

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 27
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Meeting of 10/22/20	The regular meeting of October 22, 2020 of the Board of Education, School District 27 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Wood Oaks Commons, 1250 Sanders Road, in said district.
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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 Arakelian, assistant superintendent
 Dr. Theresa Fournier, assistant superintendent
 Dr. Katharine Olson, assistant superintendent

Absent: None

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

Communications

Superintendent Report

Dr. Kroeze announced that he will be retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. He stated it has been his deepest honor and privilege to work with the parent community, the Board, the Administrative team and staff members. He added his priority has always been to put the children first and make sure they had a world-class education.

Mrs. Melnick stated that Dr. Kroeze is a very humble man, but everyone is happy for him. He has given 30 remarkable years to the community. He has shown untiring moments and has given everything to the community, not only for the school community, but the Village of Northbrook and Northfield Township. You are an incredible leader.

Dr. Fournier stated that the Administrative team was in attendance to support this momentous announcement. They did not want the COVID pandemic to overshadow their fondness of him. She stated he has led with integrity. She added his motto is excellence in all things, and he has led through his example.

Board

Mrs. Carlos reported on the October 14, 2020 Village of Northbrook Economic Development Committee Meeting. Village of Northbrook Director of Development and Planning Services will be retiring in 2021. There has been a slight increase in applications for new construction permits. Retail is moving up a little, but not to recession rates, and an increase in office vacancies. The unemployment rate in Northbrook is at 10%.

Mrs. Melnick reported on the Insurance Committee Meeting. The District is recommending a renewal of the Medical with Blue Cross and Blue Shield with a 7.41% renewal increase, with no change in the benefit programs. The District is also recommending a renewal with BlueCross and Blue Shield Dental with a 2.2% decrease, and no change in the benefit program. And the recommendation for Life and Long Term Disability will have no change in the benefit program.

Mrs. Melnick reported on the October 7, 2020 and October 22, 2020 Organization and Leadership Meetings. She stated that she, Dr. Kroeze, Mr. Paich and Mr. Feld met to discuss search firms for the Superintendent vacancy. The Committee reviewed six of the most prominent firms of the area, and identified three firms to invite for a Board presentation:

Hazard, Young, and Attea Associates

Ray and Associates

School ExecConnect

These firms will be discussed later during the New Business portion of tonight's Board meeting.

Mrs. Melnick announced that the Wood Oaks Graduation will be held on June 1, 2021.

Mrs. Melnick and the Board of Education recognized Dr. Kimberly Arakelian on receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 11th year straight.

Community

Mr. Matt Basinger introduced himself, and he is planning on running for the Northbrook School District 27 Board of Education.

Staff

Dr. Olson reported on the Illinois School Report Card. She stated that it will be released on Friday, October 30, 2020, and she will share the results with the Board when she receives them. Due to COVID, the State used the same designations as last year. The IAR scores from 2019 were used. Shabonee and Hickory Point received the designation of Exemplary and Wood Oaks received the designation of Commendable.

Dr. Olson reported on the student re-entry on November 2, 2020. The District distributed a survey to the fully remote students. The survey results indicate that 77 students will be returning, which is 31% of the fully remote students who will be returning to in-person learning. Prior to the survey, 81% of students were in-person learning, and the 77 students will bring the total to 87% students who will be in-person learning. Of the families who have chosen to remain remote, 82% may return at some point. 26 students will not return this year and 20 students are waiting for a vaccine. The next re-entry points will be February 1 and April 12.

Dr. Kroeze reported on Adaptive Pause. An Adaptive Pause is a strategy that allows for movement into any level of remote learning to prevent disease transmission during a pandemic. He distributed a chart which shows that Cook County is still in a stable environment. If we move into the substantial community transmission for two consecutive weeks, we will have to consider going into remote learning. We receive numbers from IDPH daily. Northfield Township is currently at a 4.3% weekly test positivity rate, which is quite low compared to surrounding areas. We will be placing the dashboard on our website, and it changes every week.

Consent Agenda

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

Financial Report

Mr. Frum presented the Financial Report for month ending September 2020. The District remains stable financial position. On the revenue side of the budget, the majority of the receipts recorded were from property tax collections. On the expenditure side of the budget, there were no unfavorable budget to actual line items to report. The Board will be updated on COVID expenditures to date on the October financial report. For September, the average rate of return on investments was .11%.

