

# BOARD BRIEFS

May 12, 2020 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

## Board of Education:

Mr. John Corcoran, President  
Mrs. Jennifer Gusentine, Vice President  
Mrs. Natalie Watkins, Secretary  
Mrs. Jennifer Dunleavy  
Dr. Nathan Phillips  
Mrs. Laurie Scheer  
Mr. Andy Taylor

## Administration:

Dr. Amy Warke, Superintendent  
Mrs. Ali Beiermeister, Director of Teaching & Learning  
Mr. Eric Callis, Director of Technology  
Mr. Michael Duback, Director of Operations/CSBO  
Mr. Kent Hoefling, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mrs. Amy Laskowski, Director of Student Support Services  
Ms. Laura Magruder, Elementary School Principal  
Mr. Michael Papierski, Middle School Principal

Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions for sheltering-in-place to minimize the spread of the virus, LaGrange Highlands Board of Education commenced the May 12th Board meeting virtually.

Remember Highlands Community, we ARE Highlands Strong  
Stay healthy and provide encouragement to each other!



## Old Business Reports

### Building Utilization Report

Dr. Warke stated that the Building Utilization Committee was formed to address the space needs of our growing population in District 106. With the acquisition of rooms from Grand Avenue, the district had an opportunity to address student learning spaces to meet our current student needs. The committee completed the task of room movement for the upcoming school year by using the parameters of, 1) Kids First, 2) Least amount of disruption, 3) Minimal/no construction and 4) Being mindful of transition times (to specials, interventions, etc.). The overall design plan features Highlands Elementary occupying the upper level of our building and Middle School occupying the lower level.

### Tentative FY20 Amended Budget

Mr. Duback explained that once the Board of Education accepts the tentative amended budget, it will be placed on display for 30 days for public review, per Illinois School Code. A public hearing will be held on June 16, and notice of that hearing will be published in a locally circulated paper at least 30

days prior. Following that public hearing, the final FY20 amended budget will be presented. The Board will then have an opportunity to vote and approve that FY20 amended budget on June 16 during the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

#### Financial Auditing Services Recommendation

Mr. Duback indicated that for the past five years, District 106 utilized the services of *Lauterbach & Amen, LLP*, to conduct the annual audits of the district's finances. The initial agreement with *Lauterbach & Amen* was three years, with the option to extend for two additional years. It is good business practice to regularly evaluate both current and alternative auditing firms. Through the Request for Proposal ("RFP") process, members of the Finance Advisory Committee ("FAC") reviewed six proposals and is recommending to engage ***Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP*** ("Baker Tilly") to provide financial auditing services for fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022, with the possibility of extending that partnership for audits of fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

#### Last Student Day for 2019-2020

Dr. Warke explained that each year there are 176 days used for student instruction and this year is no different, even with the shift to e-Learning. The last student learning day (May 27) will be earlier than anticipated due to the staff utilizing remote learning plan days allotted by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). ISBE allotted five staff planning days in the beginning of April, two of which will be used on May 28 and 29 to complete report cards and additional professional learning. The final day of the school year remains as June 1, originally scheduled as an Institute Day.

#### Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding 2019-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

Dr. Warke stated the MOU document corrects certain discrepancies discovered between the ratified CBA and the agreed upon language between the Board and the Union. The MOU defines the items to be corrected. Upon Board approval, the items will be incorporated into the final version and posted on the district website.

### **New Business Reports**

#### Board Policy Updates - 1st Read

Many board policies were updated and provided to the Board for a first read. At the next board meeting, these policies will be presented for Board approval.

#### Board Policy 5:330 Update

Dr. Warke explained that a conflict was discovered between Policy 5:330 and the Educational Support Staff (ESP) handbook. Legal counsel was consulted to determine the changes needed to be made in the policy. The policy was updated and provided the Board with a first read.

#### Discussion - New Teacher Job Description

Ms. Magruder and Mrs. Beiermeister described the rationale for shifting from the existing Technology and Innovation Specialist to a STEAM/Makerspace Specialist. This shift will allow for the expansion of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) educational opportunities to create dynamic student learning experiences to meet student needs and prepare them for the ever-evolving future. The STEAM/Makerspace Specialist will provide STEAM instruction aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

### Discussion - Phases of Re-Entry to Open Schools

Dr. Warke continues to meet with the LT feeder superintendents and superintendents from the West Cook region to discuss information received from ISBE related to COVID and school reopening. The district administration has been planning on three scenarios to return to school in the fall: 1) Return as if it will be a normal year, 2) Return to a hybrid year of in-person social distancing and remote learning, and 3) Return to remote learning.

