
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NAPERVILLE
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS,
HELD AT District Administration Building, 203 West Hillside Road, Naperville, IL 60540
December 18, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M., CLOSED SESSION 6:30 p.m.

Call to order

President Kristine Gericke called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Board members present: Kristin Fitzgerald, Kristine Gericke, Joe Kozminski, Charles Cush, Donna Wandke, Amanda McMillen, and Melissa Kelley Black. (Via phone)

Administrators present were:

Dan Bridges, Superintendent,

Bob Ross, Chief Human Resources Officer

Michael Frances, Chief Financial Officer/CSBO

Closed Session

Charles Cush moved, seconded by Amanda McMillen to go into Closed Session at 6:32 pm for consideration of:

1. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of school board approval of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by the Act. 11/13/2023, 12/04/2023.
2. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or legal counsel to determine its validity.
3. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the school board has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal or when the school board finds an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.
4. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the school board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Those voting yes: Cush, Fitzgerald, Gericke, Kozminski, McMillen, Wandke. Those voting no: None. The motion carried.

The Board of Education entered closed session at 6:32 pm.

Meeting Opening

Amanda McMillen made a motion, Charles Cush seconded by to return to Open Session at 7:07 pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Cush, Fitzgerald, Wandke, Kozminski, McMillen, and Gericke. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried

Welcome and Mission

Kristine Gericke welcomed all and read Naperville Community Unit School District 203's Mission Statement.

Amanda McMillen made a motion, Charles Cush seconded by to allow Board Member Melissa Kelley Black to participate via phone. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Kozminski, Cush, Wandke, McMillen, Fitzgerald, and Gericke. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried

Roll Call

Board members present: Kristine Gericke, Kristin Fitzgerald, Charles Cush, Melissa Kelley Black, Joe Kozminski, Amanda McMillen and Donna Wandke.

Administrators present: Dan Bridges, Superintendent, Roger Brunelle, Chief Information Officer, Allison Boutet, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Michael Frances, Chief Financial Officer/CSBO, Chuck Freundt, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Chala Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Lisa Xagas, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Alex Mayster, Executive Director for Communications, Patrick Nolten, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, Bob Ross, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Jayne Willard, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by Riverwoods Elementary School

Superintendent welcomed Ranch View Principal Gina Baumgartner who had her students introduce themselves.

Student Ambassadors present: Nina Mantel, Olivia Walters
Olivia Walters NCHS

- This week marks the start of the first semester finals of the 2023-2024 school year, starting on Wednesday through Friday.
- Winter athletics and activities are in full swing with Girls and Boys basketball. Wrestling hosted the boys crosstown on Thursday, December 14, where we dominated our rivals 46-6.
- The Winter Festival Concert was an enormous success and very entertaining, engaging an audience of all ages while also bringing winter spirit.
- Last week, our NCHS Incubator class ventured into an exciting opportunity to pitch their business products to different professionals. This is one of the many exciting opportunities that is offered at NCHS with the Mock Trial also occurring recently, and even though we lost, it was a great experience for students.
- With first-semester finals upcoming, this marks the beginning of preparing for the second semester. On December 8, our schedules were announced.
- Post-secondary education decisions are coming in for seniors looking to further their education after graduation.
- This is my last Board of Education Meeting that I will be reporting at so thank you so much for this opportunity and as always, Go Redhawks!

Nina Mantel-NNHS

Athletics & Activities

Athletics:

- Boys basketball: 7-4
- Girls basketball wins Varsity Warhawk Tournament in end of November
- Girls gymnastics won cross town meet
- Boys swim and dive, Girls and boys wrestling, and Girls and boys bowling underway
- December 6th signing day for 6 student athletes committing to play a sport in college

Arts:

- December 5th winter band concert
- December 12th winter choral concert

- December 13th winter orchestra concert
- Charlotte's Web children's play in early December

Activities:

- Winter Assembly in November to showcase student talents
- 6 students were awarded the Naperville Youth Service Awards on November 29th at City Hall

School wide

- Inducted over 100 students into National Honor Society in November
- Panorama survey with over 75% of students completing it so far
 - Capture student voice on NNHS's environment
- Course awareness week in November
 - Prepare students for choosing courses for next year.
- Cocoa & Cram on December 13th
- SUCCESS hosted the "Celebrate. Educate. Empower! Event Series!"
 - Nonprofit dedicated to empowering students who identify as African American or black
 - many people attended a variety of sessions celebrating their identity

Good News

I'm proud to share the story of Naperville North student Jackson Teran, who noticed a man choking during a shift at work at a Downers Grove restaurant. He used the Heimlich maneuver that he learned in school to save the man's life! Jackson's efforts have been featured on the news and were recently recognized by the City of Naperville's Mayor and Fire Chief. Great job, Jackson.

