

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 25, 2023, at Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

Members Present: Carly Bishop, Peter DeRousse, Ed Smykowski, Jennifer Fortier, Jay Lurquin and Brian Nichols.

Members Absent: Adriana Sebek

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

Also Present: Community members, parents and staff

At 6:00 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Smykowski, seconded by Mr. Lurquin, to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by section 2.06 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9); Security procedures, school building safety and security and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8); the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).

Closed session discussions were completed at 7:12 p.m. and it was unanimously agreed to return to open session.

Open Session. The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by the President and upon the roll call, Brian Nichols, the President and the following members were physically present: Jennifer Fortier, Ed Smykowski, Peter DeRousse, Carly Bishop, Jay Lurquin and Brian Nichols.

Admin Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Loftin, Dr. Macchia, Mrs. Blissett, Dr. Gonzalez, Dr. Spreitzer 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.

- No one came forward at this time.

Discussion I: Oak Lawn Hometown School District 123 Final Budget
Dr. Loftin reviewed the final budget with the Board. The

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revenues/expenditures have changed since the second reading of the budget due to an additional early childhood grant which was awarded to D123. Dr. Loftin reviewed the budget development compared to the FY23 Final Budget. He also reviewed the operational funds revenues and expenditures. The budget will be balanced. Dr. Loftin also compared the D123 fund balance by fund and percentage to other area school districts. Dr. Loftin also stated that it was recommended that the district zero out the TORT fund balance.

Public Hearing

Budget Public Hearing 2023/2024

President Nichols opened the public hearing for the 2023/2024 Budget. There were no public comments at this time. President Nichols closed the public hearing.

Action I:

It was moved by Mr. Lurquin, seconded by Mrs. Fortier, to approve the District 123 Budget, 2023-2024. Voting ayes: Mr. Lurquin, Mrs. Fortier, Mrs. Bishop, Mr. DeRousse, Mr. Smykowski and Mr. Nichols. Nays: None. Absent: Mrs. Sebek. The motion passed.

Presentation:

Strategic Planning Process – Battelle Presentation

Jeff Korchinski, of Battelle for Kids, gave a presentation on the strategic planning consulting services offered by Battelle. Battelle is a national company that has been in business for 20 years. They have worked with Illinois school districts such as Lake Forest SD67 & SD115, Winnetka Public District 36 and Valley View SD365U among others. They start with creating a Portrait of a Graduate for the district and use that as the North Star. The entire process from the Portrait of a Graduate to finalizing the strategic plan would take about 6-8 months. Battelle works to ensure all voices are heard. The recommended design team could include social service agencies, community members, higher education, business leaders, communities of faith, students, educators, families, school leaders, and district leaders and school boards. The strategic plan would be a D123 plan, not a Battelle plan. Battelle's job is to facilitate so the district owns it.

President's Report

President Nichols stated that the Board earned the IASB School Board Governance award for the fourth time (third consecutive time). He also stated that he has received resolutions for review and will have a summary ready for the October business meeting.

Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent Enderle's report included:

- Dr. Enderle reviewed the FOIA requests as submitted to the district.
- The district total entity count as of September 20, 2023 stands at 3,303. This is down slightly from the enrollment at the end of the first trimester in 2022.
- The average class sizes are as follows: K-2 is 20.6; 3-5 is 22.6; and 6-8 is 27.6.

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- Fall Family Conferences will take place in October. Families will have the opportunity to have in-person conferences or telephone conferences.
- The High School Fair will be held on October 19, 2023 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at OLHMS.
- Unity Week will take place October 16-20. National Unity Day is October 18, 2023.
- The annual First Responders Meeting was held on September 20th at OLHMS. Those in attendance included representatives from D123, D122, D229, and first responders from Oak Lawn, Hometown and Bridgeview, among others.
- The district is working on substitute teacher recruitment and engagement. Our substitutes received individualized contact over the summer. There is a 3-part professional development opportunity for substitutes and a shadowing process for our new substitutes. At this point, our pool of active substitutes is 79.
- D123 earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials for the third consecutive year.

- B. Business Office – Mike Loftin
- C. Curriculum and Family Engagement – Kathy Gavin
- D. Learning, Communication and Technology – Joe Macchia
- E. Literacy and Intervention – Katy Spreitzer
- F. Operations – Leo Cassidy

Consent Agenda

It was moved by Mr. DeRousse, seconded by Mrs. Fortier, to approve/adopt the Consent Agenda that included the following items:

MINUTES

Minutes of August 28, 2023.

Closed Minutes of August 28, 2023.

Minutes of September 12, 2023.

Destruction of the following closed session audio recordings, as per P.A. 93-523: August 4, 2021; August 9, 2021; and August 30, 2021.

