

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole:
Special Education Parent Meeting
held at 6:30 p.m. March 7, 2018
Lincoln Middle School - Learning Resource Center
200 S. Lincoln, Park Ridge, IL 60068**

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Mark Eggemann, Rick Biagi, Fred Sanchez, and Larry Ryles. Board members Tom Sotos and Eastman Tiu were absent. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Heinz, Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad, Interim Director of Student Services Mike Padavic, Assistant Director of Student Services Vasiliki Frake, Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm, and about 45 parents and staff members.

Board of Education meetings are videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the District's website at: <http://www.d64.org> on the Board Meetings webpage. The Special Education Parent Group webpage also contains the video, presentation slides, meeting highlights, and information about upcoming meetings.

Board President Borrelli announced the purpose of the meeting was to allow the Board to attend the Special Education Parent Group session featuring a special education budget overview from CSBO Kolstad.

Public Comments

Board President Borrelli invited comments on items not on the agenda, which were received as follows:

- Andrea Yannella, Washington School parent, addressed the Board regarding services for students with dyslexia and the Wilson program.

Special Education Budget Overview

CSBO Kolstad provided an overview of the special education funding and budget process in District 64. During the presentation, CSBO Kolstad, Dr. Heinz, Mr. Padavic and Mrs. Frake responded to questions from Board members and parents to provide clarifying information. CSBO Kolstad began by describing the three revenue streams available for special education within D64's annual budget process -- federal, state and local. She detailed the elements within each category in turn, and noted the specific sources of funding and the uses of those funds as established by law. On the federal level, she pointed out that District 64 receives funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part B, including Flow Through and Preschool, and she then detailed how these funds specifically may be used and the restrictions on the use of those funds. CSBO Kolstad also explained in depth the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) federal regulation that requires school districts to expend at least the same year-over-year on educating students with disabilities based on total year special education expenditures. She provided

detailed data tracking the MOE expenditures over the last year years, including total expenditures, federal funding, net expenditures, prior year MOE, MOE comparison, and per capita. She confirmed that the data indicate that expenditures have continued to increase over that time period. She reported that the District faces serious financial consequences if it does not maintain MOE, and that any exceptions must meet the allowable guidelines and are documented. She also reviewed the two components of Medicaid funding that the District receives. D64 physical therapist Lynn Condon provided clarifying information for a question on Medicaid reimbursement for services.

Moving to funding through the State of Illinois, CSBO Kolstad and the team continued to respond to Board member and parent questions as each topic was addressed. CSBO Kolstad explained how the state had shifted its special education funding beginning in 2017-18 into an Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) model, but that implementation is not complete. She noted that the special education transportation reimbursement remains separate, and is pro-rated at 80% of the full cost to the District. She described the delays in receiving funds from the State, and noted how fortunate District 64 is to have a sufficient operating fund balance to cover these expenses until state payments are eventually received. The team also provided information about funding and qualifications of students according to state standards for participation in the special education Extended School Year (ESY) program, and noted that the District's program surpasses what is required by the state. The team provided further clarifying information about the operation of this program.

CSBO Kolstad also reviewed the enhancements made to D64 services recently, including adding an Assistant Director of Student Services, two Special Education Coordinators, and providing Registered Nurses in all schools. She pointed out that the District had recommended the addition of one more Elementary Coordinator for 2018-19 to bring the coverage into alignment with what is provided to the middle schools. Further discussion ensued about professional development activities and special education equipment purchases.

Parent Group Announcements

Returning to other topics for the parent group, Dr. Heinz and Mr. Padavic provided updates on: the candidate interview and selection process for the permanent Director of Student Services including the participation by all stakeholder groups; the selection of an auditing firm to conduct a baseline of current operations to identify areas of strengths and opportunities for improvement; the convening of the District's first Parents and Teachers Talking Together (PT3) group to focus on a special education mission aligned with the D64 2020 Vision Strategic Plan; and agendas and speakers for upcoming meetings.

At 8:09 p.m., it was moved by Board President Borrelli and seconded by Board member Sanchez to adjourn. The votes were cast as follows:

Board of Education COW: Special Education Parent Group Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2018

AYES: Eggemann, Biagi, Sanchez, Ryles, Borelli

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Sotos, Tiu

The motion carried.

President

Secretary