

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 6:00 p.m.
April 11, 2018
Lincoln Middle School - Learning Resource Center
200 S. Lincoln Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Fred Sanchez, Larry Ryles, Mark Eggemann, and Rick Biagi. Board member Eastman Tiu was absent. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Heinz; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Joel T. Martin; Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm; Interim Director of Student Services Mike Padavic; and two members of the public.

Board of Education meetings are videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the District's website at: <http://www.d64.org>. The agenda and all reports for this meeting are also available on the website, or through the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge.

BOARD RECESSES AND ADJOURNS TO CLOSED SESSION

At 5:36 p.m., it was moved by Board President Borrelli and seconded by Board member Sanchez to adjourn to closed session to discuss student disciplinary cases [5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(9)].

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sotos, Ryles, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion carried.

The Board adjourned from closed session at approximately 6:00 p.m. and resumed the special meeting at 6:05 p.m. In addition to those mentioned above, also present were: Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez; Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden; and approximately 45 members of the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board member Larry Ryles led the Pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board President Borrelli invited public comments on items not on the agenda. Comments regarding the special education audit and special education services were received from District 64 parents Maura Cullen, Debbie Lovett, Stephanie Thillens and Tom Fisher.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. Heinz reviewed with the Board her recommendation to appoint Dr. Lea Anne Frost as the new Director of Student Services effective July 1, to replace Interim Director Mike Padavic. She noted that Dr. Frost had been selected from a pool of 21 candidates through the District's standard, rigorous hiring procedure for central office administrators, which includes a multi-step screening and interview process and extensive participation from all stakeholders. Dr. Heinz thanked Board members Ryles and Sotos for their participation on the interview committees as the Board's representatives.

Dr. Heinz reported that Dr. Frost is an administrator with deep and varied experiences, who comes to District 64 with more than 20 years of experience in the field of special education, ranging from her start as a special education teacher to rising levels of responsibility and complexity as a special education program supervisor and assistant superintendent before heading multi-district cooperatives. She reported that most recently, Dr. Frost has served as Executive Director of Exceptional Children Have Opportunities (ECHO), a special education joint agreement serving students in 17 school districts at the elementary and high school levels in Chicago's south suburbs. Dr. Heinz pointed out that Dr. Frost also has a long track record of leadership roles in a host of professional educational organizations, and is the current president of the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) and is a member of the Illinois Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Special Education and chair of its subgroup: "Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) as a Monitoring and Enforcement Agency." She noted that Dr. Frost holds a bachelor's degree in special education from Illinois State University, a master's from Northern Illinois University, and a doctoral degree from Roosevelt University. Dr. Heinz reported that throughout the interview process, Dr. Frost repeatedly shared how much she welcomes the chance to work hand-in-hand with our staff members and families across District 64. Dr. Heinz pointed out that Dr. Frost's warmth and empathy as a communicator coupled with her leadership skills and deep understanding of all things special education will allow her to form effective partnerships. Further, Dr. Heinz noted that the District is planning for a seamless hand-off in leadership as Dr. Frost transitions in coming months with Mr. Padavic.

ACTION ITEM 18-04-1

It was moved by Board member Ryles and seconded by Board member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the appointment of Dr. Lea Anne Frost as the Director of Student Services beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 based on the recommendation of the Superintendent and not upon the Board's direct knowledge regarding the individual selected for appointment.

Board member Biagi suggested the motion be amended to include the salary to be paid. Consent was given by both Board members Ryles and Sotos, and the motion to amend was approved as follows:
AYES: Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sotos, Ryles, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion to amend was carried.

The amended motion was then moved by Board member Ryles and seconded by Board member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the appointment of Dr. Lea Anne Frost for the annual salary of \$145,000 as the Director of Student Services beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 based on the recommendation of the Superintendent and not upon the Board’s direct knowledge regarding the individual selected for appointment

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sotos, Ryles, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The amended motion was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF CARPENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dr. Heinz thanked the Board for agreeing to add an additional assistant principal position, so that both Carpenter and Franklin schools could have a full-time assistant administrator instead of splitting one individual. Dr. Heinz reported that the candidate identified for Carpenter had accepted a principalship elsewhere, so the District would not be presenting a recommendation for Carpenter at this time.

APPOINTMENT OF FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dr. Heinz reviewed with the Board her recommendation to appoint Christa Donnelly as the new full-time Assistant Principal of Franklin School effective July 26, 2018. Dr. Heinz noted that Mrs. Donnelly had been selected after a multi-step review process from an initial pool of 112 applicants. She reported that Mrs. Donnelly is already an experienced, student-centered administrator who is well acquainted with the demands of helping lead within a fast-paced school environment, of working cooperatively with staff, and of maintaining strong connections with parents. Dr. Heinz reported that Mrs. Donnelly has served for four years as Coordinator for Student Services (similar to an assistant principal) in Highland Park District 112, where she also served as an extended school year administrator. Dr. Heinz noted that Mrs. Donnelly is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has a master’s degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and will receive a second master’s from Concordia University this spring. She noted that Mrs. Donnelly’s special education background is an added benefit, which has given her a keen understanding of the importance of using data to guide and plan for instruction to create positive outcomes for general as well as special education students, both academically as well as in their social emotional learning.

