Board of Education Meeting Minutes August 13, 2018

Call to Order

Board President Vince Engstrom called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Service Center boardroom, 28W250 St. Charles Road, West Chicago, Illinois 60185.

Roll Call

In attendance were Members Jack Buscemi (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Jodi Krause (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Tammy Mastroianni, Dennis Peterson, Anna Taylor, Lisa Willuweit, and Vince Engstrom; Superintendent Dr. Philip Ehrhardt; Business Manager, Dr. Shelley Clark, Evergreen Elementary School Principal, Laura Pfanenstiel; Benjamin Middle School Principal, Mike Fitzgerald; Recorder Jennifer Szabo, and members of the staff and community whose signatures are filed with these minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Engstrom led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Agenda

Member Taylor moved and Member Willuweit seconded to approve the agenda as presented. On a roll call vote, Members Mastroianni, Peterson, Taylor, Willuweit and Engstrom – aye. Member Buscemi and Krause - absent. Motion carried.

Approve Drafts of Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2018
Executive Session Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2018
Board Retreat Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2018

Member Mastroianni moved and Member Taylor seconded to approve the minutes as presented. On a roll call vote, Members Mastroianni, Peterson, Taylor, Willuweit and Engstrom – aye. Member Buscemi and Krause – absent. Motion carried.
Board Salutes

The board extended a special salute to Anthony DeIpreto for his leadership in planning and implementing the golf outing to raise $5,789.86 for PLTW kits.

The board also extended a special salute to Tim Kazmierczak, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor for his outstanding work to coordinate the cleaning and maintenance of the buildings with the construction projects. In addition, Tim oversaw the Benjamin Middle School small gym/cafeteria and Evergreen Elementary School early childhood playground rubber surface project. Dr. Ehrhardt thanked Mr. Kazmierczak for suggesting to move unused air condition units to the girls locker room at Benjamin Middle School. The cost was approximately $9,000 to do compared to quotes around $60,000!

The board saluted Jerry Guy, Clerk of the Works Consultant for effectively monitoring and overseeing the numerous construction projects. Throughout the construction process he ensured the school district's interests were being met.

Superintendents Report

Buildings' Walk Through – The board members agreed to walk through the schools to observe completed summer projects on Tuesday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m. beginning at Evergreen Elementary School.

Openings of Schools – Dr. Ehrhardt provided an overview of staffing including Mrs. Michelle Russell.

Opening of Schools: Technology: Greg Martin, information technology coordinator, provided a comprehensive list of summer technology projects that the technology team completed. Mr. Martin shared it was a team effort and thanked Namita Patel, Alicia Wisted, Ellen Behrman, and Randy Johnson.

Buildings and Grounds – Tim Kazmierczak, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor summarized the cleaning and maintenance work that has been completed over the summer. Tim shared before and after photos of the summer referendum projects.

Revisions in policies, procedures, and practices in identification of students with disabilities- Dr. LeBlanc presented a brief report as required by the state’s review of the district’s special education program. Dr. LeBlanc reported that Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) indicated concern for the district for having 23 students with Other Health Impairment (OHI). Dr. LeBlanc shared that 40-50% of the 23 students came into the district with disabilities, 25-30% were identified by us and 2-3% Benjamin District 25 OHI. Dr. Debbie shared that only three students are served out of district and the rest are served in the Benjamin School District 25 due to the great success.

School Board Retreat Follow-Through – Dr. Ehrhardt reviewed the revisions based on board discussion at the board retreat.

Transition Planning – Dr. Ehrhardt stated that the compliance review will now be this year due to the Regional Office of Education (ROE) having compliances on a four year rotation not a five year rotation.

Future Projects Planning – Dr. Ehrhardt discussed the Future Projects Planning. The board agreed that Priority #1 would be their choice to complete next. Priority #1 includes Poured Playground Surfaces, Life Safety Amendment #5, Life Safety Amendment #4, Exterior Stair Replacement, Room Signage and
Wayfinding at Benjamin and Evergreen Schools, Fire and Tornado Evacuation Plans Signage at Benjamin and Evergreen Schools, and Gymnasium Mechanical Replacement for a total of $193,700.

