

BOARD BRIEFS

October 15, 2019 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Board of Education:

Mr. John Corcoran, President
Mrs. Lori Bryant, Vice President
Mrs. Natalie Watkins, Secretary
Mrs. Jennifer Dunleavy
Mrs. Jennifer Gusentine
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

COMMUNICATIONS, VISITOR(S), COMMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

Before opening the floor to visitor comments, Board President, Mr. Corcoran addressed the attendees with regard to the status of negotiations with Highlands Association of Teachers Council (HATC). Below is an excerpt from his prepared statement.

“Thank you to those of you who have come here tonight seeking more information about the status of negotiations between the District and the Highland Association of Teachers (HAT), the union that represents our district’s certified teachers.....I want to state clearly that the Board takes very seriously our responsibility to achieving a fair contract agreement that supports both the educational quality and the financial stability of our district.....We are working hard to negotiate a fair agreement that pays our teachers competitively, while allowing us to maintain a balanced budget and protecting our ability to provide our teachers and students with the tools and resources they need to deliver the excellent education.....Since January, the Board and the union have met more than 20 times with the support of an independent mediator from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. We have reached tentative agreements on a number of issues.....we hope to make progress on the economic issues yet to be resolved--predominantly, salary and benefits.....We are committed to doing everything we can to reach a contract agreement without disruption to our students, families, and schools.....the Board strongly believes in and respects our teachers.....As our negotiations continue, teachers are currently receiving their full salary and benefits under the terms of our most recent contract--and, when we reach a new agreement, the Board has committed that any salary increases will be paid retroactively to the start of the school year.

Mr. Corcoran opened the floor for public participation. There were parents, community members, and members of the League of Woman’s Voters who spoke to the Board about their thoughts and feelings regarding negotiations, teachers contract, and the Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) resolutions allowing voluntary district employees the ability to carry a concealed firearm.

Old Business Reports

Facilities Update

The facilities update from Mr. Hoefling discussed the increasing enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. He featured classroom options for growth at both the lower and upper levels. Additionally, he presented a potential option to add five and six class sections in the next three to four years. The next steps in the process for next school year are to include teachers in the discussion to gain input into the decision.

New Business Reports

School Improvement Plan - Elementary and Middle School

Dr. Warke shared that the annual school improvement plans are created to promote continuous improvement and ensure every student achieves his/her potential. Both elementary and middle school SIP teams consisted of administrators and teachers from a variety of grade levels, content areas, and specialists. Both SIP teams began by analyzing several data sources (MAP, 5Essentials, IAR, ISA, etc) to identify areas of strength, areas of growth and celebrations. The teams determined their goal areas to be mathematics, literacy and social-emotional learning/wellness. From these goals, specific action steps have been developed to meet these goals by the end of the school year.

Residency Verification Process

Mr. Duback indicated District administration has proactively worked with legal counsel to review the district's current residency verification processes for new families, as well as the documentation and timelines used to verify existing students' residency. Based on a review of residency documentation and timelines, the following takeaways were identified: a) internal administrative procedures/documentation for initial verification needs to be updated; b) currently, proof-of-residence documents are required for students entering kindergarten and 6th grade and new students moving into the district.

Information ONLY

Outdoor Education Report: Mr. Papierski highlighted the 5th graders' amazing outdoor education experience with a video clip. The focus of the trip is social emotional development as well as bringing learning beyond the classroom. Students participate in team building exercises, high ropes courses, outdoor survival, and much more. The outdoor education experience provides students with unique opportunities to develop their intellect, academic, social, personal and interpersonal skills through challenge and adventure in a safe and supportive environment.

Strategic Plan Progress Update: Dr. Warke stated the strategic plan process will begin with the Orientation Retreat on 10/23/19 and summarized the agenda. She explained the Strategic Plan website was launched for not only the participating team members but for the community, too.

Updates/Discussions

Township Treasurer's Office Update (TTO)

Mr. Corcoran, Board president indicated the TTO and LTHS District 204 remains involved in ongoing litigation. A settlement was not reached during the last trial date, but a new trial date has been set in December.

Personnel

The Board accepted and approved the following:

- Employment Recommendations: -**Marisa Johnson**, 1.0 FTE Middle School Paraprofessional, effective 9/25/19, replacing S. Olson -**Amira Ballin**, part-time Crossing Guard, effective 10/10/19, replacing A. Kowalski
- Employment Resignation: **Adrienne Kowalski**, part-time Crossing Guard, effective 10/4/19

Your Board Approved or Accepted

1. Minutes of September 3, 2019, Special scheduled meeting of the Board of Education.
2. Minutes of September 3, 2019, Closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
3. Minutes of September 17, 2019, Regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education.
4. Minutes of September 17, 2019, Closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
5. Minutes of September 18, 2019, Special scheduled meeting of the Board of Education.
6. Minutes of the September 18, 2019, Closed session meeting of the Board of Education.
7. October 2019 bills payable.
8. September 2019 financial report.
9. The September 30, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$422,264.45; and the October 15, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$432,127.94.
10. Freedom of Information Act request from DRG Holdings LLC, SmartProcure, and Cook Country Observer Investigation.
11. Re-classification of Registered Nurse to Certified School Nurse.
12. Policy updates.
13. The Superintendent's goals and evaluation tool.

Future Agenda Items

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on **Tuesday, November 19, 2019**, in the LRC at 1750 W. Plainfield Road, La Grange, IL 60525.

- Fall Data Presentation (November-Presentation)
- Acceptable Use Policy Discussion (November-Discussion)
- Audit and Annual Financials (November-Presentation)
- Proposed Tax Levy (November-Presentation)
- IASB Resolution Discussion (November-Discussion)
- Principal Evaluation Process (November-Discussion)
- Residency Policy/Procedures (November-Information)

Have comments for the Board of Education?

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