Dr. Beatty, Mrs. Bieselin, Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

**Motion carried.**

**Action Items**

Mrs. Weselak asked if there were late applicants to the board vacancy position and for clarification on the search firm contract. Dr. Beatty stated the Board has not moved forward on the search process and they are making a recommendation on a firm based on the charge given to two board members. Dr. Beatty noted all board members and the board secretary were provided with access to documentation regarding the process. No costs have been incurred by the district relating to the contract before the meeting, the vendor was told the contract was not available to them at the time and the board would reissue another one after the public vote.

Mrs. Weselak asked if the contract was issued and was rescinded and would be reissued. It was stated that a contract can't be rescinded if it is invalid and without a public vote. She asked if there was a contract that was moved forward. It was explained all vendors had a sample contract, however without the board validating the contract the contract is not valid. There was a document executed but it wasn't authorized by the Board. It was stated that Mr. Paskalides is a good man and doesn't deserve disparagement. In response to Mrs. Weselak's first question, the Board instructed to accept candidates until the close of business on the 4th. A board member stated that there was a misunderstanding of what time that meant. A notice for candidates stipulated applications were to be received by 4:00 p.m., however this time was not a board charge rather a convenience factor by the administration as the Board secretary's close of business day is 4 p.m., in order to receive an application by hand. The majority of the Board had a different time understanding for the close of business. One application was received at

4:20 p.m. Legal counsel advised the Board the deadline was self-created and held no legal meaning and it was up to the discretion of the Board to accept or not the application. Mrs. Weselak asked if anyone turned in an application past 4:00 p.m. for previous Board vacancies. The Board did not know the answer.

#### **Approve Contract with Ray & Associates**

Moved by Mr. Chow, seconded by Dr. Beatty to approve contract with Ray and Associates for superintendent search in the amount of \$15,000 plus expenses.

Dr. Beatty stated the 24 month placement guarantee offered by Ray and Associates was a desirable factor, as other firms typically only offer 6 months. It was added that this firm had stellar recommendations and was a national firm. The board's consensus was the amount of money spent on this contract, which includes background checks, town hall meetings, surveys, and insurance, was a good value. Ms. Bieselín stated that Ray and Assoc. had excellent references.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Ayes: Mrs. Bieselín, Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Beatty, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

**Motion carried.**

#### **Approve Contract with Four Point O for Folding Chairs**

The board asked to look into other purchasing options and proposals for folding chairs. Informational facts stated were the cost of the two proposed chairs, one being \$31 plus shipping, the other sells for \$38 at Cosco. It was added other comparative costs at Home Depot is \$28 and the proposed contract included shipping costs. The difference in materials, construction techniques, and longevity, as well as parent complaints and risks related to the current chairs was discussed. The replacement guarantee for seven years would be one for one. No motion was put forward at this time.

#### **Approve Contract with Stephens Plumbing and Heating Inc.**

Moved by Mr. Sulaiman, seconded by Mrs. Bieselín to approve contract with Stephens Plumbing and Heating for the replacement of the Butler Junior High water heater as described in their proposal for \$6,995.00.

The board is approving this expense, after the fact, due to the urgency and the fact that a school cannot legally operate without hot water. Mr. Edmonds pointed out the process of the expenditure of funds and how this compares to an earlier question.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Ayes: Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Beatty, Mrs. Bieselín, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried.**

#### **Approve Contract with Inspec, Inc.**

Moved by Mr. Chow, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin to approve contract with Inspec, Inc. for supervision of roof repairs at Brook Forest School as described in their proposal and not to exceed an amount of \$10,000.

This motion was amended for a total not to exceed \$10,000, as recommended by the Building & Grounds committee. The Board discussed the background of the roofing repairs at Brook Forest and the unknown insurance reimbursements. The architects suggested to have Inspec supervise the corrective work being performed is up to specifications. This contract is for future work on the invoice of a prior contract. Funds in the budget will cover these expenses.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Ayes: Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Beatty, Mrs. Bieselin, Mr. Chow, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

**Motion carried.**

**Announcements**

Future Board of Education Meeting and Committee Dates:

Technology Committee Meeting	(to be rescheduled)
B&G Committee Meeting	Thursday, November 1, 2018, 7:00 a.m.
DLT Committee Meeting	Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting	Monday, November 12, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Other Important Dates:

PTO Meeting	Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
BJH End of 1st Quarter	Friday, October 19, 2018
BF - End of First Trimester	Friday, October 26, 2018
PTO Meeting	Friday, November 2, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
BF & BJH Parent Teacher Conf.	Thursday, November 8, 2018, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
School Improvement Day-	Friday, November 9, 2018
Half-Day Student Dismissal Times	BF 11:50 a.m., BJH 11:40 a.m.
BJH Parent Visitation Day	Friday, November 9, 2018, 8:30-11:40 a.m.

The Board thanked the committee members and public for their attendance and reiterated their actions are for the best interest of the children and Stakeholders and welcomed being held accountable for their actions. Mrs. Weselak stated for the record that it was not insinuated that the water heater was ripped out by anyone and that it is state law that a school cannot be in session without a water heater. The board stated the remark was not intended towards Mrs. Weselak.

Closed Session according to 5 ILCS120/2(c) 11 "Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting."



Moved by Dr. Beatty, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin to move into closed session at 8:19 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Dr. Beatty, Mrs. Bieselin, Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

**Motion carried.**

**Move to closed session at 8:19 p.m.**

**Return to open session at 8:43 p.m.**

### **Action Items**

There was no further business to discuss.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Sulaiman, seconded by Mrs. Bieselin to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:43 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: **Motion carried.**

Christopher Edmonds, Board President

Ahmad Sulaiman, Board Secretary

Approved by the BOE at the 11/12/2018 Regular Meeting