Zillow Rating System Analysis – Mike Fitzgerald presented a detailed report on the Benjamin School District 25 school ratings on Zillow. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the ratings went from a nine to a seven due to error on two students nationalities marked incorrectly. Mike will try to follow up with Zillow to see if the ratings can be updated.

2018-2019 District/Superintendent Goals – Dr. Ehrhardt presented the goals and pointed out the changes.

School Board Visitations to Schools in Fall – The school board is scheduled to visit Evergreen and Benjamin School son October 3. The tour will begin at 7:45 a.m. at Benjamin Middle School and then proceed to Evergreen Elementary School.

Emergency Closing Procedures – Dr. Ehrhardt reviewed the school closing procedures which included the tools used to communicate closing. Those tools include district website, notification calls, email blasts, Facebook, Twitter, and staff telephone trees.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – Dr. Ehrhardt provided an informative report of the state’s new accountability system that has replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Dr. Ehrhardt shared that communications with the parents and community are being undertaken including the district newsletter, podcast, school newsletters, district website postings, and newspaper articles.

Budget Site – Based Expenditure Overview, Dr. Clark – Dr. Clark explained the new site-based expenditure requirement as part of the ESSA program. Each state has to meet this requirement.

Education/Administrator Directory 2018-2019 School Year – Dr. Ehrhardt and the board reviewed the most recent directory and shared updates to the directory.

FOIA Requests – We received a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/ on August 2, 2018 from Joe Hart, Field Paraprofessional, Illinois Education Association - NEA requesting the names of non-certified support staff employed by Benjamin School District 25, excluding any staff already represented by an IEA-affiliated local; their job titles, date of hire, work building and address; number of hours they are scheduled or have worked per week; number of hours they are scheduled per year; their collective bargaining unit, the name of the labor organization with which that unit if affiliated; copies of any contracts the district has with subcontractors currently engaged in district support staff work (e.g. transportation services, food services, custodial services, etc.) We complied with the request.

We also received a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/ on August 7, 2018 from Jared Rutecki, Investigative Reporter, Better Government Association for records sufficient to show all cases where a plaintiff or plaintiffs were paid -- by verdict, settlement or satisfaction -- as the result of a sexual misconduct or sex/gender discrimination claim, from January 1, 2008 to the present; Sexual misconduct and discrimination claims can include (but are not limited to) allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, statutory rape, indecent exposure, obscenity, forcible sodomy, forcible fondling, disparate impact, retaliation related to sex or gender discrimination or misconduct, Illinois gender violence, and/or other sex- or gender-related allegations; The records should each include a case number; name of party paid; payment amount; fees and costs (if kept separately); the allegations in the case, and the specific department, agency, and/or individual(s) involved in the litigation; The records should also show all money paid to outside counsel in each case, including pending cases and cases with no settlement or judgment. The records should also include information about settlements or payments that did not involve a court of law; In addition, I am requesting all records of separation agreements and/or payments to individuals who stopped working in your government, department or agency after
being accused of sexual misconduct, harassment, or sex/gender discrimination. We complied with the request.

Interviews of School Exec Connect and of BWP & Associates for Conducting Superintendent Search –

Dr. Gary Zabilka, Dr. Harry Rossi and Diane Rossi, School Exec Connect presented their proposal to the board. The board asked clarification questions. It was explained that the board will discuss the proposals in executive session and then select a firm in open session.

Dr. Anne Noland and Dr. Mark Friedman (not present), BWP & Associates presented their proposal to the board. The board asked clarification questions. It was explained that the board will discuss the proposals in executive session and then select a firm in open session.

Dr. Philip Ehrhardt was not present during the interview discussion of the School Exec Connect and BWP & Associates.

Presidents Report

Board Planning Calendars for August and September – President Engstrom reviewed the timelines with the school board and noted there will be no back to school pool party but there will be a Movie Night.