Dr. Arakelian updated the Board on the revised student fee recommendations. As the District has been sustaining the hybrid model for nine weeks now, she wanted to come back to the Board to revise a few of the fees.

- For the Book and Material Fee a \$10.00 increase per grade level is recommended, in order to support synchronous instruction model, our students now have access to a number of new digital resources.
- Technology Fee for K-2 increase to \$50.00, same as Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8.
- For the Bus Transportation Fee we are recommending no increase to the transportation fee, which is set at \$385 per rider; however, the recommended fee charged for grades 2-8 would be at \$192.50 (50%) due to the hybrid schedule.

She added that we are recommending no change or zero charge for the fees listed below for the 2020-21 school year:

- Technology User Fee (no change)
- Field Trips/On-site Performance Fee (no charge)
- Milk Fee (no change)
- P.E. Uniform Fee (no charge)
- Yearbook Fee (no change)

No. 18971

Approval of Minutes of the Public Hearing/ Regular Board Meeting of September 3, 2020

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing/ Regular Board Meeting of September 3, 2020.

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. 18972

Approval of Closed Session Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 3, 2020

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Closed Session Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 3, 2020.

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. 18973

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of September 17, 2020

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2020.

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. 18974

Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 17, 2020

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 17, 2020.

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. 18975

Approval of the Amendment to the Contract of the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Amendment to the Contract of the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services.

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. 18976

Approval of the Amendment to the Contract of the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Amendment to the Contract of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

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. 18977 Statement of Claims for October, 2020 Approved

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Statement of Claims for October 2020, in the amount of \$1,337,291.71, be approved, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18978 Statement of Position for September, 2020, Approved

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Statement of Position for September, 2020, in the amount of \$26,865,289.72, be approved, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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

Copies of the Statement of Investments for the period ending September, 2020 were distributed to Board members for their review. This report shows that as of this date, the district has \$27,766,781.60, invested in funds that are earning interest at rates that range from 0.01 to 1.00 percent. This report is to be made part of the official minutes.

No. 18979 Statement of Receipts for August 2020, Approved

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Statement of Receipts for September, 2020, in the amount of \$847,599.47, be approved, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18980

Status of Appropriations for August, 2020, Approved

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that Status of Appropriations for September, 2020, in the amount of \$2,230,928.06, be approved, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18981

Wood Oaks Activity Account for September 2020, Approved

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Wood Oaks Activity Account for September, 2020 be approved, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18982

Revolving Fund for August 2020, Approved

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Revolving Fund for September, 2020 be approved, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18983

Payroll Dated September 30, 2020, Ratified

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the payroll dated September 30, 2020, in the amount of \$842,143.51, be ratified, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18984

Payroll Dated September 30, 2020 (COVID-19), Ratified

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the payroll dated September 30, 2020, in the amount of \$12,451.10, be ratified, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18985

Payroll Dated October 15, 2020, Ratified

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the payroll dated October 15, 2020, in the amount of \$844,473.72, be ratified, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18986

Payroll Dated October 15, 2020 (COVID-19), Ratified

Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the payroll dated October 15, 2020 (COVID-19), in the amount of \$6,497.57, be ratified, and that this report be made part of the official minutes.

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. 18987

Approval of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Advantage HMO

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education renew its coverage in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Advantage HMO Plan for the 2021 calendar year at the following rates:

New Rate	Single	\$581.99	Family	\$1,583.22
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Former Rate	Single	\$541.85	Family	\$1,474.02
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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. 18988

Approval of the Blue Cross Blue Shield HMO Illinois Plan

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education renew its coverage in the Blue Cross Blue Shield HMO Illinois Plan for the 2021 calendar year at the following rates:

New Rate	Single	\$582.64	Family	\$1,584.98
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Former Rate	Single	\$582.64	Family	\$1,584.98
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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. 18989**Approval of the Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO**

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Andreou moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education renew its coverage in the Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO Plan for the 2021 calendar year at the following rates:

New Rate	Single	\$1,242.24	Family	\$2,902.35
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Former Rate	Single	\$1,156.56	Family	\$2,702.17
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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. 18990**Approval of Renewal of Coverage with Dearborn National for Life and ADD&D Insurance Coverage**

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Andreou moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education renew its coverage with Dearborn National for Life and AD&D insurance coverage for the 2021 calendar year at the following rates (2-year rate guarantee):

