

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**  
**WILMETTE, IL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, September 19, 2022 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Amy Poehling called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

Members Present: Amy Poehling, Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Erin Stone

Members Absent: Lisa Schneider-Fabes

Administrators Present: Kari Cremascoli, Corey Bultemeier, Tony DeMonte, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson

**APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to accept the August 22, 2022 Budget Hearing and Board of Education Regular Meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ryan Hill, a Romona Kindergarten parent and new resident, expressed disappointment with the KEEP39 program being so costly and recommended the District reevaluate kindergarten programs to offer a low cost full day kindergarten program.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Facility Development Committee (FDC) – Mr. Panzica

At the September Committee of the Whole Meeting, the Board discussed summer 2023 construction projects. Design work has continued on the summer projects and a few brief updates were provided. Members were also apprised of the final costs for the Central Emergency Roof Replacement. The emergency roof replacement work was completed prior to the start of the school year. As part of the Board approving this emergency work, the District is required to report at a Board meeting the final project cost. The announcement is included in the Board agenda. Members briefly reviewed the Central PTA donation agreement for installation of a new playground. The Board expressed support with this agreement and appreciation for the community's support.

School Finance Committee (SFC) – Mr. Cesaretti

The School Finance Committee also met as part of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Bultemeier presented information regarding short term borrowing, which may be necessary based on the Cook County Assessor's Office timeline this year. As Cook County is delaying the second installment of property taxes into the fall and possibly winter, the administration examined the process for issuing short term debt. A timeline was shared that detailed the issuance process between October and December. In addition, the Committee discussed Debt Certificates Refunding. The District has the potential to refund the remaining 2012 debt certificates starting in September. Liz Hennessey from Raymond James provided the District with information on current market conditions. A comparison shared with the Board showed debt service results if nothing was done versus pursuing a potential refund of 2012 debt certificates. The outcome for refunding was not favorable and the Board expressed support for not proceeding with the refund. Finally, the Board reviewed the 2022 tax levy timeline. Recently, the District

has estimated the tax levy in October and proceeded with Board approval in November. The latest the tax levy can be approved and submitted to Cook County is the last Tuesday in December. Due to the continued delay at the county level in finalizing the 2021 tax extension, an alternate timeline was proposed for the 2022 tax levy process, which should allow for better and more accurate information being used in calculating the final 2022 tax levy request. The Board expressed support for the proposal.

Strategy – Dr. Cremascoli reported on behalf of Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

The Strategy Committee engaged in a productive discussion during September’s Committee of the Whole Meeting. An in-depth overview of the District’s re-alignment of its Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) structures, teams, approaches and procedures, as well as MTSS and its relationship to Response to Intervention (RTI) was presented. Administrators shared current support structures and teams placed to ensure the focus remains on identifying needs in three areas: academic, behavior, and social emotional. The latest revision of the District’s Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to the Strategic Plan has been updated on the District dashboard. Communications Director Leo Krause shared an overview of the dashboard.

### **Liaison Reports**

Community Review Committee (CRC) – Dr. Cremascoli noted the first CRC meeting will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Educational Foundation – Dr. Cremascoli noted the first Educational Foundation Meeting will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

District Strategic Advisory Team (DSAT) - Dr. Cremascoli

The team has been reviewing action steps for this school year for each goal area. DSAT reviewed goal areas and provided feedback on the action steps which are presented for approval later on the agenda.

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim & Mr. Cesaretti – no report.

Illinois Association of School Boards – Mrs. Kim stated there was no news to report. Resolutions were just released today for approval at the IASB Joint Annual Conference held in November.

### **Legislative Update**

Mrs. Kim stated ISBE was awarded \$3 million by the U.S. Department of Education in its 2022 Competitive Grants for State Assessments program for its Early High School Spanish Language Arts Assessment project. The money will be used to create more instructionally responsive “through-course” assessments of reading and writing in Spanish for students in grades 9 and 10. Aligned to Illinois’s new Spanish language arts standards, these assessments of academic learning will fill a gap in the state’s current system of achievements tests for grades 3–8 and 11, and support educators in tailoring instruction and supports that can reduce drop-out rates and help more Spanish-language-dominant students graduate. While likely not directly impacting this district, it's good to be informed on the issues that ISBE is concerned about, and to know that grant funding is available.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Written Communication**

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board had not received any written communication.