### Discussion - Technology Purchase Proposal: Kindergarten & 1st Grade Devices

Mr. Callis, Ms. Magruder, and Mrs. Beiermeister presented the rationale for a K-1 technology purchase. Mr. Callis indicated that 19-20 is the last year of a 3-year plan to initiate 1-1 down to 2nd grade. Also, Ms. Magruder explained the need for 1:1 devices for primary grades (kindergarten and first grade). This need is due to the many applications and video technology currently being used for remote learning. It was also noted that after the initial deployment of devices to K-1 students, additional devices were provided to several families. By adding 27 additional iPads and repurposing the iPads from the technology teacher's cart, RTI and the resource rooms, it allows the district to be 1-1 in grades K-8.

## Information Only

- March 2020 Financial Report (Board Policy 4:20)
- April 2020 Financial Report (Board Policy 4:20)
- March 2020 Bills Payable (Board Policy 4:50) Note-Repast from the 3/19/20 meeting
- April 2020 Bills Payable (Board Policy 4:50)
- May 2020 Bills Payable (Board Policy 4:50)
- March 31, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$468,509.12; April 15, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$438,875.88; April 30, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$437,204.45; and May 5, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$2,363.52

## Personnel

The Board accepted or approved the following:

- Approve the Following Employment Recommendations (Board Policy 5:30)
  - **Katie Schaefers**, 1.0 FTE Business Office Specialist, effective 4/6/20, replacing M. Vargas.
  - **Laura Smith**, 1.0 FTE Executive Asst. to the Superintendent & Sec. to Board of Education, effective 7/1/20, replacing K. Schmitt. - **Bridget Baillie**, 1.0 FTE 4th Grade Teacher, effective 8/17/20, replacing J. Hanson. - **Catherine Burke**, 1.0 FTE New Kindergarten Teacher, effective 8/17/20. - **Allison Herman**, 1.0 FTE New 2nd Grade Teacher, effective 8/17/20.
  - **Amy Olson**, 1.0 FTE 3rd Grade Teacher, effective 8/17/20, replacing J. Ziolkowski.
  - Dakota Spacek**, Part-time Summer Custodian, effective on or about 5/11/20.
  - Peter Szewczyk**, Part-time Summer Custodian, effective on or about 5/11/20. - **Thomas Callis**, Part-time Summer Tech Intern, effective 5/26/20. - **Nicholas Roberts**, Part-time Summer Tech Intern, effective 5/26/20. - **Kayla Schmidt**, Part-time Summer Tech Intern, effective 5/26/20.
- Approve the Following Resignation Requests (Board Policy 5:290)
  - **Eduardo Marentes**, 1.0 FTE, Paraprofessional, effective 6/1/20. - **Marisa Johnson**, .7 FTE Paraprofessional, effective 6/1/2020. - **Kathy Schmitt**, 1.0 FTE Exec. Asst. to Supt. & Sec. to BOE, effective 6/30/2020.

## Your Board Approved or Accepted

1. Minutes of the February 18, 2020, Regularly Scheduled Board of Education meeting.
2. Minutes of the February 18, 2020, Closed Session Board of Education meeting.
3. Minutes of the February 25, 2020, Special Scheduled Board of Education meeting.
4. Minutes of the February 25, 2020, Closed Session Board of Education meeting.
5. Minutes of the March 19, 2020, Regularly Scheduled Board of Education meeting.
6. Minutes of the April 9, 2020, Special Scheduled Board of Education meeting.
7. Minutes of the April 9, 2020, Closed Session Board of Education meeting.
8. Minutes of the April 21, 2020, Regularly Scheduled Board of Education meeting.
9. The 2020-2021 academic school calendar.
10. The May 2020 bills payable were paid in the amount of \$208,889.91 through the Resolution, which was approved at the March 19, 2020 board meeting. The Resolution authorizes payments of the regular district bills between the March 19, 2020 board meeting, and the June 16, 2020 board meeting due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.
11. Resolution Authorizing Reduction in Force of Educational Support Personnel.
12. Resolution to Suspend Board Policy 6:280 for the 2020 Graduating Class.

## Future Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, June 16, 2020**, virtually, if still sheltering-in-place or in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, La Grange, IL 60525.

- ES and MS Student/Parent Handbooks (Board Policy 3:10, June)
- Strategic Plan Strategies Discussion (Board Policy 1:30, June)
- ES and MS School Improvement Plan (SIP) - (Board Policy 6:15, June)
- Grand Avenue Before and After School Facility Usage (Board Policy 4:60, June)
- Financial Forecasting (Board Policy 4:20, June or July)

Have comments for the Board of Education?

Email: [boe@district106.net](mailto:boe@district106.net)