

**NOVEMBER 13, 2023  
WILMETTE, IL  
REGULAR MEETING & 2023 TAX LEVY HEARING**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, November 13, 2023, at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Erin Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Erin Stone, Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes

Members Absent: Jon Cesaretti

Administrators Present: Kari Cremascoli, Corey Bultemeier, Tony DeMonte, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee, Kristin Swanson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Principal Jackie Brennan introduced Harper 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Hope Student Leaders. Monica Brown explained as part of the Foundations Program the committee created an environment where students feel safe, supported and encouraged. Hope stands for Help Organize a Positive Environment. These student leaders teach other students how to be respectful, responsible and safe at school. Students introduced themselves and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADJOURN TO PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023 LEVY**

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poheling to adjourn to the Tax Levy Hearing at 7:06 p.m. The meeting adjourned to the Public Hearing by **Roll Call Vote.**

**2023 TAX LEVY PRESENTATION**

Mr. Bultemeier reported the 2023 levy is based upon several variables including the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the value of new construction, the county multiplier, and the Limiting Rate calculation of 2.9870%. He noted the applicable CPI rate is 5%; within the levy request the larger assumption is New Property Growth is estimated at \$15.5M. The District’s 2023 Tax Levy will be calculated against an Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of \$2,176,645,671. Total 2023 Tax Levy request is \$66,029,454, which includes SB508 adjustment of \$433,152. The Cook County Clerk determines the final levy extension amount.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poheling, to adjourn to the regular meeting of the Board of Education. The levy hearing adjourned at 7:11p.m. by **Roll Call Vote.**

**APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poheling, to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted by **Roll Call Vote.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kari Eposto of Wilmette spoke regarding KEEP39 program fees.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Facility Development** – No report

**School Finance** – President Stone on behalf of Mr. Cesaretti

The Board has agreed to annually review the KEEP39 financials and consider adjustments to the fees and programming structures. Currently, District 39 offers a half-day academic kindergarten program with an optional fee-based enrichment program. Fees collected help to off-set the operational costs of the program, including personnel and consumable materials, as well as the capital investments made for construction to be able to offer the enrichment program onsite. Fees for 2023-2024 are set at \$6,460, an amount comparable to similar kindergarten enrichment programs within the community at the time of the program's inception in the 2020-2021 school year. Fees have remained flat for the four years the program has been operating.

Mr. Bultemeier reviewed the revenues and expenditures to date for the program. The Board discussed financials as they currently stand in terms of revenues, expenditures, and capital investment payback, and considered options for the upcoming school years. The Board may choose to increase fees (as it does for most optional fee-based programs, maybe at a rate of CPI), to maintain the fees as flat for the program (as it has done for the past 4 years at \$6,460), or begin to reduce fees based on some considerations of costs or a desire to begin subsidizing portions of the costs. Food service and transportation are not required services but are provided as an optional convenience for families and are partially subsidized by the District. The Board may choose to subsidize a portion of the KEEP39 fees. The Board discussed options and potential scenarios that they would like to consider.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has dictated that all Illinois school districts must offer a full-day kindergarten option by 2027-2028 school year. Thus, the District must prepare to offer full-day kindergarten program by 2027. Now that new legislation requires every school district to offer a full day kindergarten program as well as a half day kindergarten program the question is when to implement these programs. The first consideration is to map out enrichment program fees until a full day kindergarten program is implemented. Once a full-day kindergarten program is implemented, then kindergarten fees would be assessed as is done for 1-8 grade programs.

Members reviewed and discussed a variety of options, and directed administration to provide several scenarios for fees as well as the eventual implementation of a full-day-kindergarten program. Members also requested further detail regarding participation in transportation and lunch programs. These scenarios and additional information will be reviewed at the December committee meeting.

**Strategy** – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

Principal Kelly Jackson provided a presentation reviewing SEL data and led a discussion regarding findings and recommendations.

## **Liaison Reports**

Community Review Committee (CRC) – meeting will be held on November 14, 2023.

#### Educational Foundation – Mrs. Paflas

The D39 Education Foundation met on November 8, 2023. The Foundation awarded two Gripp grants totaling over \$5000. One grant was for Communication Boards at Romona and the second grant was for StringRise instruments at Highcrest. The Foundation hosted a successful Trivia Night on November 4 with more than 130 people attending and profits at roughly \$5,500. The next fundraising event is the College Paddle night on January 27, 2024; tickets go on sale December 13. The next meeting will be held December 13, 2023.

#### Wilmette Village Intergovernmental Cooperation Working Group – Mrs. Kim/Mrs. Schneider-Fabes

Mrs. Kim reported the group met on October 25. The consulting group gathered data over summer with mental health providers and provided a presentation of their findings. At the December meeting the sustainability coordinator will provide additional data and the group will discuss options and next steps. Family Service Center awarded the Intergovernmental Committee the Heart of the Family Award for its work on mental health this year.