The release of closed session minutes as they no longer require confidential treatment: December 19, 2022; January 10, 2023; January 23, 2023; February 14, 2023; February 21, 2023; February 27, 2023; March 20, 2023; April 25, 2023; May 17, 2023; and May 22, 2023.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bill List Report

September 25, 2023

\$2,056,800.13 Education Fund Payroll, Sept 1st, Sept 15th

\$ 192,622.94 Teacher Pension Fund Bills, Sept 1st, Sept 15th

\$. 389,796.20 Education Fund Bills

\$2,639,219.27 Total Education Fund Expenditures

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\$	136,864.69	Operations & Maintenance Fund Payroll, Sept 1 st , Sept 15 th
\$.	514,668.47	Operations & Maintenance Fund Bills
\$.	651,533.16	Total Operations & Maintenance Fund Expenditures
\$	486.98	Transportation Fund Payroll, Sept 1 st , Sept 15 th
\$	32,746.18	Transportation Fund Bills
\$	33,233.16	Transportation Fund
\$	104,995.61	FICA/Medicare & IMRF Fund Bills, Sept 1 st , Sept 15 th
\$	316,404.26	Construction Fund
\$		Debt Services
\$		Tort & Judgement Fund
\$		Municipal Retirement Fund
\$	3,745,385.46	TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES

Summary of and Board Approved Payables by Fund

ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Imprest Fund-Category Summary Report

Fund Balances

Revenue Recap Summary

Expense Recap Summary

PERSONNEL

Lane Changes

Jamie Berry	13 MA	13 MA+15
Emily Bronson	6 BA+15	6 MA
Elizabeth Carmody	25 MA+15	25 MA+30
Toni DeFalco Lawson	0 BA	0 BA+15
Bridget Fitzgerald	5 BA	5 BA+15
Gianna Formica	4 BA+15	4 MA
Ashley Glasgow	6 BA+15	6 MA
Michelle Gustafson	18 BA+15	18 MA
Kayla Hughes	4 BA+15	4 MA
Rachel Kromphardt	9 MA+30	9 MA+45
Christanthe Litsogiannis	27 MA	27 MA+15
Moises Lopez	6 MA+15	6 MA+30
Yusra Mann	4 BA+15	4 MA
Megan Monroy	20 MA+15	20 MA+30
Sarah Neylon	7 BA+15	7 MA
Lauren Pedraza	6 BA+15	6 MA
Kelli Picman	3 BA	3 BA+15
Angela Sorrentino	6 BA	6 BA+15
Avendah Watson	4 MA	4 MA+15
Demetra Woulfe	22 MA+30	22 MA+45

Resignations

Lanah Agha	Paraprofessional	Sward
Christian Berrera	Paraprofessional	Hannum
Ana DeAnda	Paraprofessional	Covington
Mayra Gonzalez	Lunchroom Supervisor	Hannum
Dina Leodoro	School Nurse	Sward
Bernadette Nawrot	Lunchroom Supervisor	Hannum

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Dezray Torres	Teacher Aide	Hometown
Certified Staff Recommendations		
Eileen Kennedy	SPED Teacher	OLHMS
Support Staff Recommendations		
Lenny Bradley	P/T Sweeper	District Wide
Jennifer Krull	Teacher Aide	Sward
Aimee O'Connor	Teacher Aide	Kolmar
Therese O'Hara	Teacher Aide	Covington
Janet Paschen	Lunchroom Supervisor	Hometown
Marta Pojasek	Instructional Aide	Sward
Marcos Robledo	Custodian	Hometown
Ayat Saeed	Lunchroom Supervisor	Hometown
Nanette Smith	Hearing / Vision Screener	District Wide
Safa Tawil	Instructional Aide	Hometown
Danielle Vaughn	Teacher Aide	Sward
Parental Leave		
Victoria Lyman	PE Teacher	Kolmar
Jamie Szkarlat	Teacher	Hometown
Out of State Travel Request		

Voting aye: Mr. DeRousse, Mrs. Fortier, Mrs. Bishop, Mr. Smykowski, Mr. Lurquin and Mr. Nichols.
 Nay: None. Absent: Mrs. Sebek The motion passed.

Discussion II: Preschool Renovation IGA with the Oak Lawn Park District [3C, 4B]
 The IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with Oak Lawn Park District will allow D123 access to approximately 3,100 square feet of park district property to create a safe pick up / drop off space for the Gaddis building preschool center. There was a language adjustment to the IGA presented at the August Board meeting.

Action III: It was moved by Mrs. Fortier, seconded by Mr. Lurquin to approve the Preschool Renovation Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oak Lawn Park District. Voting Aye: Mrs. Fortier, Mr. Lurquin, Mr. Smykowski, Mr. DeRousse, Mrs. Bishop and Mr. Nichols. Nays: None. Absent: Mrs. Sebek. The motion carried.

Discussion III: Summer School Report
 Sarah McIntyre and Dr. Amanda Bencik gave a report on the 2023 Summer School program. 553 total students attended summer school and 77 staff members participated. Launch and Discovery programs as well as EL classes were held at Kolmar and ESY classes were held at Hometown. Enrollment was up from last year. Mrs. McIntyre reviewed the financials with \$201,033 in revenues and \$237,811 in expenses. This left a local cost of \$36,778.

