

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at Covington School, 9130 S. 52nd Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

Members Present: Adriana Sebek, Ed Smykowski, Jay Lurquin and Brian Nichols.

Members Absent: Carly Bishop, Peter DeRousse and Jennifer Fortier

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Loftin, Dr. Macchia, Dr. Spreitzer, Dr. Gonzalez, Mrs. Blissett and Mr. Cassidy

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mr. Nichols read the Mission Statement.

Public Comment President Nichols stated that citizen comments were allowed to address the Board. Public comment would be limited to 30 minutes with each person being limited to five minutes.

- There were no comments at this time.

Discussion I: Special Education Program Update [3A]
Mrs. Blissett presented the special education reorganization plan. Mrs. Blissett reviewed the goals which included: spreading services more equitably across the district, increasing resources to support inclusion opportunities, improving continuum of services to increase student growth, leaving room for growth of programs, creating more individualized services for students with disabilities flexibility to implement individualized plans, and flexibility to more effectively implement individualized plans with fidelity.

Mrs. Blissett reviewed the number of sections in each elementary school as currently planned but confirmed that this may change based upon needs. At this point, Hometown is planned to have five sections, Sward will have three sections, Covington will have three sections, Hannum will have one section, and Kolmar will have five sections. It was confirmed that there will be no significant changes at OLHMS. Mrs. Blissett also reviewed the current staffing plan for the 24/25 school year. It was confirmed that some of the positions will be filled by current staff, and some are new positions that have been posted. If needed, D123 has used contracted services to cover some hard to fill positions.

Mrs. Blissett reviewed the student projections but noted that this could change depending on families moving in and out of the district. It was confirmed that there is a maximum student allowance. PTP classes should have no more than approximately 13 students. It was also confirmed that the 70/30 ratio means that a class should have up to 70% general education students and up to 30% special education students. Mrs. Blissett also reviewed the communication timeline from the special education department.

It was confirmed that at this point, each elementary school is planned to have a stand-alone music classroom and art classroom. This could change

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

based upon enrollment needs. It was also confirmed that specialists (social workers, psychologists, BCBA, etc.) are involved with general education students as needed.

Discussion II:

Capital Projects Update [3C] [3D]

Mr. Cassidy updated the Board on the progress of the Early Learning Center. The front office spaces have been framed out and electricians are currently working in that area. New windows have been cut in the gym and we are waiting on the delivery of the glass. Classroom sink plumbing is currently being installed. The warehouse is in the process of being framed out for the new training room. HVAC and electricians are also working in the new training room. The training room is currently running ahead of schedule. Crews have been able to take advantage of the nice weather to continue on outdoor work. A construction meeting is held every two weeks with construction managers and architects to review progress and problem solve. Following the construction meeting, administration gets an update. It was confirmed that this project is still on budget and there have been no major changes to the original plans.

Generators have been delivered and installed at Hometown and Covington. It was confirmed that these generators are for emergencies only, not the full load. It was requested that administration ask the architect to review the cost differential for these generators vs. generators that will take on the full load.

Three of the four trucks ordered have been delivered. The district is waiting on temporary license plates and will look to dispose of the older trucks.

Mr. Cassidy reviewed other upcoming projects. The Sward Tuckpointing and Roofing project will go out to bid and go before the Board for approval in March. The Hannum School painting project specs will be presented shortly. The Covington gym floor has some damaged wood and buckling which needs to be repaired. The district is working with the insurance company to confirm the cause of the moisture which is damaging the floor and replacement options. It was confirmed that this would be a full replacement of the gym floor.

Discussion III:

Strategic Planning Process Timeline

Dr. Macchia provided the Board with a timeline for the strategic planning process and a letter of agreement with HYA. The process is projected to start in August. HYA provided rough estimates of information gathering. It was confirmed that the Board would be working with Dr. Jim Gay and Mr. Rick Nogal.

It was noted that the timeline shows a Portrait of the Graduate workshop, which the Board originally was not interested in doing. It was stated that this is a three-hour workshop which may be a good centering activity which can help guide the process. This portrait could only be used as an activity and not be posted. The Board also has the option of striking this as desired.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

It was asked why the process would not start sooner than August. Dr. Enderle and Dr. Macchia both stated that, in past experience, participation in Spring and Summer tends to drop while participation in the fall tends to be very strong. While the fall will be busy, it was thought it would be best to take advantage of the momentum and begin the work when school starts.

Board Comments:

Mr. Lurquin discussed the South Cook Legislative Breakfast. Three government representatives attended this meeting. A discussion was held regarding the fact that the state has approximately 700 mandates for schools and only 40 are funded. The rest are either partially funded or not at all.


Mr. Smykowski also discussed the breakfast. He recommended finding a way to get our state representative and congressperson more involved by inviting them to attend Board meetings.

Mr. Nichols stated that the best we can do is invite them. There is no guarantee that they will attend. He felt it was a good idea to strengthen our relationship with our representative and congressperson.


Mr. Smykowski also asked how things were going with the new SRO. Dr. Enderle confirmed that the feedback so far has been very positive, and he has been well received.

Adjourned -8:35 p.m.

The next special meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 20, 2024 at the Administrative Office, 4201 West 93rd Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 26, 2024 at the Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.



President



Secretary