

## **BOARD NOTES:**

### **November 12, 2019, Regular Board Meeting:**

**Spotlight on Students:** Members of the Middlefork Chess Club shared their favorite things about chess, including learning to be a better player, discovering new moves, making new friends, and being able to beat their parents. Middlefork Principal Dr. Mary Frances Greene commented that Chess Club started 8 years ago, and interest in the activity continues to rise every year. Noting that research shows that learning chess supports growth in attention span, problem solving skills, patience, planning, and perspective, Superintendent Dr. Ed Stange thanked the students for their willingness to learn a new skill set and admired their chess prowess.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included the minutes from the October 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting and the monthly bills and salaries.

**Communications:** Dr. Stange shared an article from the Winnetka Current profiling Sunset Ridge School's Literacy League pop-up reading event for families. Sunset Ridge Principal Dr. Ivy Sukenik commented that it was a success.

#### **Board Policy Revisions:**

**The Board deleted these policies, as they were absorbed into Board Policy 245:**

- 245.01 (Board President)
- 245.02 (Board Vice President)
- 245.03 (Board Secretary)
- 245.04 (Board Treasurer)
- 246 (Board Recording Secretary)
- 720.23 (Emergency Drills) (absorbed into Board Policy 465.04)

**The Board had a second reading of and approved these policies:**

- 459 (Emergency Closing)
- 465 (Safety)
- 465.01 (Warning Systems)
- 465.04 (Emergency Plans)
- 465.06 (Threat Assessment)

**The Board had a first reading of these policies:**

- 700.02 (Student Sexual Harassment)
- 700.03 (Bullying and other Prohibited Harassment of Students)
- 700.04 (Prevention of Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment of Students)
- 100 (School District Legal Status)
- 111 (Cooperative Agreements)
- 115 (Non-Discrimination)
- 120 (Educational Philosophy)
- 125 (Long-Range Plans)
- 200.01 (Powers and Duties of the School Board)
- 200.02 (School Board Responsibilities)

**Audience Comments:** District parent Mrs. Ellen Knight addressed the Board with specific questions regarding student conduct data collection and reporting, the evaluation process of existing bullying response protocol, the evaluation process of in-place programs to combat student harassment and bullying, and the process of review of Board policies that pertain to student harassment and bullying.

**Finance and Facilities:** Chief School Business Official Mr. Tom Beerheide briefed the Board on the Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Report. Required by law, this report discloses the tax compliance monitoring requirements related to the tax-exempt status of the bonds issued for the new Sunset Ridge building. Mr. Beerheide also reported on the settlement that the District has come to with Medline regarding the corporation's property value, which was settled as \$48.3M. This will remain the assessed value through the next three years. Finally, the Board approved the FY19 Tentative Tax Levy, which will be published in the Winnetka Talk on November 28<sup>th</sup> and available for public viewing in the District office. The next meeting is January 14, 2020.

**Education Committee:** Board member Mrs. Anne Peterson reported that Dr. Stange gave a presentation on best practices in student safety, covering facilities and infrastructure, supervision, expectations of and support and training for appropriate student and adult behavior, tracking and recording systems, and screening processes for new employees. This deep dive allows the District to identify areas for growth and improvement. The next meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**IASB:** Board member Ms. Amanda Knight led a discussion of the resolutions being voted on by district delegates at the November conference. Among them are two that are of particular interest. They concern whether or not the IASB should advocate for legislation that would (a) support districts' ability to decide whether or not they would allow school staff to carry concealed weapons, and (b) provide funding for the employment of School Resource Officers. The Board will vote at the conference to oppose both resolutions.

**PTO:** Mrs. Peterson reported that conference meals, the sock hop, and Halloween parties all went off without a hitch. Book fairs at both schools begin this week. They are looking forward to the annual Northwestern Settlement House gift program beginning soon. Lonnie Stonitch gave a presentation regarding upcoming FAN events.

**NSSD:** Dr. Stange reported that they continue to review their billing systems and auditing practices. The District is requesting that they also look into practices regarding non-member district involvement in the co-op's services.

**Northfield Park District:** No report.

**Village of Northfield:** Board member Mrs. Nancy Detlefsen reported that they have closed the survey that asked residents to weigh in on whether or not Northfield should allow a marijuana dispensary within village limits. They are in the process of analyzing that data and will discuss it at their December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Foundation Fund:** No report.

#### **Administrative Reports:**

**Dr. Stange:** There was one FOIA request from SmartProcure seeking purchasing records, enrollment remains unchanged, and the District continues to advertise for two open Teaching Assistant positions. IL School Report Cards were released and are available for viewing at <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com> as well as on the District website. These reports provide data on each public school's academic performance, school environment, and educator and student profile. Dr. Stange also reported that the State of IL is allowing districts to hold "e-learning days" in lieu of emergency days as long as the district can verify that each day has at least 5 clock hours of instruction. The District has agreed not to hold any e-learning days until we can better understand their successful execution. The Board continued to discuss the proposed 2020/21 school calendar.

**Dr. Greene:** Middlefork students are looking forward to hosting their book fair in the new library. Procedures are under review of processes related to a student's early admission to Kindergarten.

**Dr. Sukenik:** As the weather gets colder they continue to iron out the kinks of morning arrivals, allowing students to enter the building early and wait for school to begin in the vestibule and foyer. Administration is considering an unannounced lock-down drill as a way to better prepare for an emergency,

particularly at lunchtime. Concert season is underway. SELPAC will be getting a presentation from the Social Justice Committee. Student Services staff is receiving training on disruptive behavior in the classroom.

**Recommendations:** The Board approved the Closed Session minutes from October 15, 2019. The Board also approved the Employment of Ms. Mary Burgett as Teaching Assistant, and accepted the resignation of teaching assistant Ms. Gabriella Gordon. Lastly, the Board approved the destruction of Closed Session verbatim tapes recorded between September 13, 2017, and April 10, 2018.

Official meeting minutes will be posted on the website following their approval at the December 10, 2019, Regular Board meeting.