

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.  
March 11, 2021  
VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID-19  
Alternate Remote Attendance at Jefferson School (MPR)**

Board President Rick Biagi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members in attendance via remote participation were Carol Sales, Dr. Denise Pearl, Rebecca Little, Larry Ryles, and Fred Sanchez. Board member Sotos was absent at that time. Superintendent Eric Olson attended in-person at Jefferson School. Also attending remotely were: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Joel T. Martin; Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology Mary Jane Warden; and Board Legal Counsel Tony Loizzi.

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 reports for this meeting are also available on the website or through the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068.

**BOARD RECESSES & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING**

At 6:01 p.m. it was moved by Board member Ryles and seconded by Board member Pearl to adjourn to closed session to discuss collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees [5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)].

The votes to adjourn to the closed meeting were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sanchez, Ryles, Little, Pearl, Biagi, Sales

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: Sotos

The motion carried.

**BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES REGULAR MEETING**

The Board adjourned from the closed meeting and resumed the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to those listed above, also attending remotely were: Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning Dr. Lori Lopez; Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad; Director of Student Services Dr. Lea Anne Frost; Director of Facility Management Jason Borst; Public Information Coordinator Peter Gill (attending but not participating); and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Natasha Nedeljkovic. No member of the public was physically present at the alternate remote location, and approximately 20 people attended virtually.

Board member Tom Sotos joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board member Ryles led the pledge of allegiance.

### **OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**

President Biagi had no remarks for tonight's meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the District's website and in the Board report. Public comments were also welcomed at the alternate remote location. No public comments were received.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

No changes were made to the agenda.

### **STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Director of Student Services, Dr. Lea Anne Frost, noted how proud she was of the instructional staff and their willingness to teach in-person during the difficult pandemic period. She stated they had also been creative with remote students to keep them focused and engaged while attending classes virtually.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Superintendent Olson said the students will return full-time in-person on March 29 immediately following spring break. He noted that the lowest number of students returning to a school was 81%, while most schools are seeing over 80% and two schools are above 90%. Dr. Olson said the numbers were higher than anticipated, but the District will be ready to welcome everyone. He mentioned that new guidance had been issued this week from the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), that the District is now carefully reviewing. Dr. Olson stated that it did include distancing of three feet or less, as opposed to six previously; lunch still had to occur with six feet of distancing, which the schools will need to work through and organize. Transportation was also being organized to accommodate for proper safety protocols on buses. He noted that school principals will work with families following spring break if some do not feel comfortable returning to school due to travel and would rather wait two weeks. He stressed that beyond spring break, the District will require parents to commit to in-person or remote more rigorously to prevent disruptions to learning.

### **DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF STUDENT FEES 2021-22**

Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Luann Kolstad announced that the District was not looking to raise the fees for the upcoming school year. She explained that parents pay 68% of elementary school costs and 52% of middle school costs. This is the 13th consecutive year that fees will not be raised. The business department was working on collecting unpaid fees from this year, and also working with families in need of fee waivers due to the financial impact of the pandemic. Responding to a question from president Biagi,

CSBO Kolstad stated that although costs have increased, it would be difficult to raise fees due to the pandemic. She said the Board could consider increasing the families' share of the costs in the future, she did not see a need to raise the fees this year. She also stated that the costs vary from year to year and this decision should remain fluid. Board member Sanchez had a question about sustainability and who covered those costs. CSBO Kolstad explained that LakeShore, the scavenger company contracted by the District, pays for the composting fee, while composting trays and bags provided at lunch are rolled into the lunch cost.

**ACTION ITEM 21-03-1**

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Ryles that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the 2021-22 Student Fees as presented.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Biagi, Little, Pearl, Sales, Sanchez, Ryles, Sotos

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING AMENDMENTS TO REGULAR & SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CONTRACTS**

CSBO Kolstad announced that Lakeview Bus Lines, Inc had requested a 7.4% increase in the upcoming contract renewals. The main reason was the scarcity of bus drivers which is driving up the cost of transportation for all districts. She said the District had the option to accept the increase or go out to bid. She also provided a comparison table of surrounding districts and their transportation costs, noting that District 64 was on the lowest end, even with an increase. President Biagi said the District could also make a counteroffer. Mrs. Kolstad noted that the last time the District had gone out to bid for transportation, it had received only one bid; in addition, other bus companies could request parking areas close to the schools or rental reimbursement for parking spaces. Board members discussed the options and shared their opinions. They focused on the fact that the company had shown to be reliable, responsive with special education students, the increase would be for one year only, and this would avoid disruption to transportation while still dealing with pandemic issues. The Board reached a consensus to accept the increase; Mrs. Kolstad will bring the contracts for approval at the April 8 regular meeting.

**DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF 2021-22 E-RATE CATEGORY 2 PROJECTS PART 1**

Director of Technology Mary Jane Warden explained that her department was looking for approval of two projects: The first was to maintain and improve the infrastructure of the internet and wireless network of the District. The department would like to install sensors to monitor and gather data for the technicians to analyze in order to make the system more reliable. The department had chosen Wyebot's proposal, which would include the E-rate discount immediately instead of the District waiting for reimbursement. The

second project involved a wiring update at Emerson Middle School as current internet speeds far exceed what the infrastructure in place can allow. This would also help prepare for an update of the school's public announcement system, the last school to receive this update. The District would receive a 40% reimbursement through E-rate for this project and had selected CDWG to do the work as they had done prior projects for the District in the past and the other comparable vendors were unknown. Board member Pearl noted that the first project included a three-year subscription and inquired as to what that included and what the renewal cost would be after the initial three years. Mrs. Warden was not able to provide an immediate answer as to the renewal cost and the Board decided to table the item until the April 1 special meeting, when they would be provided with more information. April 1 would still be timely in order to receive the E-rate discount.

**ACTION ITEM 21-03-2**

It was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge - Niles, Illinois, approve the Additional Network Monitoring Equipment in the amount of \$15,360.00 to Wyebot.

This motion was rescinded by member Little and Pearl and the item tabled until the next meeting on April 1, following the discussion above.

**ACTION ITEM 21-03-3**

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Pearl that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge - Niles, Illinois, approve the Emerson Middle School Wiring Upgrade in the amount of \$57,261.00 to CDWG.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Pearl, Sales, Little, Sotos

Nays: Biagi, Ryles, Sanchez

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**BOARD AUTHORIZES 2021-22 STAFFING PLAN**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Joel Martin stressed that due to the pandemic and unusual circumstances, there was not a lot of information available yet for next year. He mentioned that nearly a dozen teachers will retire at the end of the school year, and the District might not need to do any reduction in force based on decreased enrollment. He noted an anticipated decrease in enrollment of 108 students, as discussed at the last meeting, but the District will continue to monitor the numbers once enrollment begins in April. Dr. Martin did not anticipate a need for hiring new positions at this time. He was asking the Board to approve the rollover of the 2.5 K-5 differentiation coaches positions hired this year that were set to expire at the end of the school year. These coaches have been employed in other areas during this past year due to remote learning, but the District will need them and expected to sunset the positions at the end of the

2021-22 school year. President Biagi inquired about the drop in enrollment at Washington School after the District had done an addition driven by overcrowding issues. Dr. Martin noted that the fifth-grade class this past year had been an unusually large one and he stated that it would not take long to see the numbers swing back up after the COVID-19 impact ends. President Biagi asked if the school had lost a large number of students to the neighboring private school this past year and Dr. Martin said he could not say with certainty where the students had gone. He stated that until enrollment numbers come in through summer, there would be a lot of volatility and uncertainty. Member Sales asked if enrollment was expected to increase after spring break due to the return in-person full-time, but Dr. Martin did not think that was the case. Dr. Olson said the administration would keep an eye on it and would inform the Board once they had a better idea of the numbers in April.

**ACTION ITEM 21-03-4**

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the recommended 2021-22 Staffing Plan presented and discussed at the February 11, 2021, regular Board of Education meeting.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sales, Sotos, Little, Biagi, Sanchez, Pearl, Ryles

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF 2020-23 SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

President Biagi explained that the Board had conducted a performance review of Dr. Olson that began in July of last year and continued this spring due to the disruption brought on by the pandemic. The Board had reviewed goals and a possible contract extension this past January and February in closed meetings. The Board had completed its review and had agreed to extend the contract. Further discussions and reviews were done by attorneys and a market adjustment of \$11,000 had been approved to meet similarly-situated superintendents in surrounding districts. The adjustment would be spread over two years. Dr. Olson thanked the Board for their support and said he was happy to be in District 64 and hoped to be here for a long time.