Action IV: It was moved by Mrs. Bishop, seconded by Mrs. Fortier, to approve the FY23 summer school budget. Voting aye: Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Fortier, Mr. DeRousse, Mr. Smykowski, Mr. Lurquin and Mr. Nichols. Nays: None. Absent: Mrs. Sebek. The motion passed.

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- Discussion IV: D123 Vehicle Replacement [3D]
Mr. Cassidy reviewed the need for vehicle replacements within the district which has been an issue for some time. He confirmed that the UAW strike would not affect the ability to access new vehicles. The district would replace three old trucks with four new models at a cost of \$48,500 per truck, total cost \$194,000. The trucks would be available by spring at which point the Board would be appraised of a recommendation to either sell or donate the older trucks. It was confirmed that the trucks are for district use and not personal use by staff. It was noted that the cost of insurance would not increase due to the new trucks.
- Action V: It was moved by Mr. DeRousse, seconded by Mr. Smykowski, to approve the purchase of four new district trucks as presented.
- Discussion V: Emergency Operational Plan Revisions [4B, 3B]
This is an annual item in which school districts are required to meet and review. The First Responders meeting took place on September 20, 2023 at OLHMS. Attendees included representatives from D123, D122, D229, and first responders from Oak Lawn, Hometown and Bridgeview among others. The revisions show the emergency hotline for D123 contact information and are updated annually due to personnel.
- Action VI: It was moved by Mrs. Fortier, seconded by Mr. Lurquin, to approve the 2023 Emergency Operational Plan revisions. Voting aye: Mrs. Fortier, Mr. Lurquin, Mrs. Bishop, Mr. DeRousse, Mr. Smykowski and Mr. Nichols. Nays: None. Absent: Mrs. Sebek. The motion passed.
- Discussion VI: Frontline Central
Mr. Cassidy presented information regarding Frontline Central. This program would help to digitize and streamline the hiring processes. D123 currently uses Frontline programs such as Applitrack, Aesop, etc. This would be an extension of our current use. Frontline Central is also compatible with iVisions, the district's financial software. It would cost \$14,500 for the first year and \$12,000 for following years. It would take 8-10 weeks to implement.
- Action VII: It was moved by Mrs. Fortier, seconded by Mr. DeRousse, to approve the Frontline Central proposal as presented. Voting aye: Mrs. Fortier, Mr. DeRousse, Mr. Smykowski, Mrs. Bishop, Mr. Lurquin and Mr. Nichols. Nays: None. Absent: Mrs. Sebek. The motion passed.
- Discussion VII: 2023-2024 District 123 School Safety Measures
Dr. Enderle reviewed the First Responders meeting agenda. There will be a School Safety Dialogue at OLHMS on September 27, 2023. The district is awaiting the school safety audit reports. Digital hallpass systems were discussed. D122 currently uses Smart Hallpass system and D229 currently uses Five Star System. D123 is currently looking into a system called Hallpass. The rationale for the Hallpass system is good but there are some concerns with the digitized system. Concerns include how it will be monitored; how to handle when there is a substitute teacher; how to handle when a student does not have their chromebook or if their

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chromebook is not charged; etc. Administration is looking at a one year license to try it out. Costs are negligible.

The Board also discussed the Halo system. This is a sensor which is placed in bathrooms and it will go off if there is a fight, vaping, marijuana use, etc. in the bathrooms. D122 has cameras directly outside the bathrooms so that, when the sensor goes off, the camera will catch the person as they are exiting the bathroom. The Halo system has lowered incidents of vaping in the bathrooms significantly. The concern is that other districts have noted that once students determine where the sensors are, they are vandalized and broken. The Halo system is also costly. Administrators felt it was a good idea to hold off on this system to see how complaints are handled and see if the cost goes down.

Discussion VIII:

Strategic Planning Process

At this point, three consulting firms have gone before the Board. Another firm is scheduled to present at the October COTW meeting and there will possibly be a fifth firm to present at the October Business meeting. Options will be reviewed in either October or November.

Future Meeting Previews

COTW Meeting – October 10, 2023 @ Hometown
Business Meeting – October 23, 2023 @ OLHMS

- Admin/Teacher Salary Benefits Report
- IMRF Salary Report
- Preliminary Tax Levy
- Proposed Budget Calendar
- Board Professional Development Budget
- Working Cash Loan
- IASB Resolution Summaries

*These items are not to be intended as all inclusive

Board Comments:

Mrs. Bishop thanked Mr. Cassidy for the handling of the plumbing issue at Sward.

Mrs. Fortier commented on the working monitors in the OLHMS media center and how clear they are.

Mr. Lurquin congratulated the Board for earning the IASB School Board Governance award again. He also congratulated Dr. Loftin for the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Adjourned – 9:39 p.m.

The next COTW meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 10, 2023 at the Hometown School, 8870 S. Duffy, Hometown, IL 60456. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 23, 2023 at Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

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President



Secretary