A big congratulations to Iris Xiong, Steeple Run 5th Grader, for creating the chosen artwork for the 2023 Naperville 203 Holiday Card. Congratulations to Iris, and thank you to all our talented students who submitted artwork!

Public Hearing Truth in Taxation

President Gericke called the meeting to order gave an over view of the process.

Administration Comments

Superintendent Bridges stated that annually the district set a tax levy which provides the district with over 85% of its total revenue. The setting of the tax levy is governed by the Truth in Taxation law, School Code and Property Tax Extension Limits Law, each having specific requirements that must be followed. Because the tax levy represents an increase of more than 5% over last year's extension, we are required to hold this hearing.

Part of discussion with action, Administration will be recommending approval of the tax levy as presented.

At the November 13 meeting, the Board of Education was first presented the 2023 Tax Levy. The following day, we discussed the levy with the Citizen Finance Advisor Committee. They supported the recommendation with the provision of developing a use of fund balance plan, which we plan to present to the Board later this fiscal year.

There have been no changes to the levy as first presented, so I will summarize some of the key points that were presented last month and later this evening we will be asking for formal adoption.

Property taxes are the largest piece of revenue for most school districts throughout the state of Illinois and an even larger share of revenue for districts in our area. Over 85% of our district's budget comes from local property taxes.

The tax levy we are asking for approval tonight is the district's formal request for taxes that is required and the first step in the process.

County Clerks will calculate tax rates, normally around mid-March, for bills to be distributed by County Treasurers typically at the beginning of May.

There are a number of laws and regulations that govern the tax levy process.

All Districts must comply with school and property tax codes and Districts in tax capped counties must also comply with the property tax extension limitation law. Both DuPage and Will Counties, and therefore District 203, have been under this law since its inception in 1991 which limits the overall growth in taxes to existing taxpayers in total to the lesser of the calendar year Consumer Price Index or 5%.

Finally, all taxing agencies must comply with the truth in taxation law which requires a public hearing if the levy request is greater than a 5% increase over last year's tax extension. Our request tonight requires us to hold this hearing.

There are three main variables that are used in the calculation of the annual tax levy.

Of the three, only the consumer price index is known at this time. For the 2023 levy, all tax capped districts are limited to the CPI for the 2022 calendar year, capped at 5%. Even though the actual CPI for 2022 was 6.5%, tax cap law limits the increase to 5%.

The other two variables, new construction and EAV, are not finalized at this time, so we must make estimates on those numbers. Those numbers are generally finalized and released in March.

Finally, we are also subject to inflation as our costs continue to rise. Our labor agreements and contracts are typically tied to a major extent by the annual change in the CPI. We work to best align our anticipated costs within the constraints of the tax cap.

There's an important point to understand about what the tax cap law does and does not do.

While the district's overall maximum increase from existing taxpayers is limited to the CPI up to the 5% cap on an annual basis, individual property tax bills may differ. Different assessment changes and whether an individual property assessment change is less than or greater than the average change district wide can cause a single tax bill to be less than or greater than the average increase.

The district's equalized assessed value or EAV is changed by two factors. The first is the existing EAV percent change. This change is what we are estimating an average assessment of a property to change by.

There are two major factors in this year's number. First, it is a quadrennial re-assessment year.

Second the homeowner's exemption was increased in both DuPage and Will counties from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Based on preliminary numbers from our township assessors, this year's estimate at 5.5% is the highest it has been in many years. This will result in a slightly lower tax rate on upcoming bills.

The second overall change to EAV is the amount of New EAV, or what we typically call new construction. We saw a few years of a dip after 2018, but that amount this year is estimated to be at a similar level to last year.

The final value of new construction will not be known until the spring. Since we don't yet know that final number, we typically increase the levy slightly to cover potential higher values in this area.

