

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting  
held at 6:00 p.m. on June 14, 2018  
Jefferson School - Multipurpose Room  
8200 N. Greendale Avenue, Niles, IL 60714**

Board President Anthony Borrelli called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Other Board members in attendance were Fred Sanchez, Larry Ryles, Rick Biagi, Tom Sotos and Eastman Tiu. Board member Eggemann arrived immediately after the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Superintendent Laurie Heinz; Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Lori Lopez; Public Information Coordinator Bernadette Tramm; Board legal counsel Tony Loizzi of Hodges Lozzi; and about 35 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.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board member Larry Ryles led the Pledge.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board agreed by consensus to hear public comments following the agenda item.

**DISCUSSION SURROUNDING THE DRAFT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS (IGAs)**

Board President Borrelli noted that at the May 21, 2018 regular meeting, the Board had discussed a draft mission statement and the updated versions of the proposed IGAs with the City of Park Ridge and Village of Niles, and that the five Board members present had reached consensus unanimously to send the revised IGAs to the attorneys at the two municipalities to move the documents forward. He noted that subsequent to that meeting, three Board members had requested that a special meeting be conducted concerning the SRO topic. Based on this request, the action items are on hold with the municipalities until the Board could have further discussion tonight.

Upon the invitation of Board President Borrelli, Board members Tiu, Sanchez and Sotos shared their thoughts about why they had requested the special meeting. Following this review, Mr. Loizzi, the Board's attorney, recommended that the Board determine its interest at this time in continuing with discussion of a pilot program. Board President Borrelli then informally polled the Board. Board members shared their opinions; the consensus was that the majority of the Board want to continue this discussion.

Mr. Loizzi then reviewed the timeline of the SRO program, which began with the Board's action to create an SRO pilot program at the August 28, 2017 regular meeting. He pointed out that time there have been nine meetings, including tonight's special meeting, where the SRO program was on the agenda for discussion. He noted that one of the meetings in addition to tonight's meeting had been solely for the discussion of the program, and that the Board had also received public comments on the SRO program at several other meetings not included in this tally. He then suggested the Board determine what further engagement with stakeholders the Board desired to have, and whether the Board would like to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would reflect stakeholder input received over many months and lay out what the Board would like to accomplish with the program. He noted that an MOU could then be useful in aligning the final versions of the mission statement and the IGAs. Mr. Loizzi noted that the IGAs are contracts between District 64 and the City of Park Ridge and Village of Niles, which dictate how the school district and municipality interact with each other. In contrast, he pointed out that an MOU is for District 64's benefit in clarifying for stakeholders the intent of the pilot program, and that there may be items in an MOU that would never be reflected in an IGA, because District 64 would not need the municipalities to agree to it.

Board members engaged in a lengthy discussion of the stakeholder input that has been received reaching back to summer 2017. It was noted that many such suggestions have been incorporated into the IGA and more recently, the mission statement, so that it may not be obvious to stakeholders where their concerns have been addressed. It was further pointed out that remaining concerns seem to have coalesced around particular themes, such as measurement of the program's success, guidelines for interactions with special needs students, and the role of the SRO unrelated to student discipline, among others. Board President Borrelli then informally polled the Board about their interest in developing an MOU to better delineate guiding principles of the SRO pilot program for stakeholders. Board members shared their opinions; the unanimous consensus of the Board was to move forward to create an MOU.

The Board next turned to a discussion of how an MOU might be created, noting the various options available. Discussion quickly focused on the creation of a special committee of the Board, which is provided by Board Policy 2:150. It was confirmed that the committee would operate under the Open Meetings Act, and could consist of both Board members and appointed members. Board President Borrelli then informally polled the Board about their interest in establishing a Board committee to create an MOU. Board members further shared their opinions; the unanimous consensus of the Board was to create a new committee.

Upon guidance from Mr. Loizzi, an action item to formally establish a new Board committee will be placed as an action item on the agenda for the next meeting scheduled for June 25, 2018. The Board then engaged in a preliminary discussion of potential members for the committee. It was agreed that the number of committee members would be kept smaller so it can meet and function effectively, but that many other stakeholders could be utilized as resources to provide expertise and guidance to the

committee. Board members also expressed interest in creating a Board committee on special education to focus on that area. To provide a balance in viewpoints, Board member Sotos and Board Vice President Biagi agreed to be the Board representatives for the SRO Committee. Board member Ryles expressed interest in serving as a Board representative on a Board Special Education Committee. Board members then brainstormed on who should be appointed to serve on the SRO Committee, and who might best be utilized as a resource and/or as a liaison from an organization. Board President Borrelli invited Board members to submit to Dr. Heinz their recommendations as to who should serve on the committee, and who could be a resource. It was noted that Dr. Heinz also would be able to invite and publicize the opportunity to the community, following the Board's formal action expected on June 25.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board President Borrelli invited public comments, which were received as follows:

- Tracy Fragassi, D64 alumna and parent, offered her favorable experience with SROs over many years as a D63 teacher, and urged the Board to implement the program.
- Debbie Lovett, D64 parent, addressed the Board about her hopes for an eventual SRO program.
- Janessa Nikols, D64 parent, expressed her concerns about the interaction of SROs with special needs students and other students who may not have been identified as special needs but may have other behavioral issues.
- Roisin Hamilton addressed the Board about the financial impact and liability of an SRO program.
- Ginger Pennington, D64 parent, addressed the Board about her continuing concerns, and emphasized that evidence-based research should drive the policy decision to create an SRO program.
- Carol Sales, D64 parent, provided an overview of various concerns that have been expressed about the SRO program around major categories.
- Rachel Nash, D64 parent, addressed the Board primarily on the issue of training of staff regarding the SRO role and program, as well as SRO training.
- Anita Winey, D64 parent, advocated primarily for the expansion of social emotional learning programs, and building the awareness of the community's role in preventing gun violence.
- Kristen Olson, D64 parent, addressed the Board about the proposed SRO's limited schedule in light of goals for the program.
- John Murphy, D64 parent from Niles, addressed the Board primarily about clearly delineating the SRO role as not related to student discipline.
- Greg Bublitz, D64 parent, addressed the Board primarily about legal risk and criminal action related to an SRO program.
- Miki Tesija, D64 parent, expressed concerns that the SRO program and special education program issues are being conflated.
- Alice Dobrinsky, D64 parent, presented a compilation of questions and concerns since the SRO program was initially approved.

- George Monical, former Emerson parent, addressed the Board primarily about restorative justice training for staff.

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:25 p.m., it was moved by Board President Borrelli and seconded by Board member Tiu to adjourn to a closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act [5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)], and not to return to open session thereafter.

The votes were cast as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

PRESENT: None.

ABSENT: None.

The motion carried.

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President

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Secretary