

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 7:06 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at Covington School, 9130 S. 52nd Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

Members Present: Peter DeRousse, Jennifer Fortier, Jackie Lichter, Adriana Sebek, Jay Lurquin, Julie Misner and Brian Nichols.

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Loftin, Dr. Macchia, Mrs. Riha, Mrs. Goetz, 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. The standard public comment is limited to 30 minutes with each person being limited to five minutes. Because there was a large number of public comments on two specific issues, the mask lawsuit and staff negotiations, public comment will be adjusted in order to hear from all who wish to speak on these two topics for this meeting. There will be a 60 minutes public comment session per topic with each speaker being limited to four minutes.

- Kelly Smith, district parent, requested the removal of masks in schools for health reasons.
- Tom Cyplik, district parent, expressed his support for the removal of masks.
- Cristina Maftai, district parent, stated masks are detrimental to students.
- Mike Hanley, district parent, expressed his support for removal of masks in the schools.
- Rob Cruz, district parent, requested the Board come up with a better solution than current mask practice.
- Kristin Burke, district parent, discussed Covid delays, discrimination against disabled students and requested to move to mask optional.
- Tricia Seibert, district parent, discussed her child's issues with masks and requested that parents have the option to choose.
- Regina Hagglund, district parent, discussed child's experience with masks and stated they do more harm to children.
- Magdalena Jaronczyk, district parent, expressed her opposition to masks and stated her children were segregated for refusing to wear masks.
- Dawid Fudali, district student, discussed his experience with masks in school.
- Cathy O'Shea, district resident, expressed her support for removal of masks.
- Jamie Stahulak, district resident, stated that masks do not work.
- Kathy Durkin, district parent, expressed her support for the mask

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mandates.

- Julie Peterson, district parent, expressed her support for mask mandates.
- Khris McAfee, discussed his book program that he hoped the district would consider.
- Brenda Sapyta, Hometown Paraprofessional, requested the Board consider a living wage for district paraprofessionals.
- Joell Kummer, Hometown Paraprofessional, discussed understaffing and low salary.
- Pete Lagioia, district maintenance, discussed staffing cuts and asked for fair compensation.
- Julie Carey, Hometown Speech Pathologist, discussed increased workloads, understaffing and asked the Board to show the staff they are valued.
- Kate Ryan, OLHMS teacher, discussed increased workloads and asked the Board to raise the standard of pay.
- Rebbie Kinsella, district tech, asked the Board to pay staff accordingly.
- Elaine Bernal, union co-president, asked the Board to listen to the staff.

Discussion I:

Infrastructure and Cybersecurity Update

Dr. Macchia and Dennis Stellern reviewed the infrastructure in the district and the types of cyber security attacks. There is no risk-free environment. They then reviewed the K-12 security layers which include the human layer, perimeter security, network security, endpoint security, application security, data security and mission critical assets. They reviewed what the district is presently doing at each layer and future plans.

Discussion II:

Capital Projects Update

Leo Cassidy discussed the Kolmar School Tile Replacement project and the District Office Flooring Replacement project. It is hoped to complete these projects this summer. The district would like to release plans and request bids after the February business meeting. Mr. Cassidy also reviewed the anticipated costs of each project.

Discussion III:

Safe Routes to School Grant

Dr. Loftin and Leo Cassidy discussed the Safe Routes to School Grant. This is an IDOT initiative which would give an 80/20 match. The district principals were surveyed to determine any exterior problem areas. This grant would go toward sidewalks, signage, etc. Administration is currently in the discussion phase for this grant. In order to apply for the grant, the Board would need to pass a resolution which would support the acceptance of funds to go toward the projects. It was confirmed that even if the Board approves a resolution, the district is not bound to accept the grant.

Discussion IV:

Copier RFP

Dr. Loftin stated that the lifespan of most office copiers is approximately five year. The district chose to extend the copiers an extra year due to the

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reduced use during the Covid shutdowns. The district now needs to replace the copiers districtwide. The district worked with Optimizer, a company who analyzes the usage and recommends what would be most effective in the district. Optimizer assisted in creating the RFP for the copiers. Thirteen companies expressed interest and four companies submitted a bid so far.

Discussion V:

Levy Recapture Abatement

Dr. Loftin discussed the Levy Recapture Abatement. The Levy Recapture will recapture money lost in tax appeals by big box companies. The recapture would shift the burden onto the tax payers. This would appear as an additional tax on the homeowner's tax bill. If the district chose to abate this, the homeowner would not see this on their bill. This "lost money" is currently not included in the district budget. The abatement would be voted on annually. The last day to file for this would be on March 31st at the Cook County Clerk office.

Discussion VI:

McGugan Potential Tenants

Dr. Loftin stated that there are currently two promising renters for the McGugan school building. Neither is looking for use of the full space and both have a purpose aligned with education. More information will follow as the district receives it.

Representatives from the Oak Lawn Senior Center stated they may be moving out of McGugan as early as March. The village is currently on a month to month lease for the Senior Center. The village has not given any information regarding their lease. Information will be provided to the Board as administration receives it.

Discussion VII:

CBIZ Agreement

Dr. Loftin discussed CBIZ, which is a financial services company which offers consulting services but does not sell financial products. Dr. Loftin reviewed the proposal of services for CBIZ and stated the cost could be offset with funds from EBC for wellness. The proposal would be for one year to start. It was confirmed that there is a 403B committee. Dr. Loftin stated he would confirm with CBIZ how usage could be monitored.

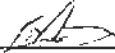
Board Comments:

Jay Lurquin discussed the IASB meeting held on Saturday, 2/5, and how informative it was.


Adjourned – 9:50 p.m.

The special meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 22, 2022 at the District Office, 4201 W. 93rd Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 28, 2022 at the Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

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President



Secretary