

BUTLER SCHOOL DISTRICT 53  
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS  
Administrative Center  
Butler Junior High School  
Monday, February 11, 2019  
6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Mr. Edmonds, Board President, called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Butler School District 53 to order in the boardroom at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Christopher Edmonds, President; Sally Beatty, Vice President; Ahmad Sulaiman, Secretary; James Chow; Laura Bieselin; Keith Carlson (Arrived 8:20 p.m.); Sanjay Rao

Members Absent: None

In Attendance: Heidi Wennstrom, Superintendent; Amy Read, Butler Junior High Principal; Chad Prosen, Brook Forest Elementary Principal; Farheen Beg, Director of Technology; Andrea Prola, Director of Student Services

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Ms. Bieselin, seconded by Dr. Beatty to approve the agenda as presented with a reorder of agenda items as requested by Mr. Edmonds.

VOICE VOTE: **Motion carried.**

Mr. Edmonds announced that the meeting would be moving down to the BJH Library Media Center for an announcement, question and answer session, and a short reception.

Once gathered in the Library Media Center, Mr. Edmonds introduced the final candidate for the open Superintendent of School position at Butler School District 53, Dr. Paul O'Malley. Dr. O'Malley provided those in attendance with personal and professional background and his vision to take Butler 53 from an "Exemplary School District to an Epic School District." Community members took part in a brief reception and introduced themselves.

Board members returned to the board room and entered into closed session at 6:46 p.m.

Closed Session according to 5 ILCS 20/2(c) 1 for "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity."

Moved by Dr. Beatty, seconded by Mr. Sulaiman to move into closed session at 6:46 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Dr. Beatty, Ms. Bieselin, Dr. Rao, Mr. Sulaiman, Mr. Chow, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Carlson

**Motion carried.**

**Return to open session at 6:56 p.m.**

Mr. Edmonds requested the move to action item 10.1

**New Butler 53 School District Superintendent Employment Contract**

Moved by Dr. Beatty, seconded by Ms. Biesel to approve contract with Dr. Paul O'Malley, Superintendent of Schools, Butler School District 53, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024, with an initial starting salary of \$220,000.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Ayes: Dr. Beatty, Ms. Biesel, Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Rao, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Carlson

**Motion carried.**

Dr. O'Malley expressed his appreciation and thanked everyone for the warm welcome. Dr. O'Malley spoke on the great legacy at Butler 53 that includes the Board, Staff, Students, Parents and Community and looks forward to starting on July 1, 2019.

**Community Engagement**

Mr. Edmonds welcomed visitors. Colleen Tarantino, OBEA Representative, on behalf of the OBEA Mrs. Tarantino welcomed Dr. O'Malley to our great district. Anne Huber, parent, spoke on the electives at BJH. Mrs. Huber expressed her support for the proposed Art and Music plan for all students. Erin Krause, parent, supports the Art and Music plan for all students but feels it is rushed and does not believe the elective should be changed for the 2019-2020 school year. Cathy & Neil Murphy, parents, requested that the Board consider hosting a LADSE Special Education Communication Development program on site at Brook Forest or Butler Junior High. The Murphy's outlined their proposal in an email to all Board members and spoke publicly on the benefit to all students. Financially it would not impact the District as LADSE provides all staff, pays rent and a per student fee for out of district students. Dr. Beatty and Ms. Biesel expressed their support of an inclusive student environment. Dr. Wennstrom was asked to investigate and update the Board in March with possible options. Kathy Schooley, parent, expressed her support for the LADSE program at District 53, not only would students be able to go to school with their siblings but believes the district would also save on busing of special needs students to other districts for services. Ellen Wozny, OBEA President, requested that a clarification on electives at BJH be further discussed prior to action by the Board.

**Board Member Comments**

Dr. Rao welcomed Dr. O'Malley and recognized him as a transformative leader. Ms. Biesel was grateful for the highly qualified pool of candidates. The remainder of the Board welcomed Dr. O'Malley and look forward to getting started in July.

## **PTO Update**

Kelly Greco, PTO President, provided an update that included a thank you to the carnival committee and especially Rahma Hasan and Kristen Banderas as chairs. The carnival raised \$58,000 with the help of great parent and staff volunteers who donated hours to plan and run the event. The PTO also sponsored the Daddy/Daughter dance last Friday and International Day at BJH. Mrs. Greco reminded everyone that Dr. Bruce Law, Superintendent of High School District 86, will be attending the March 8<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting at 9:00 a.m. and speak on the referendum. The majority of the time will be used as a question and answer period where families will be able to ask questions that are most important to them. Parents are encouraged to come and invite neighbors that may not have children in the school district to attend the informational meeting. Please check out the PTO website for upcoming events.