Tonight's levy would cover up to approximately 50 million of New EAV growth.

This is the sheet we use to determine the amount of levy by fund and in total based on the assumptions of CPI, EAV, and new property as previously discussed. On the left is the actual amount of taxes extended to the district by the county clerks last year. The total in the middle of the page is the estimated amount we are likely to receive based on the previously shown assumptions. We typically levy for an amount higher than this as we don't yet know the final values for EAV and new property, getting us to the values on the right and what we'll be asking for approval for later this evening.

If Debt Service is again abated: Average tax bill will increase by CPI (5.0%)

If Debt Service is not abated: Average tax bill will increase approximately 5.5%

BOE may consider additional abatements lowering expected increase

Finally, as part of recent public act 102-0895, we are to disclose our fund balances at both our budget and tax levy hearings each year. These are our balances through October 2023.

Superintendent Bridges reviewed the timeline and reminded the Board

Thank you for your comments. Thank you for the reminders of the timeline.

Public Comments

None.

Board of Education Comments:

None.

Close Hearing on the Truth in Taxation

Amanda McMillen made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Truth in Taxation at 7:27pm, seconded by Charles Cush. Those voting yes: Gericke, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Cush, Wandke, McMillen and Kelley Black. No: None. The motion carried.

Public Comments

President Gericke gave the parameters for public comment.

Thomas Mackrie representing Junior High WCL teachers and others who will be impacted by the decisions of the Board. He noted the listening sessions and the three areas of were identified for discussion, time and resources, recognition and value and ownership and input.

He reviewed the proposed changes.

Looked over the 1800 minutes. 6 weeks will be what the Junior High student will lose in the learning of a language in one year instead of two. Listening sessions noted that staff voice is important.

Offer HS credit for this opportunity. Suspend your vote until you have done a full course of due diligence.

Elizabeth Evers parent of four in D203. Thanked the BOE for serving. Providing her feedback on the 2025-2026 calendar. Decision to close or have an eLearning day is a district decision. People are able to vote at any polling place.

Respectfully asking the board to revert to having election days as a nonattendance day.

President Gericke gave a thank you on behalf of the Board of Education. As a reminder, because the questions raised in public comment address district operational matters, the Board has designated the Superintendent as the spokesperson for the district to respond to public comment and apprise the Board accordingly.

Monthly Reports

- Treasury Report- The Board received the October Treasurer’s Statement
- Investments- The Board received the October Investment Report
- Insurance-The Board received the October Insurance Report
- Budget-The Board Received the October Budget Report

Board Questions/Comments:

None.

Action by Consent:

1. **Bills and Claims** from WARRANT NO.1056306 THRU WARRANT NO.9000000057 TOTALING \$27,483,628.55 FOR THE PERIOD OF November 14, 2023 to December 18, 2023.
2. **Adoption of Personnel Report**

	Effective Date	Location	Position

RESIGNATION-CERTIFIED			
Marisa Soria	1/7/2024	Ranch View	3rd Grade
APPOINTMENT-CERTIFIED FULL-TIME			
Rochelle Wilder	1/9/2024	NCHS	Social Science Teacher
Michael Williams	1/8/2024	NCHS	Science Teacher
REVISED CONTRACT-CERTIFIED FULL-TIME			
Jake Privett	8/14/2023	Connections	Learning Behavior Specialist
LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED			
Leah Johnson	1/23/2024 - 5/23/2024	NCHS	Science
RESIGNATION-CLASSIFIED			
Samantha Olenick	11/5/2023	Elmwood	Instructional Assistant
Eva Francis	12/15/2023	Transportation	Bus Driver
Shih Ming Li	12/22/2023	MJHS	Special Education Assistant
Janel Jaeger	12/22/2023	Highlands	Instructional Assistant
Laurie DeKruiff	12/31/2023	PSAC	Senior Executive Secretary
Charles Mobley	1/2/2024	MJHS	Custodian - Night Supervisor
Valeria Villicana	12/1/2023	Beebe	Instructional Assistant
EMPLOYMENT-CLASSIFIED FULL-TIME			
Barry Solomon	12/18/2023	KJHS	Special Education Assistant
John Atkinson	1/9/2024	KJHS	Special Education Assistant
Alexandra Rucinski	1/9/2024	KJHS	Special Education Assistant
LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CLASSIFIED			
Cierra Scott	11/8/23 - 3/15/24	NCHS	Special Education Assistant

Donna Wandke made a motion to approve Warrant #1056306 thru Warrant #9000000057 totaling \$27,483,628.55 for the period of November 14, 2023 to December 18, 2023 and the remaining items on the Consent Agenda with the exception of 8.03 and 8.04, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Gericke, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Cush, Wandke, McMillen, and Kelley Black. No: None. The motion carried.