## **B. Administrative Announcements**

### *Successful Curriculum Nights*

Dr. Cremascoli reported Curriculum Nights were held at each school with tremendous success. Teachers prepared wonderful presentations and schools had great family attendance at each event. The final Curriculum Night will be held on September 29th for 8th grade students.

### *Parent-Teacher Conferences – November 16-18*

Dr. Cremascoli stated the District's parent-teacher conferences will be held November 16-18, the week prior to fall break and the Thanksgiving Holiday. Parents may meet with teachers remotely or in-person, with the default being remote unless otherwise requested. Administration has received so much positive feedback on remote meetings, especially at the 5-8 level. Sign-up information will be sent out in October.

### *PASS39 Ice Cream Social*

Dr. Cremascoli stated this past week, PASS39 held its annual Ice Cream Social. PASS39 is a District 39 parent organization committed to supporting parents of children with learning, behavioral, emotional, and developmental challenges. This was a wonderful opportunity for families to connect and kick off the school year. Thank you to PASS39 for their continued leadership and support.

### *Central Elementary Emergency Roof Replacement – Final Cost*

Dr. Cremascoli reported the emergency roof replacement work was completed prior to the start of the school year. As part of the Board approving this emergency work, the District is required to report at a Board meeting the final project cost. The final cost for this project was \$229,350.

### *Central PTA Playground Donation Agreement*

Dr. Cremascoli announced the Central PTA raised money to pay for the installation of a new playground at Central Elementary. The project is scheduled to begin in mid-November and take place while the students are off-campus for about a week and a half in November. The PTA has worked with the school and district administrative team to plan the installation. As the District has done with previous playground projects, the Board will be asked to approve a donation agreement between the Central PTA and the D39 Board of Education.

### *Property Tax Assessment Appeals*

The Board of Education approved a resolution authorizing intervention in property tax assessment appeals filed with the PTAB and with the Circuit Court of Cook County in accordance with policies and limitations established by the Board of Education. The Property Index Number and the estimated refunds are listed for new property tax interventions at the PTAB and Circuit Court of Cook County this month.

### *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)*

Dr. Cremascoli reported the District received FOIA requests from Lewis Shender of PM Music Center LLC, requested all documents related to D39's decision to select a single preferred vendor for band instrument rentals as well as all RFQs or similar documents provided to prospective vendors and all submission and proposals by prospective vendors: Commercial FOIA request received by Sheri Reid of SmartProcure requesting any/all purchasing records from May 27, 2022 to present.

Dr. Cremascoli announced that the administration recognized teachers and staff at each school and at the District office, who focused on building a sense of community, welcoming students back to school, and getting the school year off to a great start. A short recognition video was shared.

### C. Strategic Plan Update

1. District 39 Strategic Plan: *Engage, Empower, Inspire* Action Steps for 2022-2023

Ms. Katie Lee shared the updated/revised e-learning plan that will be presented during the September board meeting during the public hearing portion of the evening. It was shared in advance to provide a preview of the proposed plan. E-learning days allow for flexibility in calendar and schedule and would most likely be implemented in place of inclement weather/emergency days. This plan has been developed to be consistent with state statute and adheres to the provisions established by the Regional Offices of Education - Illinois State Board of Education. The plan is a proactive measure and once approved will be active for the next three school years.

### D. Annual Business

1. Summer Enrichment Program

Dr. Swanson reported the Summer Enrichment Program was expanded this year to include summer camp/enrichment classes, such as cooking, sports, and rocketry. This was a welcome return to pre-pandemic offerings. The District also held Review and Reinforcement classes for students who qualified based on MAP or AimswebPlus performance, and Extended School Year for those students who qualified within an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

### E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Board of Education Policies 2:20, 2:105, 2:150, 2:170, 2:210, 2:230, 2:260, 3:10, 4:05, 4:20, 4:30, 4:40, 4:45, 4:50, 4:55, 4:60, 4:70, 4:80, 4:90, 4:165, 4:180 and 7:285

Dr. Cremascoli stated the policies have been aligned with PRESS and legal counsel.