**ACTION ITEM 21-03-5**

It was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Pearl that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the 2020-23 Superintendent's employment contract for Dr. Eric Olson.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Biagi, Sotos, Sales, Sanchez, Pearl, Little, Ryles

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

## **BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Committee member Sales gave an update of the February 23 meeting of the committee. The committee had met to discuss specific policies. The committee reviewed the procurement policy and process, discussed the possible creation of a special committee to review this process, contemplated mirroring the Park Ridge sole-source procurement process, and also reviewed the Chicago Public School procurement policy.

President Biagi mentioned that the Park Ridge process could be tailored to the District's needs. Member Ryles noted the need to appoint a Board member to oversee and review bills payment. This discussion would continue at upcoming meetings. Member Sales also talked about the 4:180 policy which was previously adopted and the Board requested the policy committee to discuss further. Pursuant to the Board's direction, the policy committee had considered adding a sentence to amend the policy to include stronger language requiring frequent updates by the Superintendent to the Board during a pandemic. The Board reached a consensus to leave the policy as-is for now and possibly revisit it after the new Board is seated at the end of April.

## **APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL REPORT**

It was noted 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.

Dr. Martin explained that dismissals listed below happen every year and are not due to performance. The District will bring the positions back next year if needed.

### **ACTION ITEM 21-03-6**

It was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Sanchez that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Personnel Report dated March 11, 2021, including Resolution #1265 Honorable Dismissal of Teachers; and Resolution #1266 Dismissal of Probationary Educational Support Personnel Employees; 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: Sales, Pearl, Ryles, Sanchez, Sotos, Biagi, Little

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Bills, Payroll, and Benefits

Bills

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$ 393,255.25
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 169,194.20
30 - Debt Services	\$ 12,859.05
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 4,278.12
50 - Retirement (IMRF/SS/MEDICARE)	\$ -
60 - Capital Projects	\$ 281.25
61 - Capital Projects-2017 Debt Certificates	\$ -
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 312.50
90 - Fire Prevention and Safety Fund	\$ -
<u>Total:</u> \$ 580,180.37	

Payroll & Benefits

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Total</u>
10 - Education Fund	\$37,065,514.07
20 - Operations and Maintenance Fund	\$ 4,232,389.30
30 - Debt Services Fund	\$ 2,353,309.19
40 - Transportation Fund	\$ 1,173,817.21
50 - IMRF/FICA Fund	\$ 629,801.92
51 - SS/Medicare	\$ 702,273.30
60 - Capital Projects Fund	\$ 4,782,576.11
61 - Cap Projects Fund - 2017 Debt Certs	\$ 0.00
70 - Working Cash Fund	\$ 0.00
80 - Tort Immunity Fund	\$ 501,468.00
<u>Total:</u> \$51,441,149.10	

The Accounts Payable detailed list can be viewed on the District 64 website's business services page at [www.d64.org](http://www.d64.org).

- Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending January 31, 2021
- Resolution 1267 Authorizing an Amendment of the Intergovernmental Agreement Relating to the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission
- Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none)

**ACTION ITEM 21-03-7**

It was moved by Board member Little and seconded by Board member Sanchez that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the Consent Agenda for March 11, 2021, which includes: Bills, Payroll and Benefits; Approval of Financial Update for the Period Ending January 31, 2021; Resolution 1267 Authorizing an Amendment of the Intergovernmental

Agreement Relating to the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission; and the Destruction of Audio Closed Recordings (none).

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Pearl, Little, Sales, Biagi, Ryles, Sotos, Sanchez

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **ACTION ITEM 21-03-8**

It was moved by Board member Sanchez and seconded by Board member Little that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge – Niles, Illinois, approve the minutes from the Closed Meeting on February 4, 2021; the Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 4, 2021; the Closed Meeting on February 11, 2021; the Regular Meeting on February 11, 2021; the Closed Meeting on February 25, 2021; and the Special Meeting on February 25, 2021.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Biagi, Little, Sanchez, Pearl, Sales

Nays: None

Present: Sotos, Ryles

Absent: None

The motion carried.

## **OTHER DISCUSSION & ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Dr. Olson noted the upcoming special meeting on April 1 and the regular meeting on April 8 and had no other topic to discuss.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board briefly discussed the upcoming Board elections and an organizational meeting of the Board that will take place on April 29. The Board will decide whether to hold this meeting in-person or virtually.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:48 p.m. it was moved by Board member Pearl and seconded by Board member Sotos to adjourn.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sanchez, Little, Biagi, Sotos, Sales, Pearl, Ryles

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Signed Date: April 8, 2021.

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President

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Secretary