3. Board Meeting Minutes 11/13/2023

Are the minutes verbatim or are things added? Are there items in the minutes that were not discussed?

Superintendent Bridges stated that the minutes are a summary of the meeting itself.

Not sure that it is an accurate reflection of the meeting. It is hard to go over these last minute but I thought there was information presented that was not discussed at the meeting. I would like to review them and put off the vote.

Superintendent Bridges noted that the minutes need to be approved within 30 days of the meeting. The meeting minutes were available for review on Thursday afternoon.

My understanding is that if you go back into Board Docs, there are a lot of times that they are not approved within 30 days and there has been quite a backlog.

Superintendent Bridges stated that is not true.

So, if I were to go back and check, we've never extended beyond 30 days?

Superintendent Bridges stated not that he is aware of.

If you would like to abstain, you are able to do that.

Is there a specific area in the minutes that are not accurate?

I have not had time to fully review.

It is your choice to vote no if you do not believe the minutes to be reflective of the meeting.

Donna Wandke made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023 Open Minutes as presented, seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: Cush, McMillen, Kozminski, Fitzgerald, Wandke, and Gericke. No: Kelley Black. Abstained: None. The motion carried.

4. Closed Meeting Minutes 11/13/2023

Noticed that previous Closed Session minutes used to have more detail and certain information was redacted. That helps the community maybe understand transparency and accountability for the decisions made. Have there been any changes in practices or is there a reason that they changed in the information provided?

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board member of her comment regarding transparency regarding closed meeting minutes. He noted that closed meeting minutes are to be released by the Board for them to be accessible by the public. The Board has not released those closed meeting minutes. There has not been a change in practice and closed meeting minutes are not intended to be a verbatim record of the closed session. As you are aware, those meetings are recorded so minutes are intended to be an overall summary.

So, you are saying that there is not a change when I look back at previous minutes?

Superintendent Bridges said the minutes are a reflection of the meeting and the agenda and are consistent with practice and what is required by the law.

I am not saying they are not reflective of the meeting as that would be an opinion. I am asking has there been a change in practice?

No, there has been no change.

Donna Wandke made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023 Closed Minutes as presented, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: McMillen, Fitzgerald, Gericke, Wandke, Cush, and Kozminski. No: Kelley Black. Abstain: None. The motion carried.

5. Board Meeting Minutes 12/04/2023

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve the December 4, 2023 Open and Closed Minutes as presented, seconded by Charles Cush. Those voting yes: Cush, McMillen, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, and Gericke. No: Kelley Black. Abstained: Wandke. The motion carried.

I owe it to the people that I represent that we all represent my opinion and why I am voting is the same comments as before.

6. Bid: MJHS Roofing

7. Bid: MJHS Window Asbestos Abatement

8. Disposal of Assets

Communications

Written Communications

Freedom of Information Requests:

Ditch Freedom of Information Act Request-District and Staff Information

Ditch Freedom of Information Act Request- School Property Information

Lee Freedom of Information Act Request-Buildings and Grounds Information

Syron Freedom of Information Act Request-Buildings and Grounds Information

Superintendent Bridges

No report

President's Report

No report

Board of Education Reports:

Mr. Cush shared his experience at the NNHS Cocoa and Cram. This is put on by the Home and School. It is great to see all the students and staff who help the students.

Mrs. Fitzgerald added that it is fun to see students preparing for finals.

Ms. Kelley Black reported on the Workforce Innovation Council visited NCHS and NNHS to visit the CTE classes. Feedback from community members is that they were impressed with what we were offering. Impressed to see the projects and the thoughtfulness of the students.

Appreciated being able to see the work of staff and students. Proud of the programs.

Mrs. Fitzgerald reported that she and Superintendent Bridges are participating in the IASA Vision 2030 process. I'm participating on behalf of ISAB and Superintendent Bridges as a part of IASA. At the end of November, you should have gotten a survey from IASB.