Citizens Desire to Address the Board on Agenda Items

There was nobody in the audience who desired to address the Board.

Board Reports and Requests

Report: SASED – Member Buscemi reported the construction is completed for students to move into the SASED office and are ready for classes.

Shape of Carol Stream – Dr. Ehrhardt shared that the program is postponed until September 2019 because of the village building not being completed until the winter.

DuPage Division Fall Dinner Meeting – The October 2 meeting will be “From Distress to Success. Policies and Practices to Strengthen Student Well-being, Presenter: Glenn “Max” McGee, Hilton Lisle/Naperville, 6:00 p.m. Member Peterson and Dr. Ehrhardt will represent the district at the meeting.

2018- Joint Annual Conference Registration – Leadership: Sharing the Vision, November 16-18, 2018, Sheraton Chicago. Members Taylor, Engstrom and Dr. Ehrhardt will be presenting on Saturday regarding successful negotiations process. Members Taylor, Engstrom, Willuweit, Krause, Peterson and Drs. Ehrhardt and Clark will attend.

Law Seminar – Dr. Ehrhardt shared based on feedback from the participants the seminar will be held at McDonalds Hamburger University on September 28, 2019.

Financial Report

Year-To-Date Financial Statements and Treasurer’s Report For The Months Ended
Accounts Payable: 06/13/18 – 08/13/18 = $3,407,198.22
Payroll: 06/01/18 = $172,917.67; 06/15/18 = $223,501.28; 06/16/18 = $136,623.10; 06/17/18 = $136,622.59; 06/18/18 = $136,737.12; 06/19/18 = $136,736.53; 07/01/18 = $29,684.59; 07/13/18 = $27,634.86

Consent Agenda

Hazardous Bus Routes – Dr. Ehrhardt presented the annual resolution requesting continuation of state-approved existing hazardous bus routes as follows: 25-88-2 Evergreen School route along County Farm Road from Vale to Birch bark; 25-88-3 Benjamin School route along North Avenue from County Farm Road to Prince Crossing Road; 25-95-1 Diversey/Fair Oaks intersection and north and south on Fair Oaks Road to district boundaries; 25-95-2 Along Morton Road from Mardon to Birch bark; 25-98-1 Fair Oaks to Benjamin School, St. Charles Road from North Avenue to Klein Road.

Second Reading of Board Policies – Dr. Ehrhardt presented the school board policies and pointed out Policy 6:135, Accelerated Placement Program has been revised to meet a new state mandate.
Personnel

Retirement of Dr. Philip Ehrhardt, superintendent and Patty Libbe, Evergreen Elementary School teacher assistant.

Member Krause motioned and member Taylor seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. On a roll call vote, Members Buscemi, Krause, Mastroianni, Peterson, Taylor, Willuweit, and Engstrom – aye. Motion carried.

Action Items

Transfer from Working Cash Fund to Capital Projects Fund – Dr. Clark asked the board to approve the transfer $2,005,998.63 to pay for a portion of the 2018 summer projects.

Member Krause motioned and member Taylor seconded to approve the transfer $2,005,998.63 to pay for a portion of the 2018 summer projects. On a roll call vote, Members Buscemi, Krause, Mastroianni, Peterson, Taylor, Willuweit, and Engstrom – aye. Motion carried.

Citizens’ Desire to Address the Board on Non-Agenda Discussion Items

There was nobody in the audience who desired to address the Board on Non-Agenda Discussion Items.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Executive Session

The appointment, Employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal or Board of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)

Return to Open Session

Action on Items Rising as a Result of Executive Session

A motion was made by Member Peterson and seconded by Member Taylor to select BWP & Associates to conduct the superintendent search according to the proposal submitted. On a roll call vote, Members Buscemi, Peterson, Willuweit, Mastroianni, Krause, Engstrom, and Taylor – aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting unanimously went into closed session at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Jennifer Szabo, Board Recorder

[Signatures]

President, Board of Education
Secretary, Board of Education