

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 27
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Meeting of 03/04/21 The regular meeting of March 4, 2021 of the Board of Education, School District 27 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. virtually.

Roll Call On call of the roll, the following members were present:

Present:	Mrs. Helen Melnick, president Mr. Alex Frum, vice president Mrs. Laurie Garber-Amram Mrs. Martha Carlos Mrs. Melissa Copeland Mr. Ed Feld Mr. Brian Paich
Staff:	Dr. David Kroeze, superintendent Dr. Kimberly Rio, assistant superintendent Dr. Theresa Fournier, assistant superintendent Dr. Katharine Olson, assistant superintendent
Absent:	None

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Melnick called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Communications

Community Comments

Mrs. Melnick announced that during the week the District had received a number of emails that Dr. Kroeze was going to address. She added that the Board would not deliberate on any of the community comments at this time. Dr. Kroeze stated that the majority of the questions dealt with the children coming back to in-person learning. Dr. Kroeze read emails from the following:

- Sarah Hamano
- Jennifer Strang
- Alejandra Arteaga
- Mallory Rose
- Christian Brihuega
- Brian and Regan Holt
- Carlie Marvel
- Milana Atramentov
- Irena Lerner
- Stephanie Cohen
- Rosie Diedrich
- Mariya Bass
- Maria Bazavan
- Susan Kraj

- Chris Kraj

Dr. Kroeze stated that the District would like nothing better than to have all of the children in school in-person, full-time. The guidance from the IDPH and the CDC is that 6-foot distancing in schools is still required. The square footage in our buildings is not large enough to meet these guidelines and have all of the children in the schools full time, unfortunately it is not possible at this time. We currently have 87% of our students in attendance which is the largest in the Township. We have had zero transmissions in school since the beginning of the year because we maintain a safe 6-ft. distance, wear masks, and hand washing.

Board Reports

Mr. Feld reported on the NSSED Leadership Meeting of February 10, 2021. He stated that the NSSED has been working to re-brand, and beginning July 1, 2021, NSSED will be known as the True North Educational Cooperative District 804. They have also outlined their improvement goals for the next year: Culture of Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility. Mr. Feld added that if enrollment at NSSED remains the same, there is an anticipated budget deficit of approximately 1.2 million dollars. NSSED is planning to off-set that amount through attrition, grants and a Medicaid outreach, and cost containment.

Staff Reports

Dr. Olson updated the Board on Illinois state testing. State testing includes the Illinois Assessment Readiness (IAR), as well as the Illinois Science Assessment. Many states, including Illinois, submitted a request to the Department of Education seeking a waiver for elimination of the mandate for annual testing for just this school year. The Department of Education turned down this request, and that annual testing would be required for all states. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness requires reading and math which is administered to students in grades 3-8 which involves two reading assessments and three math at each grade level. Additionally, the students in grades 5-8 take three science tests annually. If the State of Illinois does not reduce the number of tests required, we are concerned about its impact on our students, but also parental support for our testing. We have written an extensive letter to the Illinois State Superintendent, Carmen Ayala, requesting some relief on the amount of testing. We will keep you informed of any developments.

Dr. Kroeze updated the Board on the Metrics and Travel Guide. He stated that the travel guidance is posted on the website. Dr. Kroeze added that the number of positive Covid-19 cases are going down.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Melnick called for Review of the Consent Agenda items.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Dr. Kroeze and the Administrative staff presented the Environmental Scan. The Scan is the District's annual review of the external and internal factors that can have a significant impact on the success of the District. The data from the Scan help the District:

1. Support goal identification to optimize resources
2. Promote an awareness of the external environment and future trends which enables the District to adopt a future orientation
3. Anticipate the future training needs of our staff
4. Increase return on investment to our taxpayers

The Key Success Factors were presented:

Key Success Factor #1 – Outstanding Student Performance.

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Monitoring and Maintaining Student Achievement Levels During the Pandemic

Key Success Factor #2 – Rigorous and Coherent Programs.

- Planning for Continued Learning Impacts Due to the Pandemic
- Planning for Potential Continued Disruption to School Due to the Pandemic 2021-22
- Focusing on the Core Curricula, Instructional Technology Integration Advances, and Innovations Supported in Research
- Important and Timely Mandates by the ISBE
- NSSD and the Northfield Township Shared Services Agreement

Key Success Factor #3 – Highly Qualified Staff

- Focus on staff culture of collaboration and excellence
- Analysis of Instructional Assistant Workforce
- Workforce Development

Key Success Factor #4 – Social Emotional Well-being

- Student Focus of Support
- Staff Focus of Support

Key Success Factor #5 – Safe Learning and Working Environment

- Master Facilities Plan
- Maintaining Safety Procedures
- Network Security

Key Success Factor #6 – Healthy Financial Position

- Monitor the District 27 Financial Landscape and Projection
- Master Facilities Plan

The next steps in the Strategic Planning process will be to:

- Refine Short- and Long-Term Action Plans
- Approve the Strategic Plan at the April 29th Regular Board meeting.

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Melnick congratulated Dr. Deiter and welcomed him to the Northbrook School District 27 Community.

Closed Session

No. 19111

Board Adjourns to Closed Session

At 8:45 p.m. Mr. Frum moved and Mrs. Carlos seconded the motion that the Board of Education move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing appointment, employment, performance, and dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Action will not be taken.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mrs. Melnick, Mrs. Garber-Amram, Mrs. Carlos, Mrs. Copeland Mr. Feld, Mr. Frum and Mr. Paich

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

No. 19112

Board Returns from Closed Session

At 9:35 p.m., Mr. Frum moved and Mrs. Copeland seconded the motion that the Board of Education returns from Closed Session.

On roll call vote, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Mrs. Melnick, Mrs. Garber-Amram, Mrs. Carlos, Mrs. Copeland Mr. Feld, Mr. Frum and Mr. Paich

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board at this time Mrs. Garber-Amram moved and Mrs. Copeland seconded the motion that the meeting is adjourned.

The motion was unanimously approved, and President Melnick called the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED ON 4/29/21