We will have our next meeting January 24 so I don't know when it closes but I just wanted to give you a quick reminder to fill out the survey.

Discussion without Action:

None.

Discussion with Action:

2025-2026 Calendar

Board Questions/Comments:

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board and community that at the November 13 BOE meeting the calendar was presented. He recommended approval as presented.

Dr. Patrick Nolten gave a brief summary of the process and an update from the feedback received.

Before COVID, did we have the schools closed on election days.

Superintendent Bridges noted that no we had school as usual. Based on feedback from schools and the board we added eLearning days.

What is the engagement on those days?

Mrs. Willard stated that we don't see a big drop in engagement. It allows us to not have disruptions to instruction.

Have we worked with the ROE on the date of the countywide institute date could align with an election days?

Mrs. Willard noted it has not been brought up. We can certainly bring it up.

It would be better to not have a disruption of instruction.

Superintendent Bridges added that we have to consider the safety of staff.

Dr. Nolten, you stated that there was very little input from the community. Did H&S have concerns?

Dr. Nolten responded that there were some concerns about not ending over Memorial Day.

Appreciate the suggestion about the ROE. They will work with us so I would like to see us do more problem solving.

If we were to pass this now, could we come back and modify it if there were any changes?

Superintendent Bridges responded yes.

This is an item that has several pieces of legislation around it. There is legislation to keep elections out of schools so that could change things as well.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Calendar as presented, Charles Cush seconded. Those voting yes: McMillen, Fitzgerald, Wandke, Gericke, Cush, and Kozminski. Those voting no: Kelley Black. Motion carried.

2023 Tax Levy Determination

Superintendent Bridges noted that annually the district sets a tax levy, which provides the district with over 85% of its total revenue. Setting the annual tax levy as governed by the Truth in Taxation law, school code property tax code, and property tax extension limit laws and each have specific requirements. Reviewed the timeline. Administration recommends approval as presented.

Board Questions/Comments:

Thank you for the thoroughness of these reports. The levy we ask for is more than what we estimate we are eligible for but that is because there is some uncertainty as to the value of the EAV?

Mr. Frances stated that is correct, the levy is larger than what we expect to get from new construction but also EAV in general.

We are entitled to it so if we ask for less then we could get less than what we are entitled to.

Mr. Frances noted we only get what we are entitled to receive. If we ask for less, we will not be able to receive what we are entitled to receive.

Thank you for the detail. Would support this as long as we could change this later. It occurred to me that if other Board members support this, it would not be revisited late. Is that correct?

Mr. Frances noted that the Board has to vote on the levy tonight to meet the deadline of next Tuesday. Superintendent Bridges added that Administration does not intend to bring this back as an agenda item. The Board agreements allow for a Board member to request an item be added to the agendas so it could be requested to be on a future agenda.

Would like to look at the reduced levy with the option to recapture as legislation allows. Will not be able to support as I don't think other BOE members are in agreement.

It is just a suggestion but CFA does recommend abatement of the debt service levy. What is the time frame for that?

Mr. Frances stated that we typically bring that to the first meeting in March and look for action at the second meeting in March.

Could we move that earlier in the time frame.

Mr. Frances added that we could consider doing that.

Will we have our recommendations for staff be any earlier?

Superintendent Bridges stated no it is in March so I am not sure we can move that any earlier.

Looking to find the balance at compensating our staff and not burdening the tax payers.

Concern is that the increase does not address any new programming.

Superintendent Bridges stated that what you are referring to is the five-year financial forecast.

When the levy was discussed in 2021, there was conversation about substitute pay. We still have trouble with substitutes. We told them that the levy would be going to paying substitutes but the issue has not been resolved. Concerns are we have issues with pay for staff.

I want to tell the community what we are doing with the money, specifically and the outcomes.

Not comfortable voting for it if I cannot get more specific information.

Thank you for the work on the levy. I understand that our community has trouble paying property taxes but they have always valued our schools. It is very important to pass this so we can continue to look at our programs and make changes to help students. This timeline is by law. Numerous home and school meetings have been held where this has been discussed and all support our schools. We need to look at what we have added, like Math Specialists, we still need them to move us forward. Support the levy.

