

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
May 20, 2021 at 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Allison Slade Rothstein at 7:02pm.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present: Meredith Estes
 Daphne Frank
 Allison Slade
 Jeffrey Steres
 Melissa Choo Valentinas
 Maria Vasilopoulos

Absent: Laura Greenberg

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, Allison Slade

RECOGNITION OF AUDIENCE

Union President and Stem Teacher, Dave Kondela, of West Northfield School District 31 presented to the Board of Education a letter representing the teachers wherein it stated that they were unhappy that teaching assistants, office staff, custodians and administrators received a COVID bonus but the teachers did not receive one.

Superintendent Erin Murphy read the following comments from four different families thanking the Board for adding Eid to the school calendar.

RECOGNITION

The Field and Winkelman principals shared highlights of May activities in both schools. Dr. Janine Gruhn highlighted Exceptional Children's Week. Dr. Murphy celebrated District 31 retirees.

- Beth Rohrer, Winkelman - 39 Years in District 31
- Barb Braje, Field - 34 Years in District 31
- Ruth Ann Nally - 4 Years with District 31, 14 Years with NSSED

PRESENTATION

Svetlana Popvovic, Humanex representative presented the [Humanex Insightex Survey](#) results. She reviewed the difference between climate and culture, shared the overall participation in the survey, overall results of engaged staff, and next steps.

Dr. Ivette Dubiel, Systemic Educational Equity, LLC presented the overall findings and process of an [Equity Audit](#). The overview explained the following:

- Equity Audit Process
- Quantitative and Qualitative
- Equity Audit Findings
- Next Steps

The Board of Education requested two proposals for the next steps of the Equity Audit to be presented at the June Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Maria Vasilopoulos made a motion to approve items A-J of the consent agenda. Member Jeffrey Steres seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: 6:0

Nay: None.

The motion passed 6:0.

ACTION ITEMS

None

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Administrative Reports

Superintendent Erin Murphy gave the return to school update.

- Vaccine opportunity for students on May 22.
- Glenbrook Hospital will be doing a vaccine site at Winkelman on June 5th.
- A survey for remote learning for next year showed two students are interested in exploring virtual academy options. There are not enough students to create a remote

for the township program.

President Allison Slade and Superintendent Erin Murphy presented the “District 31: By the Numbers” sheet as an example of the dashboard of information that might be helpful for the BOE.

After the Board of Education reviewed the sheet, they would like to continue to have the monthly enrollment report included that has year to date and class sizes.

Finance

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Catherine Lauria, stated that she added an additional summary report on the financials in the Board packet and will provide this summary in each Board packet. She added that the district is under budget with the revenues and catching up with expenses.

BOARD REPORTS

President Allison Slade reported on the NSSD meeting wherein she stated the following:

- There were 11 new governing board members and it mainly was an organizational meeting.
- They had many retirees this year.
- They are changing their name to True North Educational Cooperative 804.
- They have a 10% reduction in staff for next year.
- They are down 4.25 positions and they had one person to reduce in force.
- They are looking to present the budget in June.

President Allison Slade reported that the Northfield Township Board Presidents meetings are being resurrected and the five districts will be represented and will meet quarterly.

Member Melissa Choo Valentinas reported on the following for the PTO:

- Spring Fling was held for the entire community and had many fun activities such as a pie throwing contest.
- New PTO board has been voted for the term beginning July 1st. Meghan McMillian and Lisa Brown will be co-presidents. They are looking for two non-board positions. One is the Manager of Directory Spot App and the Restaurant's Fundraising Chair. May 26th is the last restaurant fundraiser event which is a Taco Contest.
- The Education Foundation is meeting June 8th at 7:00pm. The Walk to School event was a big hit. They had 154 participants with 233 people and 112 donations totalling \$2,736 raised. The Foundation's current balance is \$21,000 plus. Sarah Goldman is new to the Education Foundation. The Education Foundation is still welcoming new members. Anyone interested please reach out to Darrin Stern.

Member Meredith Estes reported on the Glenview Planning Commission and the Northbrook Economic Development Committees wherein she stated that:

- North Branch is building a permanent outdoor eating area.
- The plan commission did recommend “no” to rezoning the Pfingsten/Willow shopping center. That will remain residential and we will keep a lookout on future traffic studies so that we can review and take any necessary action.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Erin Murphy stated that every 4 years the school district has a compliance visit from the State that is on all aspects of the district. In the Board packet is the summary of the compliance visit. The District received an “A” in all categories.

President Allison Slade reviewed the Committee and Organizational Involvement with the rest of the Board of Education:

- Northfield Township Presidents - Dr. Allison Slade
- True North Educational Cooperative 804 - Dr. Allison Slade
- Illinois Association of School Boards - Jeffrey Steres
- ED Red - Not assigned
- Northbrook Economic Development Committee - Laura Greenberg
- Glenview Plan Commission - Meredith Estes
- District 31 Education Foundation and PTO - Melissa Choo Valentinas
- Safety Committee - Dr. Maria Vasilopoulos
- Calendar Committee - Daphne Frank
- Finance Committee - Dr. Allison Slade and Jeffrey Steres
- Policy Committee - Meredith Estes and Daphne Frank
- Buildings and Grounds - Dr. Maria Vasilopoulos and Jeffrey Steres
- Strategic Plan - Dr. Allison Slade and Dr. Maria Vasilopoulos

Superintendent Erin Murphy stated that the IASB Board Training will be held on July 15, 2021 which is our regular scheduled Board meeting date but only the consent agenda and public comments will be addressed. The Board of Education will then go into the training.

President Allison Slade reviewed with the Board of Education the policies and stated that they are first readings and they will be brought to the June Board meeting for approval.

Policies

- a) [Committees and Organizational Involvement](#)
- b) [Public Participation at Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board](#) - After some discussion, some wording changes were proposed to the remote meeting item.
- c) [Residency](#)

MOVE INTO CLOSED

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

Final Resolution:

Aye: 6

Nay: None.

The motion passed 6:0.

ACTION FROM CLOSED

Member Maria Vasilopoulos made a motion to approve Lisa Johnson's 12 week FMLA. Member Jeffrey Steres seconded the motion.

Final Resolution:

Aye: 6

Nay: None.

The motion passed 6:0.

ADJOURN

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

Final Resolution:

Aye: 6

Nay: None.

The motion passed 6:0 at 10:10pm.

Board President

Board Secretary

Date