

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 126  
Prairie Junior High  
11900 S. Kostner  
Alsip, IL 60803  
January 9, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board and audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Pierce called the roll.

Present: Marigrace Sinnott-Snooks, President  
Joe LaChica, Vice President  
Lori Ann Pierce, Secretary  
Kim Powers 7:02PM  
Therese Zaker  
Donna Waldrom

Absent: Harry Tannehill

Also Present: Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent  
Steve Gress, Assistant Superintendent  
Lori Connolly, Director of Teaching and Learning

**ELEARNING PROGRAM PLAN PUBLIC HEARING**

Joe LaChica moved, seconded by Therese Zaker, "That the eLearning Public Hearing be opened." Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Pierce, Sinnott-Snooks, Powers, Waldrom, Zaker, LaChica. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

There were no questions/statements or positions from the Audience or Board.

Kim Powers moved, seconded by Donna Waldrom, "That the Public Hearing be closed." Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: LaChica, Pierce, Powers, Sinnott-Snooks, Waldrom, Zaker. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Joe LaChica moved, seconded by Lori Pierce, "To approve the minutes of the November 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: LaChica, Sinnott-Snooks, Waldrom, Pierce, Zaker. Nay: none, Abstain: Powers. The motion carried 5-0-1.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Therese Zaker moved, seconded by Donna Waldrom, "To approve the Consent Agenda". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Powers, Pierce, Zaker, Waldrom, LaChica. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

Steve Gress stated that we received a FOIA request from SmartProcure, Quadient and Kirkland & Ellis LLP and we responded within the proper length of time.

## **FINANCIAL**

Donna Waldrom moved, seconded by Joe LaChica, "To ratify the December bills paid by the District and approved by the Superintendent for the dates of November 8, 2019 through December 13, 2019". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Waldrom, Pierce, Zaker, LaChica. Nay: none, Abstain: Powers. The motion carried 5-0-1.

## **EDUCATIONAL REPORT**

Lori reported that our SEL Parent Night for all district families is being held on January 14th from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at Hazelgreen School. Our theme for the evening is *Raising Children is a Walk in the Park... Jurassic Park!* Our goal is to demonstrate how we support students' social emotional learning at school and provide strategies and tips for parents to implement with their children at home. We have 12 teachers who will be conducting various breakout sessions. There will be food, free babysitting, and lots of great prizes.

Lori also stated that the Illinois State Board of Education requires that a school district designate an administrative position to coordinate the bilingual program for the district when there are at least 200 students eligible for bilingual education. She mentioned that for the past three years, Nicole Leggett, principal of Stony Creek School, and Lori elf have been sharing the responsibilities of coordinating the bilingual program for the district; however, while our district enrollment numbers have remained consistent, our number of students requiring bilingual education continues to rise. Lori then reported that our trend is demonstrating that our bilingual student numbers will remain well above the 200 threshold, which is why we are recommending hiring a full-time administrative bilingual program coordinator for the district. While our district provides a wonderful and supportive educational experience for all our students, including our bilingual students, a full-time bilingual program coordinator can designate more time to support the program, students, teachers, and families.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Therese Zaker moved, seconded by Lori Pierce, "To approve the position of Bilingual Program Coordinator." Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Waldrom, Pierce, Zaker, Powers, LaChica. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

Steve Gress reported that Alsip, Hazelgreen and Oak Lawn School District 126 participates in the federal E-Rate program which is a program providing significant discounts on our internet and fiber optic connections and services and for technology infrastructure. We are required to teach internet safety and to have internet protection software in place to block access to harmful images. We have both. We are required to acknowledge this in a public meeting and to ask if there are any questions or concerns about internet safety.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Therese Zaker moved, seconded by Lori Pierce, "To appoint a Board Committee of Therese Zaker and Lori Pierce to meet with the administrators and union officers to review the 2020-2021 School Calendar". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Waldrom, Pierce, Zaker, Powers, LaChica, Sinnott-Snooks. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Steve Gress discussed the National School Lunch Community Eligibility Program. He explained how this program would work in our School District. It will be discussed again at the February Board Meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Lori Pierce moved, seconded by Therese Zaker, "To adjourn the meeting". Upon roll call, the vote as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Powers, Pierce, Zaker, Waldrom, LaChica. Nay: None. The motion carried 6-0 at 7:40 p.m.

  
President

  
Secretary