New Rate	Basic Life	\$.123/\$1,000	AD&D	\$.015/\$1,000
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Former Rate	Basic Life	\$.093/\$1,000	AD&D	\$.015/\$1,000
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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. 18991**Approval of Renewal of Coverage with CIGNA for Long Term Disability (LTD) Insurance**

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Andreou moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education renew its coverage with CIGNA for long-term disability (LTD) insurance coverage for the 2021 calendar year at the following rates (2-year rate guarantee):

New Rate	LTD	\$.235/\$1,000
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Former Rate	LTD	\$.112/\$1,000
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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. 18992

Approval of the Dental Premiums for the Self-Funded Dental Program

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Andreou moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves a decrease of 2.02% for the dental premiums for the self-funded dental program at the following rates for calendar year 2021.

New Rate	Single	\$47.62	Family	\$119.05
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Former Rate	Single	\$48.60	Family	\$121.50
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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. 18993

Approval of the One-Year Contract Extension with Perspectives for Calendar Year 2020

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Andreou moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approves a one-year contract extension with Perspectives for calendar year 2021 to administer the District's Employee Assistance Program. The fee will remain the same as the current year at \$1.27 (per month per participant).

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. 18994

Approval of The Employer's Association to Administer District's Flexible Benefit Plan

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Andreou moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve a one-year contract extension with The Employer's Association for calendar year 2021 to administer the District's Flexible Benefit Plan. The fee will remain the same at \$5.00 (per month per participant).

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. 18995

Approval of Revised Student Fee Structure for 2020-2021

As recommended by the superintendent, Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the following revisions to the student fee structure for fiscal year 2020-21:

<i>Book & Material Fee</i>		
K-2	\$ 80.00	\$ 90.00
3-5	\$ 55.00	\$ 65.00
6-8	\$ 45.00	\$ 55.00
<i>PE Uniform (6th grade)</i>	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.00
<i>Milk Fee</i>	\$ 5.00	No change
<i>Yearbook Fee</i>	\$ 20.00	No change
<i>Bus Fee</i>	\$385.00	\$385.00 for grades K-1 \$192.50 for grades 2-8
<i>Field Trip/In-school Performance Fee</i>		
K-5	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00
6-8	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.00
<i>Technology Fee</i>		
K-2	\$ 0.00	\$ 50.00
3-5	\$ 50.00	No change
6-8	\$145.00	No change

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. 18996

Approval of One-Year Contract Extension with Tovar Snow Professionals.

Upon recommendation by the superintendent, Mr. Andreou moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the Board of Education approve a one-year contract extension with Tovar Snow Professionals, Inc. at no increase in pricing. The duration of this contract shall be from November 1, 2020 through May 1, 2021.

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. 18997 Approval to Become a Member of the IESA Northbrook-Maple Wrestling Cooperative Team

Upon recommendation by the superintendent, Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the Board of Education approve to become a Member of the IESA Northbrook-Maple Wrestling Cooperative.

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

Unfinished Business
None

New Business
Draft of the 2021-2022 School Calendar

Dr. Kroeze stated that the calendar is actually very good with the following key notations:

- Our teachers will formally begin on August 16th.
- Students would begin on August 19th
- We will have two and a half weeks of student attendance prior to Labor Day as usual.
- Our last day of attendance is scheduled to be Tuesday, June 2, 2022.
- All major breaks are aligned with District 225 – assuming they would not change any parameters from the past.
- There are five additional emergency days built into the calendar should we need to use them, as required by the State.

Recruiting Firms

The Board discussed the superintendent search firms. There were six search firms considered. The Organization and Leadership Committee chose three of the six firms to interview at the November 5th Board meeting:

- Hazard Young Attea
- Ray and Associates
- School ExecConnect

Good and Welfare

Mrs. Melnick stated that she was saddened to hear that retired Northbrook Police Chief Charles Wernick had passed away.

Closed Session

No. 18998

Board Adjourns to Closed Session

At 8:10 p.m., Mr. Paich moved and Mrs. Garber-Amram seconded the motion that the Board of Education adjourns to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. Action will not be taken following 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

No. 18999

Board Returns from Closed Session

At 9:30 p.m., Mrs. Garber-Amram moved and Mr. Paich 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 Mr. Paich seconded the motion that the meeting is adjourned.

The motion was unanimously approved, and President Melnick called the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE CORRECT:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED ON 11/19/20