Support the levy and have not seen a time when the community has not been behind us. I can very easily talk to the community about how we value a dollar. The bulk of our funding comes from property taxes. It is a heavy lift. We do show how we wisely use every dollar. Thank you again for what you do.

We do want to do more. What are the specific plans and what are the outcomes we are looking for.

Superintendent Bridges noted the timeline is governed by the IL school code. This work begins in May. We meet every requirement as noted by the law.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve the tax levy determination, seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: Gericke, Kozminski, McMillen, Fitzgerald, and Cush. Those voting no: Wandke and Kelley Black. Motion carried.

Designate an Individual(s) to Prepare the Budget

Superintendent Bridges noted that we are required by law to designate an individual to prepare the budget. Recommend that Michael Frances be designate to prepare the budget

Board Questions/Comments:

My vote against the tax levy is in no way a vote on my confidence in what you do. Would like us to use a little bit of the reserve.

Is there a time that the community has a time to give input?

Superintendent stated, yes, as stated earlier, over the span of four board meetings.

Donna Wandke made a motion to designate Michael Frances to prepare the budget, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Kelley Black, Cush, Fitzgerald, McMillen, Kozminski, Wandke, and Gericke. Those voting no: None. The motion carried

Commitment 1.2: Junior High School Exploratory

Superintendent Bridges noted that at the last Board of Education meeting Administration presented a recommendation on regarding changes to exploratory level at the junior high school. Those are recommendations to add programming to allow for relevant offerings and more student choice and to align to our College and Career pathway work at the high school and throughout the district. Administration recommends you approve the recommendations as presented.

Board Questions/Comments

Can you address the loss of minutes?

Mrs. Boutet responded that we are aware of the discrepancy. The HS is running a little bit different. These changes are not occurring until 2025-2026 school year. There have been changes to the expectations to the guidelines, which will be in favor for students. We are continuing to look at the middle school level school day.

Mrs. Willard added that curriculum is written with teachers. We have 18 months to get this working.

Do you anticipate there will be a reduction in the number students by moving to a one year?

Mrs. Boutet stated we think the opposite will be the case.

Can we track these numbers?

Mrs. Boutet noted we are always tracking enrollment and engagement.

Mrs. Willard added not all districts offer WCL in Middle School but many who do, offer it for one year.

Will level 1 at High School be changing as well?

Mrs. Willard stated that we will be looking at the whole trajectory.

You don't anticipate 8th graders being behind.

Appreciate the work as students have felt torn by the decisions they have had to make.

Appreciate the tracking that you will do. Appreciate that we are trying some new things.

Appreciate the effort and rigor that has gone into this change. Do we think that this will help these students once they get to HS?

Mrs. Willard remarked we will continue to have the bridge course in the summer for those students who will need it.

Appreciate the listening of the staff voices. Have talked with some who are excited and would like to have their students make different choices. Could there be a language component at the 6th grade level on the wheel?

Mrs. Willard noted yes, we are considering that. WCL is not going away as the Middle School level. We are wanting to add more choice for our students.

Would like to see the Eighth graders get High School credit for it.

Mrs. Willard noted that the High School WCL teachers have the endorsement.

What is the conversation around that?

Superintendent Bridges remarked that we are not prepared to discuss that as it will impact other courses. We are having discussions around that.

Thank you.

Significant concerns from the speaker. Is enrollment down in French?

Mrs. Boutet stated that in some schools it is.

We talk about mental health for staff and students. It is not a Pathway for our students and it is a requirement for some colleges. I am not sure I want to put more pressure and more on everyone's plate. Would like it brought for more discussion.

Charles Cush made a motion to approve the Commitment 1.2: Junior High Exploratory as presented, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Wandke, Kozminski, McMillen, Gericke, and Cush. Those voting no: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Commitment 1.4: EL Program Services

Superintendent Bridges reviewed the timeline. Recommend you approve as presented.

Board Questions/Comments

Appreciate the effort you put into to help move us forward. Thank you for your continued innovation.

We received some feedback about how that feeds into the DL program. Is there an overlap in resources? Do want to commend you for having this in student's home school. DL still have to go to a specific school. Is there any overlap in the resources?

Mrs. Xagas explained that Elementary students do attend a specific school for DL. It is a specialized program much like PI+. DL will still be held at JJHS. There is some overlap.

Have heard from the community that the DL families have concerns. Is there a way to keep them at their homeschool?