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

### **Alternative Learning Days**

Mr. Edmonds provided perspective on the alternative learning days used in the district, due to inclement weather, on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Edmonds thanked the teachers for creating the lessons plans and requested that the entire team of administrators and OBEA report on all materials provided to students that day. The report will then be forwarded for review by legal to see if it meets the requirement of a school day. There are 176 days of student attendance days in our policy and school code. Given the feedback received from the community Mr. Edmonds welcomed comments from the audience. Lindsay Bilshausen, parent, spoke on her active participation with her two children who spent hours working on the lessons provided. The planning of the teachers was done, the learning of our children was done, and this should be over. Mrs. Bilshausen stressed that the Board should not take these days back from the students that worked so hard. Elizabeth Weselak, parent, spoke about the survey following the alternative learning days that showed 80% approval of respondents. The kids and the teachers did the work. Mrs. Weselak questioned what there really is to talk about. Ellen Wozny, OBEA President, questioned who would be reviewing the report for compliance. Mrs. Wozny read a statement on the alternative learning that took part on those historic cold weather days.

### **Innovative Classroom Spaces**

Farheen Beg, Director of Technology, provided a summary of the research collected on surveys and site visits to innovative classrooms of the future. A task force has been commissioned for recommendations in the discovery phase. Mrs. Beg noted that both the Education Committee and Infrastructure Committee supported a presentation of a pilot classroom.

### **Summer Construction 2019 Update**

Dr. Wennstrom provided the update on summer construction that will focus on the health and safety issues identified. Due to the work at both buildings there will be an impact on our summer learning opportunities.

### **Summer 2019 Learning Opportunities**

Andrea Prola, Director of Student Services, updated the Board on the summer programs for the students that will be invited this year. Ms. Prola assured the Board that communication will be sent out in a timely manner so parents can plan accordingly.

### **Mandated Reporter Training for Local School Board Members**

Dr. Wennstrom provided background and informed the Board of their requirement to report any child abuse or neglect reported in a public meeting. Board members were asked to sign the required document of acknowledgement and compliance.

### **Policy Review**

Mr. Sulaiman informed the Board that the first draft of the new policy manual has been received and needs to be reviewed before our next meeting with the IASB representative. Mr. Sulaiman requested that the Board review specific policies: 3030 Fund Balances, 3413 Purchases and Contracts, 6360 Administering Medicines to Students which are unique to Butler 53. Dr. Wennstrom asked that the Board review and provide input to Mr. Sulaiman and Dr. Rao.

### **Administrative Spending Authority**

Dr. Wennstrom and Mr. Chow spoke on policy 3413 on Purchases and Contracts. The threshold will be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 as the administrative spending authority without Board approve. This is in line with Illinois School Code.

### **Butler Junior High Unit Ventilator Water Damage**

Dr. Wennstrom reported that we are making very good progress on repairing damage due to the unit ventilator water damage at BJH. An insurance claim will be filed. Dr. Wennstrom commended the maintenance team that worked through the night so that school could be in session. There were three classrooms affected.

### **Cost Benefit Analysis of Snow Removal**

Dr. Wennstrom updated the Board on information provided by Dr. Martin on the current costs as they relate to snow removal at both buildings. There is no action item on this agenda but a recommendation for next school year.

### **Community Outreach Committee Report**

Dr. Rao updated the Board on the first meeting of the new Community Outreach Committee that was held on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee role is to improve outreach to stakeholders. The committee will work to develop a one-page highlighted newsletter for stakeholders. The next meeting will be held March 13<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. where a draft of the proposed newsletter will be reviewed and discussed.

### **Education Committee Report**

Ms. Biesel informed the Board that the last meeting of the Education Committee was very productive and action filled. Nina Angelillo, Art Teacher at BJH, submitted a very thorough and visionary art proposal that would revamp the art program at BJH. Electives at BJH were discussed. Action on these topics will be at upcoming Board meetings.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Carlson announced that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

### **Infrastructure Committee Report**

Mr. Chow updated the Board on aging equipment and furniture at both Brook Forest and BJH. The main playground at Brook Forest should be a consideration and will need to be replaced at some point.

### **Policy Committee Report**

Mr. Sulaiman referred the Board to previous policy discussion in the meeting.

### **Superintendent Search**

Dr. Beatty reiterated that the Board is thrilled with the selection of Dr. O'Malley as the new Superintendent. Candidates were able to look at the district assessments and point to the positives and areas of growth.

### **Superintendent's Report - Golden Apple Leadership Finalist**

Dr. Wennstrom announced that Ms. Amy Read, Principal at BJH, has been nominated and is a finalist for the covenanted Golden Apple Leadership Award. This award is recognition of the culture of the school and work of students/teachers and administrators. Dr. Wennstrom noted it is an honor to recognize Ms. Read.

