

JANUARY 22, 2024
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, January 22, 2024 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Erin Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Erin Stone, Jon Cesaretti, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas,
 Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes

Members Absent: None

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Central Elementary School Principal Becky Littmann announced all four elementary schools earned Apple Distinguished School Recognition for using technology that inspires and impacts teaching and learning. Technology teacher Lauren Wysocke and third grade teacher Lindsay Shea introduced third grade students who shared how they used the AR Makr application to enhance their narrative non-fiction biography reports. The students then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ARTWORK

Linda Peritz's HMS artists created the artwork on display in the Boardroom this month. Fifth graders made surrealist self-portraits to share an interesting exploration of identity and imagination. Sixth graders created acrylic Pop Art paintings using bold colors to make larger-than-life snack pictures. The students' Japanese landscapes were a captivating blend of traditional and contemporary elements. Students studied ancient Japanese landscapes and created their own landscapes using Origami paper and colored pencils.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Robinson, Wilmette, addressed the Board regarding KEEP39 payment options for families with multiple children.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – January 16, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting

Facility Development – there were no FDC items on the January 16 Committee of the Whole Agenda

School Finance – Mr. Cesaretti

A. KEEP39 Additional Information

The Board reviewed and discuss fee structure options for the KEEP39 fee for the 2024-2025 school year. Projections were presented for the following options: Option 1 kept student fee at \$6,460 (baseline assumption info, used as a reference point); Option 2 was presented as \$4,392 per student fee (covers 100% of estimated operational costs); Option 3 - \$3,230 per student fee (cuts fee in half, Board subsidy at 26.5%).

For each option, the Board was presented with the 5-year projections. The projections provided outlooks for charging the fee for one more year and for charging the fee for three more years.

The Board elected to set the fee at one \$3,230 per student for next year and recommended implementation of full-day kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year.

B. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Calendar and Resolution

Mr. Bultemeier presented the timeline for the FY2025 budget calendar and presented the resolution for review.

Strategy – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

Members received an update regarding the Strategic Plan Goal 2 Action Step - Foundations Update. Several teachers presented their work at the elementary level as part of the Foundations Team. These individuals have participated in extensive training and have become school leaders, creating meaningful and sustainable change within their schools.

Liaison Reports

Community Review Committee (CRC) – President Stone

The CRC met via Zoom on January 9. The committee is studying the benefits of playful learning and broke into three subgroups. One group reviewed academic articles; a second group identified local school districts to contact and possibly survey; the third group is researching schools nationally and internationally to report how play is used in schools. The next meeting is February 13.

Educational Foundation – meets January 24 with Mrs. Hart attending on behalf of the Board of Education

Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim/Mrs. Schneider-Fabes
Mrs. Schneider-Fabes noted additional meetings are being scheduled to continue discussion on mental health in the community.

Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – No report

Legislative Update – Mrs. Paflas

The House and Senate were in session for brief periods on January 16 and 17, but canceled session on January 18. During those two days, a few resolutions were passed with substantive work being held over until they return February 6.

The Cook County Commissioners passed a Paid Leave Act resolution in December. As of December 31, 2023, employees in Cook County can earn at least 1 hour of paid leave for every 40 hours worked. Employees can earn a total of 40 hours of paid time off per year. This ordinance requires that all employers with employees in Cook County provide those employees with paid leave to be used for any reason. There is no exemption for schools. There is also an Illinois State law related to this issue however, the state's version expressly provided an exemption for schools. District 39 and many other districts are working to determine the impact of this resolution on school districts.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication – Dr. Cremascoli

The Board received written communications regarding the KEEP39 program and fees from the following individuals: Corey Lester, Kevin Robinson, Rachel Gou, Kat Rayes Allen, Kari Esposito, Lauren Dougherty, Lauren Mellen, Katie Ericson, Erin Lawler.

B. Administrative Announcements – Dr. Cremascoli

Registration and Planning for 2024-2025 School Year

Registration for the 2024-2025 academic year opens Wednesday, January 24. Parents with new kindergarten students are encouraged to enroll as quickly as possible. Additionally, registration for

KEEP39 can be completed. Registration for the Lechner Early Education Program (LEEP) for three- and four-year-old students also opens at the same time. Each of these registrations helps initiate planning and staffing for the upcoming school year.

League of Women Voters Student Government Kick-Off Event

District 39 again partnered with the Wilmette League of Women Voters to support the League's Student Government Program. The program began last Thursday with the annual kick-off event. Amy Poehling and Bonnie Kim represented the Board at this event.

State Maintenance Grant

District 39 received approval confirmation to receive \$50,000 for the State Maintenance Grant related to summer 2024 work at Wilmette Junior High School. The maintenance grant program is a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant that awards up to \$50,000 to grantees exclusively for maintenance or upkeep of buildings for educational purposes.

