

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at Hannum School, 9800 S. Tripp Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle, Dr. Gavin, Dr. Loftin, Dr. Macchia, Mrs. Riha, Mrs. Goetz and Mr. Cassidy

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Ms. Roche 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 brought before the Board in person.
- Jeannie Perry, District parent, stated that she was unhappy with the size of her daughter's remote learning classrooms. She stated that her classes have 80-90 students in them with not enough time for small group learning. She stated if she had been aware that this was the format for remote learning, she would have rethought her options.

Discussion I: District 123 Return to School Plan
The district completed day 19 of the new school year. There has been a lot of successes but there are still a lot of challenges. Flexibility and being prepared to change is a must.

Dr. Enderle reviewed the Return to School Plan link on the D123 website. There was a review of the Covid-19 Metrics Dashboard. This is updated weekly. So far there have been a total of 15 Covid positive cases in the district, which includes both students and staff. Dr. Enderle also reviewed the 10-Day Community Survey. The survey states that there is a high satisfaction rate from the families in both the hybrid and remote programs. Most families are happier with the current program than they were in the spring shutdown. The survey also shows that the staff needs more professional development in this new environment. The district is looking to see how best to support the staff.

Dr. Macchia reviewed the positives and challenges in the Remote Learning program. The remote program involves approximately 30% of the district families and 30% of the staff. Students are getting a minimum of approximately 176 minutes of live instruction per day. Dr. Macchia listed the positives as connecting with students each day; sense of remote community; small groupings and personalization; and 20-hour live instruction per student. Dr. Macchia listed the challenges as planning time; adaptation time; environmental variables; attendance; and task engagement.

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Dr. Gavin reviewed the positives and challenges in the Hybrid program. Dr. Gavin stated the positives are that the students are happy to be back in school; there is a greater appreciation for encore classes; movement and outside learning opportunities; and the ability to differentiate and personalize. The challenges are planning; attending to students/parents at home; pacing of curriculum; and administration of assessments.

Dr. Gavin also reviewed professional development plans.

Cynthia Riha reviewed the Special Education Program. Ms. Riha stated that this has been extremely challenging and could not have been done without the efforts and support of all of those involved. Ms. Riha reviewed the positives as in-person instruction in PTP and CORE II classes is going well and kids are excited to come to school; kids are doing well with wearing masks and socially distancing; and the facilities have never been cleaner. The challenges are listed as technological and logistical challenges with remote learning; planning is extensive; staff concerns regarding students with more significant disabilities to social distance and wear masks consistently; and the staff and student quarantine has been challenging. The Early Childhood program in-person student have adapted quickly to mask wearing, social distancing and diminished sharing of materials. Remote pre-k and EC parents are looking for more guidance using technology with children. It is hoped that the new Seesaw program will be helpful.

Ms. Riha discussed the quarantining of the CASE program. The families have been understanding and supportive. Administration is working for staff to get the N95 masks. They are also reviewing scheduling options. One option noted is possibly making the five day program a half day program in order to reduce class sizes.

Angela Goetz reviewed the English Learner Program. The successes noted are regular collaboration; streamlining of processes; and creative scheduling. The challenges listed are repurposed teachers; native language communication; and prioritizing direct support.

Dr. Macchia reviewed the Technology Infrastructure and district communications. Lunchtime Live has been presented every Wednesday since March.

Leo Cassidy discussed district cleaning and sanitation. The positives noted are overall increased sanitation; supply of necessary goods; and adjustment to change and teamwork. The challenges noted are staffing (substitute custodians); detailed work and accountability; and product evaluation and procedures. Mr. Cassidy also reviewed the PPE inventory.

Dr. Loftin reviewed the meal distribution program. Due to changes in the lunch program, meals are free for all students in the district. Grab and Go meals will be served at OLHMS instead of at the individual schools. Dr. Loftin also reviewed transportation. Lastly, Dr. Loftin reviewed the

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budget implications. At this time, revenue is approximately 12% lower than it was last year at this time.

Brian Nichols discussed the Board actions. These include reading and discussing all public comments from the 8/24/2020 Business Meeting; reviewing cleaning products, schedules and checklists; building tours; developing the Covid-19 Metric Tracking Dashboard; and reviewing and discussing the results of the Return to School Survey.

Discussion II:

Capital Projects Update

Leo Cassidy reviewed the capital projects update. The tuck pointing project has been completed. The district applied for a grant for the HVAC project but it does not appear that it was awarded to D123. JMA Architects were informed that the Hometown Parking Lot Project will need to meet not only the requirements from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District but also the requirements from the City of Chicago. JMA had not been informed of the City of Chicago requirements previously. This could change the estimated costs. This will be brought before the subcommittee for a more detailed conversation.

Discussion III:

Village of Oak Lawn TIF Updates

Attorney John Izzo and Dr. Loftin reviewed the TIF updates. The village of Oak Lawn would like to make an amendment to the Patriot Station TIF. Dr. Loftin reviewed the handout provided to the Board and discussed the financial impacts to the district. Mr. Izzo stated that the proposal to amend/expand the Patriot Station TIF has to go through the same process as if this were a brand new TIF. They go before a Joint Review Board and the village will have to hold a public hearing. Mr. Izzo felt the village presented a weak case which the district could challenge but it would be a difficult process. The district reviewed the number of open TIFs which currently affect D123. It was agreed that this would be discussed further in closed session at the September 28th Business meeting.

Board Comments:

Theresa Roche stated that the virtual Taco and Trivia Night is back on and scheduled for November 13th.

Julie Misner expressed her gratitude to everyone who is making this school year as successful as it can be.

Adjourned – 10:09 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on September 28, 2020 at the Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Secretary

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President

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