Board members requested policy 4:20 *Budgetary Funds*, be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Policy 4:20 will be brought back at the next Board of Education meeting. All remaining policies were pulled for separate approval outside of the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Kim identified a minor point of clarification under Policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure: Under Point 1, "Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973," Mrs. Kim suggested it be followed by the statutory citation. Dr. Glowacki reviewed this point and noted that this section should be stricken, as it is stated in Point 3 with the proper legal citation.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ryan Hill, Wilmette, reiterated the KEEP39 program be reconsidered and a full day kindergarten option be offered.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Consent Agenda

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the personnel report dated September 19, 2022, which included licensed full-time employment of **Andrew Parker**, effective September 12, 2022; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Andrew Byerwalter**, effective August 29, 2022; **Valentine Khoshaba**, effective September 12, 2022; **Victoria Zahrobsky**, effective August 24, 2022; educational support personnel resignation of **Gregory Beard**, effective September 6, 2022; **Diane Fischer**, effective September 23, 2022; **Derek Southard**, effective September 28, 2022; licensed retirement of **Christy Everhart**, effective the end of the 2026-2027 school year; tenured leave of absence of **Jamie Parker**, effective December 6, 2022 to the end of the 2022-2023 school year:

approve the District 39 Strategic Plan: *Engage, Empower, Inspire* Action Steps for 2022-2023: approve Donation Agreement between Central Elementary School PTA and the Wilmette Public Schools District 39 Board of Education: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between August 23, 2022 – September 19, 2022 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$418,766.94; O&M Fund \$115,538.46; Transportation Fund \$93,879.37; Municipal & S. S. Retirement Fund \$892.58; Capital Projects \$230,110.00; total all funds: \$859,187.35: approve the manual checks issued between August 23, 2022 – September 19, 2022 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$643,792.40; O&M Fund \$136,476.06; Transportation Fund \$7,563.18; total all funds: \$787,831.64.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Erin Stone, Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent – Lisa Schneider-Fabes: **Motions Carried.**

**B. Approve As Second and Final Reading Board of Education Policies 2:20, 2:105, 2:170, 2:210, 2:230, 2:260, 3:10, 4:05, 4:30, 4:40, 4:45, 4:50, 4:55, 4:60, 4:70, 4:80, 4:90, 4:165, 4:180 and 7:285**

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica to approve as second and final reading Board of Education Policies 2:20 *Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification*; 2:105 *Ethics and Gift Ban*; 2:150 *Committees*; 2:170 *Procurement of Architectural, Engineering and Land Surveying Services*; 2:210 *Organizational School Board Meeting*; 2:260 *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 3:10 *General School Administration*; 4:05 *System of Accounts*; 4:30 *Revenue and Investments*; 4:40 *Incurring Debt*; 4:45 *Insufficient Fund Checks*; 4:50 *Payment Procedures*; 4:55 *Use of Credit and Procurement Cards*; 4:60 *Purchases and Contracts*; 4:70 *Resource Conservation*; 4:80 *Accounting and Audits*; 4:90 *School Activity and Fiduciary Funds*; 4:165 *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*; 4:180 *Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery*; 7:285 *Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program*.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Erin Stone, Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent – Lisa Schneider-Fabes: **Motion Carried.**

**C. Approve the Resolution to Adopt the e-Learning Program in Lieu of the District’s Scheduled Emergency Days**

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to approve the resolution dated September 19, 2022 to adopt the e-learning program in lieu of the District’s scheduled emergency days.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Erin Stone, Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent – Lisa Schneider-Fabes: **Motion Carried.**

**CONFERENCE ITEMS**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Good and Welfare**

Ms. Stone commended students who volunteered to clean up after the Wilmette Sesquicentennial block party. She noted it takes character to volunteer for clean-up duty.

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective negotiations, special education, and semi-annual review of executive session minutes and recordings.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea”; Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Frank Panzica, Erin Stone, Amy Poehling; voting “nay” – none; absent – Lisa Schneider-Fabes: **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:29 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:20 p.m.

Being no further business, Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Panzica, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 9:21 p.m. by **General Consent.**

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President

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Secretary