### **5Essentials**

Dr. Wennstrom noted we have experienced very positive growth data. We have been very serious about looking at the 5Essentials data for growth in the district. We need 20% of our parents to participate in the survey to receive a summary from the state. The survey will be open until Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Brook Forest Building Report**

Dr. Chad Prosen, Principal of Brook Forest, announced that STEM night at Brook Forest had to be rescheduled due to weather. The new date is March 21<sup>st</sup> with Northern Illinois University. There was a coat drive and toothpaste drive. Report cards will be sent home on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

Ms. Read, Principal of Butler Jr. High, shared that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat "life ride" was well received by students thanks to the PTO. International Day celebrated cultures from around the world. The Spelling Bee took place with 20 rounds, thank you to Mrs. Amanda Moore for being the sponsor.

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

A FOIA request was received in the Superintendent's office from Nathan Mihelich of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of the January 12, 2019 Special Meeting
2. Minutes of the January 12, 2019 Closed Session
3. Minutes of the January 14, 2019 Regular Meeting
4. Minutes of the January 14, 2019 Closed Session
5. Approve employment of Malcolm Holland, IT Tech Tier I, Brook Forest Elementary, effective February 11, 2019, at \$19.00 per hour
6. Accept resignation of Estefany Roza Olaya, Permanent Substitute, Brook Forest Elementary, effective February 15, 2019
7. Approve job description for Building Principal
8. Facility Use Requests
  - Girl Scout Daisy Troop 55836                      Friday, February 22, 2019
9. Financial Reports

Moved by Dr. Beatty, seconded by Ms. Biesel to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

Ayes: Ms. Biesel, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Rao, Dr. Beatty, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

**Motion carried.**

### **Action Items**

#### **Board Meeting Schedule**

Moved by Ms. Biesel, seconded by Mr. Sulaiman to approve the Board regular meeting schedule from July 2019 through June 2020.

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

Ayes: Mr. Carlson, Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Rao, Dr. Beatty, Ms. Biesel, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

**Motion carried.**

### **Community/Board Member Comments**

After Board discussion between Ms. Biesel and Dr. Beatty it was concluded that the Art proposal would be tabled and discussed at the committee level. The committee would welcome any comments or concerns from parents. They requested that parents direct emails to: [education@butler53.com](mailto:education@butler53.com).

Lindsay Bilshausen, Parent, asked for clarification of the Art program proposal. Would a survey be going out or was it returning to the Education Committee? Dr. Beatty stated it was pushed back down to the committee.

Elizabeth Weselak, Parent, voiced her concern regarding the Education Committee meeting, which she has attended. Mrs. Weselak believes that the minutes are not accurately depicted. Ms. Read provided numerous ideas and they were pushed aside. It was my understanding at

the end of the meeting that we were not going to do anything for the coming year. There was a suggestion for a consultant and those in attendance were told it is too much money.

Mr. Edmonds, Board President, stated that we appreciate and thank you for your comments. This is not a conversation.

James Chow, Board Member, stated that he believes the new creation of committees is allowing for conversation and transparency.

### **Announcements**

#### Future Board of Education Meeting and Committee Dates:

Education Committee Meeting	Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
BOE Regular Meeting	Monday, March 11, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Community Outreach Committee Meeting	Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Infrastructure Committee Meeting	Monday, April 1, 2019, 7:00 a.m.
Finance Committee Meeting	Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Policy Committee Meeting	TBD

#### Other Important Dates:

Parent/Teacher Conferences (BF&BJH)	Friday, February 15, 2019, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Early Student Dismissal	
President's Day – NO SCHOOL	Monday, February 18, 2019
Non-Attendance Day – NO SCHOOL	Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Parent/Teacher Conferences (BF Only)	Thursday, February 21, 2019, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
County Wide Institute Day – NO SCHOOL	Friday, March 1, 2019
Casimir Pulaski Day – NO SCHOOL	Monday, March 4, 2019
PTO Meeting	Friday, March 8, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

Closed Session according to 5 ILCS120/2(c) 1 for "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity," 10 "The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students;" 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. Chow, seconded by Ms. Biesel to move into closed session at 8:47 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Mr. Chow, Mr. Sulaiman, Dr. Rao, Dr. Beatty, Ms. Biesel, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Edmonds

Nays: None

#### **Motion carried.**

Returned to Open Session at: 11:04 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mr.Chow, seconded by Dr. Beatty to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:04 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: **Motion carried.**

Sally Beatty, Board Vice President

Ahmad Sulaiman, Board Secretary

Approved at the 3/11/19 Regular BOE Meeting