Dr. Heinz reported that Mrs. Donnelly will be a strong partner with Franklin Principal Claire Kowalczyk to lead Franklin School forward in reaching its continuous improvement goals.

ACTION ITEM 18-04-3

It was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Eggemann that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois approve the appointment of Christa Donnelly as the Assistant Principal at Franklin Elementary School effective July 26, 2018 at a salary of \$86,000.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Sanchez, Ryles, Sotos, Borrelli, Biagi, Eggemann

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AUDIT FIRM AND OVERVIEW OF THE AUDIT PROCESS

Dr. Heinz reported that at the March 12, 2018 meeting, the Board had received an update on the selection of Lisa Harrod of LMT Consulting to conduct a comprehensive audit of District 64's special education services. She noted that Interim Director Mike Padavic had been working with Mrs. Harrod and her team to prepare for the audit, which is getting underway immediately following this special meeting.

Mrs. Harrod then introduced herself and the members of her team, including Erin Ruff, Jaime Finkelstein, Dan Hollowell, and Jacob Emerson, providing highlights of their training, background and work in the special education field. She then discussed with the Board the comprehensive review process developed for District 64, which will invite open discussion both of celebrations and challenges to assist in moving the department forward in a positive direction. She described the schedule for the next several days, which will include initial focus groups this evening, and full days in the District on Thursday, April 12 and Monday, April 16 for visits to all schools and further roundtables/interviews with parents, as well as general and special education staff; class observations; randomly selected IEP file reviews; and meetings with administrators and individual Board members. She noted that online surveys also were underway with parents and staff. Mrs. Harrod said the comprehensive review was designed to engage stakeholders to talk about communication and how information is delivered; the IEP process; programming; service delivery; and challenges and areas of growth, as well as areas of strength. Dr. Heinz noted that Dr. Lea Anne Frost, the incoming Director of Student Services, would use the audit findings as a starting point for her work moving the department forward. Many of the Board members then individually shared their expectations and hopes for the audit. The consensus of the Board was to reconfirm that the audit team should provide an independent, unfettered view of the current strengths and opportunities

for improvement in the District's special education program based on its research and input gathered from all stakeholder groups. Dr. Heinz confirmed that the target for delivery of the findings was tentatively the Board's May 21, 2018 meeting, but that this timing could be extended if necessary into June. Dr. Heinz noted that the report will be an important component of Dr. Frost's transition work as she prepares the department for the upcoming school year.

RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT

Board President Borrelli stated that the Board is relying upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and administration in their professional judgment as to the hiring of these individuals per Policy 2:130.

Personnel Report

Christa Donnelly - Employ as Assistant Principal for Franklin School effective July 26, 2018 - \$86,000.

Dagmaris Febus - Employ as Special Education Assistant at Emerson School effective February 7, 2018 - \$15.65 hr.

Lea Anne Frost - Employ as Director of Student Services effective July 1, 2018 - \$145,000.

Juan Ibarra - Employ as Night Custodian at Roosevelt School effective March 26, 2018 - \$17.03 hr.

Rico Perez - Employ as Full time District Floater Custodian effective March 27, 2018 - \$17.03 hr.

Joanne Young - Employ as (.50) Special Education Assistant at Jefferson School effective April 5, 2018 - \$15.65 hr.

Julia Bowen - Resign as 4th Grade Teacher at Field School effective June 1, 2018.

Selam Duka - Resign as Full-time District Substitute Custodian effective March 9, 2018.

Kathleen Janousky (Schayer) - Resign as Guidance Counselor at Lincoln School effective June 1, 2018.

Marisha Lewis - Resign as Special Needs – Early Childhood Teacher at Jefferson School effective June 1, 2018.

Linda Hill - Retire as Instructional Resource Assistant at Field School effective June 1, 2018.

Nancy Novak - Retire as Instructional Resource Assistant at Washington School effective June 1, 2018.

Carol Rickert - Retire as 12-Month Lead Secretary at Lincoln School effective June 30, 2018.

Madelyn Wsol - Retire as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent at ESC effective June 30, 2018.

Board President Borrelli noted on the Personnel Report the retirement of Mrs. Wsol. He praised her many contributions to facilitating the Board's functions and activities and her ongoing assistance to Board members, and offered the best wishes of the entire Board for her retirement.

ACTION ITEM 18-04-4

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Biagi that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the

Personnel Report, including #1201 Honorable Dismissal of Teachers, noting that the Personnel Report is based on the recommendation of the Superintendent and not upon the Board's direct knowledge regarding any of the specific individuals selected for employment.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sotos, Ryles, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:48 p.m., it was moved by Board President Borrelli and seconded by Board member Biagi to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

AYES: Eggemann, Biagi, Borrelli, Sotos, Ryles, Sanchez

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: Tiu

The motion carried.

President

Secretary