Mrs. Xagas we track attendance and it would not be sustainable to support DL in home school at this time.

Can we look into this?

Mrs. Xagas explained that EL is a separate service from DL.

Superintendent Bridges asked that these community members who have concerns to reach out to their principals. We are not making a recommendation to an expansion of the DL program.

Excited to see this expansion of this program. I am hearing positive feedback from the community. How are you working to support staff who would like to get the EL endorsement?

Mrs. Xagas noted that we do have one partnership. The fee is reduced based on the number of staff enrolled. We are looking at having other districts join us to further reduce costs.

Thank you. I had heard some concerns about the cost. Grateful you are looking into it.

Mrs. Xagas added that we did pause hoping we can more staff signed up.

Thank you for this. There is no point in offering programs if people are going to refuse them. Love how data driven this decision is.

Donna Wandke made a motion to approve Commitment 1.4: EL Program Services as presented, seconded by Charles Cush. Those voting yes: Wandke, Gericke, Cush, McMillen, Kozminski, and Fitzgerald. Those voting no: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Policy 7:270 Administering Medicines to Children

Superintendent Bridges noted that the Administering medicines to Children Policy 7:270 was recommended to the Board of Education the December 4th Board of Education meeting. We recommend action and approval by the board this evening we have no changes there was a question that was asked at the previous board meeting regarding the removal of a School Code cross reference that was removed. The recommendation was made by our legal counsel to ensure that we don't inadvertently become liable for something that may be allowed under the school code but that isn't captured in our policy so we're comfortable with the policy. Legal counsel on behalf of the board has reviewed the policy and is comfortable with it and recommends your approval.

Board Questions/Comments

Are we still having trouble obtaining prescriptions?

Mrs. Xagas stated we have all medications as we formed a partnership so we have everything onsite.

They will only be available during school day?

Mrs. Xagas responded yes.

Only available during school day because of the training required of staff?

Mrs. Xagas noted that is correct.

Can we get them trained so they have access?

Mrs. Xagas stated we can explore.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve Policy 7:270 as presented seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Kelley Black, Wandke, Gericke, McMillen, Kozminski, and Cush. Those voting no: None. The motion carried.

Facility Capital Improvement Plan

Superintendent Bridges noted that on December 4, Melanie Brown, Director of Buildings and Grounds presented a recommendation to the Board of Education for the fiscal year 2024.

Mrs. Browns updated the request by noting we can reduce our ask 5.7 million with the reduced amount of the bids that were approved this evening.
It was noted this is an approval of one year.

Board Questions/Comments

None.

Joe Kozminski made a motion to approve the Facility Capital Improvement Plan as presented seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Cush, Kelley Black, Fitzgerald, Wandke, Kozminski, McMillen, and Gericke. Those voting no: None. The motion carried.

Consideration of Board of Education Expenses:

Superintendent Bridges remarked that Board Policy 2:25 requires all board member expenses for travel, meals, and lodging be approved by roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board of Education. These are expenses related to the Triple I Conference held in November.

Board Questions/Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this conference.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve Board of Education expenses as presented, seconded by Charles Cush. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, Kelley Black, Cush, McMillen, and Wandke. Those voting no: None. The motion carried

Consideration of Board of Education Meeting Calendar

Superintendent Bridges stated that at the May 15 meeting the BOE approved meeting dates. On January 9 we have scheduled a work session. There is not anything that admin needs to bring before the board. We are asking to cancel that meeting.

Board Questions/Comments

Admin works hard and should not have to work coming off the break.

To clarify, you want to change the calendar to remove the January 9, 2024 meeting.

Charles Cush made a motion to approve the change in the Board of Education Meeting calendar, seconded by Donna Wandke. Those voting yes: Wandke, McMillen, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, Cush and Kelley Black. Those voting no: None. The motion carried

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Schedule of Events

Superintendent Bridges wished good luck to students taking exams.

Happy Winter Break

Adjournment

Charles Cush moved, seconded by Joe Kozminski to adjourn the meeting at 10:41pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Kelley Black, Cush, Fitzgerald, McMillen, Kozminski, Wandke, and Gericke. Those voting no: None. The motion carried.

Approved: January 22, 2023

Kristine Gericke, President, Board of
Education

Susan Patton, Secretary, Board of
Education