Property Tax Assessment Appeals

The District received one appeal notice and posted the potential liability of this appeal.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The District received a commercial FOIA request from Sheri Reid of SmartProcure requesting purchasing records from June 21 - December 19, 2023.

C. Annual Business

1. 2024-2025 KEEP39 Fees

The Board has been reviewing and considering multiple options for the KEEP39 fee in the 2024-2025 school year. The option being recommended for approval sets the fee at \$3,230 per student. At this fee amount, the fees collected would offset a portion of the estimated costs to run the program, with the Board subsidizing the program at a rate of 26.5%. The Board directed administration to plan for full day kindergarten to be offered 2025-2026 school year.

2. 2024-2025 School Calendar

The Draft 2024-2025 school calendar was presented at the December Board meeting. Since that meeting, February 17, 2025 has been identified as an Emergency Remote Learning Day, if needed. If this day is not used as an Emergency Remote Learning Day, there will be no school in observance of President's Day. There were no other changes made to the draft calendar.

3. Summer Enrichment Program Fees

Based on a review of the enrollment numbers last year, the District will continue to provide a discount for Review and Reinforcement (R&R) program, while slightly increasing the fees for the Enrichment classes. R&R will be \$75.00 per class, while Enrichment will be \$200 per class, plus the cost of materials.

D. Board Policy Review

1. First Reading of Board of Education Policies 2:20, 2:110, 2:120, 2:200, 2:220, 3:50, 4:10, 4:30, 4:60, 4:90, 4:130, 4:160, 4:170, 5:30, 5:50, 5:90, 5:120, 5:150, 5:190, 5:200, 5:210, 5:220, 5:250, 6:15, 6:20, 6:50, 6:60, 6:65, 6:280, 7:50, 7:60, 7:70, 7:160, 7:250, 7:270, 7:285, 7:290, 7:345, 8:30

Policy Reference Education Subscription Service (PRESS) released an update on several policies. Administration reviewed the PRESS updates and presented these policies as first reading. For many of these policies, there were no recommended changes, therefore in order to reflect that these policies are up to date, the reviewed date has been noted. For revised policies, most revisions were a result of changes in the school code or state/federal regulations.

Board members provided suggested edits to policies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Robinson, Wilmette, implored the Board to charge families with multiple children a one-time KEEP39 fee.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to approve the Personnel Report dated January 22, 2024, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Glenn Barr**, effective January 11, 2024; **Shirley Calderon**, effective January 22, 2024; **Nicolas Diaz**, effective January 10, 2024; **Elsa Harbison**, effective January 22, 2024; **Kerri Mason**, effective January 22, 2024; **Maria Serrato Zamora**, effective January 16, 2024; temporary employment of **Daniel Magestro**, effective January 28, 2024; educational support personnel resignation of **Olivia Tado**, effective January 10, 2024; **Marion Betz**, effective June 6, 2024; administrative retirement of **Linda Moric**, effective June 30, 2028; educational support personnel retirement **Randy Ellison**, effective December 31, 2024: approve the fiscal year 2024 student fees for the courses scheduled during the Summer Enrichment Program. These courses include Enrichment classes and Review and Reinforcement: approve the 2024-2025 school calendar: adopt the resolution dated January 22, 2024 establishing the school district 2025 fiscal year and direct the superintendent to prepare a tentative budget; and, approve the attached budget-planning calendar as written: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between December 19, 2023 – January 22, 2024 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$226,297.51; O&M Fund \$39,492.09; Transportation \$109,844.04; Capital Projects \$366,208.63; total all funds: \$741,842.27: to approve the manual checks issued between December 19, 2023 – January 22, 2024 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$1,019,227.72; O&M Fund \$125,782.91; Debt Services \$907,371.25; Transportation \$231.74; Tort \$935.00; total all funds: \$2,053,548.62.

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

Note: Policies presented for first reading were reviewed and discussed in depth, however, were not formally recited for approval as part of the Consent Agenda.

B. Motion to approve KEEP39 Fees

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling to approve the KEEP39 program fees for the 2024-2025 school year of \$3,230 per student.

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

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Poehling suggested the community attend the League of Women Voters Civics program kick-off event to receive a boost of optimism. Students were so eager to learn about local government and so enthusiastic about the program.

Mrs. Hart applauded and thanked District staff for getting students back to school safely on Tuesday following the big snow storm. Staff should be commended for standing outside in the weather directing traffic and getting students in and out of schools with care.

Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the Board and administration just approved to have all day kindergarten start one year from September and noted this was a monumental decision for District 39.

Dr. Cremascoli attended the Highcrest Middle School spelling bee. The words were exceptionally challenging and students were excited and cheered each other on. The competition was intense as students worked through 36 rounds.

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adjourn to executive session to discuss Specific Personnel and Special Education/Individual Student Matters.

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

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:48 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:14 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poehling, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary