

WEST NORTHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 31
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Per SP2135 the District 31 Board Meeting was held electronically and in-person in the
Field Learning Center, 3131 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois
April 15, 2021 at 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Melissa Choo Valentinas at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present:	Robert Resis	In-Person
	Jeffrey Steres	In-Person
	Maria Vasilopoulos	in-Person
	Nancy Hammer	In-Person
	Melissa Choo Valentinas	Virtual
	Daphne Frank	Virtual
	Laura Greenberg	Virtual

District Administration:

Present:

Dr. Erin K. Murphy, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Catherine M. Lauria, Asst Superintendent Finance & Operations/CSBO
Dr. April Miller, Principal Field Middle School
Mrs. Shaton Wolverton, Principal Winkelman School
Dr. Janine Gruhn, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Mrs. Becky Mathison, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

A quorum of the Board was confirmed by President, Melissa Choo Valentinas

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Superintendent Erin Murphy thanked and presented plaques to Member Robert Resis and Member Nancy Hammer for their years of service as Board of Education members for District 31.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Nancy Hammer made a motion to approve items A-I of the consent agenda.

Member Jeffrey Steres seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Laura Greenberg, Maria Vasilopoulos, Nancy Hammer, Robert Resis, Jeffrey Steres, Daphne Frank, Melissa Choo Valentinas

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0.

ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent Erin Murphy summarized the recommendation that the Board of Education approve the proposal for the 2021 summer work wherein she stated the memo shows the range of what we normally do in the summer. The one difference is that a portion of the amount can be allocated to our CARES Act Grant for some projects. This will then free up local funds normally used for these types of projects. The amount allocated is usually higher than the amount used because not all teachers will decide to participate in all the projects that they can, but we want to give them the opportunity to do so.

Member Jeffrey Steres questioned what is the impact if some teachers participate in a given grade and some teachers do not? Superintendent Erin Murphy stated that the work is adjusted depending on who is on the team. We do not expect everyone to attend every meeting. However, the more people that participate the more work can be done.

President Melissa Choo Valentinas questioned that given all the research out there about students having learning gaps due to the COVID impact, we cannot expect everything to be back to normal. Superintendent Erin Murphy stated that the curriculum building and planning for next fall are not separate things and all have been built into the summer work.

Vice President Laura Greenberg made a motion to approve the 2021 Summer Work.

Secretary Daphne Frank seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Robert Resis, Laura Greenberg, Maria Vasilopoulos, Nancy Hammer, Jeffrey Steres, Daphne Frank, Melissa Choo Valentinas

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0.

Superintendent Erin Murphy stated that this is a recommendation every year, which is to approve the consolidated district plan and to continue to apply for the Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, IDEA Part B and IDEA preschool grants. The grants will focus on the recommendations for the curriculum, special ed, EL, and equity audits and other surveys and measures. At the June Board of Education meeting, the administration will present the budget details for each specific grant once the grant applications are released for application.

Member Jeffrey Steres made a motion to approve the consolidated district plan and to continue to apply for the Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, IDEA Part B and IDEA preschool grants. Member Nancy Hammer seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Robert Resis, Laura Greenberg, Maria Vasilopoulos, Nancy Hammer, Jeffrey Steres, Daphne Frank, Melissa Choo Valentinas

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0.

Superintendent Erin Murphy recommended the following teachers for tenure for the fiscal year 2022 school year:

- Tara Symons, Winkelman Teacher
- Danielle Macino, Winkelman Teacher
- Allison Burns, Field Teacher

Member Nancy Hammer made a motion to approve tenure of the named teachers. Member Steres seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Nancy Hammer, Robert Resis, Laura Greenberg, Maria Vasilopoulos, Jeffrey Steres, Daphne Frank, Melissa Choo Valentinas

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Erin Murphy updated the Board of Education on the return to school dashboard wherein she stated that not much has changed. Some of the changes include:

- Sub chart shows some unfilled positions, however, they have been unrelated to COVID absences. Also, the permanent substitute at Field had to take over the Art position due to the teacher retiring in March.
- A message will be going out tomorrow to our remote families through the Superintendent message stating that District 31 is planning for a full return to school along with in-person instruction for next year. However, if you have a child that has a medical necessity, fill out the attached form and the District will walk the family through the process. The township is discussing having a township academy to help with remote learning. We need to gather approximate numbers in order to determine if the academy is needed.

Vice President Laura Greenberg expressed concern over the amount of testing. Also, given that students are coming to the building for testing, should an opportunity to return to in person be explored. Assistant Superintendent Becky Mathison stated the MAP test provides us invaluable information in regards to where the students are at in their learning so that we can make smart decisions instructional for them in the Fall.

Finance

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Catherine Lauria, stated that the Monthly Budget Reports for March 2021 were included in the packet, however, some

comments were made:

- Treasurer's Report - March ends the completion of the 3rd quarter for our school year. The ending fund balance for February was \$14.5 million and we have since received \$5 million in property tax receipts. Less expenses, this left March with a fund balance of \$18 million. We are currently behind in property tax receipts due to the district, likely due to the ability to pay them later, just as it was in last fall.
- The investment summary reflects the ability to invest more with the recent property tax receipts. Investments increased to \$16.3 million from the \$11 million last month with an average rate of return increasing to a rate slightly higher than January's rate.
- General Ledger Summary- All fund balances are higher with the exception of capital projects. Some bills were paid recently for capital projects and those expenses were offset by approximately \$20,000 in impact fees from the two current developments.
- Monthly Budget Summary - The operating revenues in total, and revenues overall, are within 5% of the prior year. April is the last month we received the CCPRT. We were anticipating less at the beginning of the year, which is still the case, however we have received \$7,000 more than we budgeted. The operating expenses are discrepant in the transportation fund which is a positive note because we are saving money. We will have additional expenses for track.
- The Linear Chart - Reflects the FY21 revenues reversed from beginning slightly higher last month to 4% lower this month. Tax receipts are 5% lower than last year at this time.
- P-Card statement is available for review.

BOARD REPORTS

Glenview Plan Commission:

Secretary Daphne Frank stated that she was unable to attend the meeting on the 30th however Superintendent Erin Murphy sent the Board of Education an update.

NSSED

Secretary Daphne Frank attended the meeting wherein she stated the following:

- They approved the 2021-2022 calendar.
- As of July 1, 2021 they will be going with their new name of True North Educational Cooperative 804 which is their official number in the State.
- They voted on the COVID expenses surcharge that is not to exceed 1.55%. Secretary Daphne Frank voted no, per our Board of Education. However, everyone else voted yes so it passed.
- They did a hiring freeze so that they can cover expenses.
- 77% of their staff is vaccinated.

Ed-Red

Vice President Laura Greenberg reported on Ed-Red which is an educational advocacy

group wherein she stated the following:

- Ed-Red is supporting the particular part of the Governor's 2022 plan which protects the early education block of funding as well as protecting some investments of equity and maintaining the elementary school budget.

Superintendent Erin Murphy stated that there is a bill appearing occasionally suggesting the consolidation of small districts. Vice President Laura Greenberg stated that in the past, District 31 was looked at to be consolidated with District 30 but District 30 did not want to consolidate. It is a local decision. The District 31 Board should keep an eye on this.

The Education Foundation:

- Currently funding projects for raising \$40,000 to update the equipment for our Science Room at Field School and the Art Room at Winkelman School. They have reached 25% of their goal.
- The Education Foundation will be presenting a Buddy Bench to Winkelman School
- Looking for new members to join and there are leadership positions available.
- The next meeting will be May 11th at 7:30 and June 8th at 7:30pm.

PTO

- The District had an incredibly strong year and they want to celebrate. All the Wildcats, Tigers and staff are invited to give one last cheer for Teacher Appreciation and celebrate the entire community. Come to Winkelman May 7th from 3:00-6:00pm for a pop up book fair.

Northbrook Economic Development Committee

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Catherine Lauria reported on the following:

- The committee asked district to comment/discuss the consolidation of districts. Everyone that spoke was in the agreement that the control should stay local.
- There was information on the economic situation overall for Northbrook. The vacancy rates are still increasing (currently 5.4%) and the office vacancies are slightly down.
- Last February 2020, unemployment was at 15.1% and is declined to 6.2% which is slightly better than the state average of 8%.
- Sales tax for general merchandise is up 64%. Food is up 10%.
- There were 8 additional requests for outdoor seating from restaurants and all requests were granted.
- They discussed the climate action plan which includes a series of goals to help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. The Village approved a sustainability coordinator for that effort, as well.
- 6B tax incentives we discussed as there have been a number of applications. These incentives reduce the property taxes for these companies for the first 14 years. The rate then increases to the regular rate of 25%. None of the applications are for companies within our District 31 area.
- Updates from the school districts were requested. In particular, the discussion was to learn about the impact COVID had on school districts and the plans for next year.

- Efforts continue to proceed with fireworks on the 4th of July.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Superintendent Erin Murphy reported enrollment.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

1. [Zoe Yalcin - SmartProcure - Request and Response](#)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Erin Murphy stated that this year was our Compliance year from the State. We received a lot of compliments on our changes to systems. We have received a perfect score of "A".

MOVE INTO CLOSED

Secretary Daphne Frank made a motion to move into closed session to consider pending litigation, collective bargaining, and the appointment, employment, compensation, or performance of specific employees. Member Maria Vasilopoulos seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Daphne Frank, Maria Vasilopoulos, Robert Resis, Jeffrey Steres, Laura Greenberg, Nancy Hammer, Melissa Choo Valentinas

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0.

ACTION FROM CLOSED

Member Nancy Hammer made a motion to approve the resolution for dismissal of first, second and third year probationary teachers:

1. Alexandria Gillespie
2. Alexa Rosenzweig
3. Adam Pauley

Secretary Daphne Frank seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Robert Resis, Jeffrey Steres, Laura Greenberg, Nancy Hammer, Daphne Frank, Melissa Choo Valentinas, Maria Vasilopoulos

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0

Secretary Daphne Frank made a motion to approve the resolution for honorary dismissal of educational support personnel, Rita Redmond. Member Maria Vasilopoulos seconded the

motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Jeffrey Steres, Laura Greenberg, Robert Resis, Nancy Hammer, Daphne Frank, Maria Vasilopoulos, Melissa Choo Valentinas

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0

Secretary Daphne Frank made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 compensation for teacher assistants which is a 3% increase and a \$400 COVID bonus.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Robert Resis, Nancy Hammer, Maria Vasilopoulos, Laura Greenberg, Daphne Frank, Melissa Choo Valentinas, Jeffrey Steres

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0

Member Nancy Hammer made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 compensation for educational support personnel which includes a 3% salary increase excluding two employees that are adjusting salaries due to a change in their positions or a pay bump plus a \$1,000 COVID bonus. Part time employees, classroom monitors and supervisors, will receive a 3% salary increase and a \$100 COVID bonus. Member Jeffrey Steres seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Robert Resis, Nancy Hammer, Jeffrey Steres, Laura Greenberg, Daphne Frank, Maria Vasilopoulos, Melissa Choo Valentinas

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0

Member Robert Resis made a motion approve the 2021-2022 compensation for administrators as follows:

1. Dr. Janine Gruhn, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, will receive a 2.5% increase and the current Title I stipend will be rolled over into her salary.
2. Becky Mathison, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, will receive a 2.5% increase to her salary.
3. Dr. April Miller, Principal of Field Middle School, will receive a 2.5% increase to her salary.
4. Shaton Wolverton, Principal of Winkelman School, will receive a 1.5% increase to her salary.
5. Justin Cooper, Assistant Principal of Field Middle School, will receive a 1.5% increase to his salary.
6. Nino Alvarez, Assistant Principal of Winkelman School, will receive a 1.5% increase to his salary.
7. Dr. Erin Murphy, Superintendent of Schools, will receive a 4% increase to her salary.
8. All administrators will receive a \$1,000 COVID bonus.

9. Catherine Lauria, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, will receive a \$1,000 COVID bonus which will be rewarded as a post retirement contract.

Member Nancy Hammer seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Robert Resis, Nancy Hammer, Daphne Frank, Maria Vasilopoulos, Laura Greenberg, Jeffrey Steres, Melissa Choo Valentinas

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0

ADJOURN

Member Jeffrey Steres made a motion to adjourn. Member Maria Vasilopoulos seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: Robert Resis, Jeffrey Steres, Laura Greenberg, Nancy Hammer, Daphne Frank, Melissa Choo Valentinas, Maria Vasilopoulos

Nay: None.

The motion passed 7:0 at 10:20pm.

Board President

Board Secretary

Date