#### Wilmette Community Special Education Agreement (WCSEA) – Mrs. Poehling

WCSEA met earlier today and discussed the 2024 summer school program. The committee approved revenue and expenditures for the fall.

#### Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) – Mrs. Paflas

The IASB Joint Annual Conference is this week November 16-19 in Chicago. (90th year!) Mrs. Paflas will attend the Delegate Assembly as the D39 Board representative to vote on the five proposed IASB resolutions.

#### Legislative Update – Mrs. Paflas

The Illinois General Assembly met for its Veto Session on October 24-26 and November 7-9. This is a time when lawmakers can override or accept the Governor's vetoes, continue work on existing legislation, or introduce something new. The Legislature will be back in session on January 16. Two bills passed both house and were sent to the governor: SB 1988 which shortens the time to appeal property tax with Cook County assessor from 35 business days to 30 days and HB 2104 passed both houses and gives school districts the ability to teach water safety for pre-k through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The Invest in Kids voucher program provides tax credits for donors who fund scholarships for low-income students to attend private schools and is set to expire at the end of 2023. No action was taken during the veto session to extend the program's sunset (January 1, 2024).

ED-RED is continuing to have conversations with legislators on a proposal to require school board approval before a school building can be used as a polling place. As this remains one of ED-RED's top priorities, members will be notified as soon as language is filed and advocacy opportunities arise.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. Written Communication – Dr. Cremascoli**

Dr. Cremascoli reported the Board received written communication from Barbara Boren, Amy Weil, Corey Lester, Jenna Griffin and Kari Eposto regarding KEEP39 fees.

#### **B. Administrative Announcements – Dr. Cremascoli**

##### *Fall Conferences and Fall Break*

Fall conferences will be held November 15-17. Following fall conferences is fall break the week of November 20-24. Students return to school on November 27.

Township Superintendents meet regularly and recently discussed calendar planning for the school year. All elementary school districts within the township are off this same week in November. New Trier High School holds classes Monday through Wednesday; however, knowing that all elementary districts are aligned in this calendar practice, New Trier will recognize this for the upcoming school year calendar. Furthermore, area superintendents compared and will work to align all major holiday breaks, where possible. The various holidays in between are difficult to align but superintendents will continue to collaborate in these regards.

#### *School Board Members Day – November 15, 2023*

The administration recognized and honored the service of District 39 School Board Members as November 15 is *School Board Members Day* in Illinois.

#### *Property Tax Assessment Appeals*

Mr. Bultemeier noted the District received two Property Tax Assessment Appeals and provided information of the potential liability of these appeals to the Board of Education.

#### *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)*

The District received a commercial FOIA request from SmartProcure requesting current staff/employee contact information: Jodi Cohen & Jennifer Smith Richards of ProPublica submitted a narrowed FOIA request for placement agreements/contracts with Shrub Oak International School; all records detailing negotiated per diem rate for tuition, room and board or other services; all records approving requests for emergency placement at the facility including proof of need for placement provided by the district to Illinois State Board of Education.

### **C. Annual Business**

#### 1. Long-Term Enrollment Projections

Mr. DeMonte presented the long-term enrollment report, which shows enrollment at a snapshot in time, as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. Over the next five years, District 39 elementary school enrollment is projected to increase very slightly. Highcrest Middle School and Wilmette Junior High School enrollment is projected to be relatively stable with a very slight decline. The net effect is that future enrollment will be similar to current enrollment numbers.

### **E. Board Policy Review**

#### 1. Second and Final Reading of Board of Education Policies 5:80; 5:125; 5:170; 5:180; 5:185; and 5:270

Policies were presented for second and final reading with no changes from first reading.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Hart, moved, seconded by Mrs. Poheling, to approve the Personnel Report dated November 13, 2023, which included educational support personnel full-time employment of **Fredrick Jones**, effective November 6, 2023; **Mo Lee**, effective October 27, 2023; **Melissa Mansfield**, effective November 27, 2023; **Frank Makowski**, effective November 13, 2023; temporary employment of **Jake Janczak**, effective November 27, 2023; release of a probationary employee, **Ann Meyer**, effective October 24, 2023; released for job abandonment **Joseph King**, effective November 7, 2023; educational support personnel retirement – revised date, **Willie Edwards**, effective March 6, 2024:

approve as second and final reading of Board of Education Policies 55:80 *Court Duty*; 5:125 *Acceptable Use of Technology*; 5:170 *Copyright*; 5:180 *Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity*; 5:185 *Family Medical Leave Act*; and 5:270 *Employment at Will*: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between October 24, 2023 – November 13, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$346,076.66; O&M Fund \$77,207.00; Transportation \$295,842.06; Capital Projects \$893,642.92; total all funds: \$1,612,768.64; to approve the manual checks issued between October 24, 2023 – November 13, 2023 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$134,548.54; O&M Fund \$83,362.36; Transportation \$824.04; Capital Projects \$12,450.00; total all funds: \$231,184.94.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Erin Stone; voting “nay” – none; absent – Jon Cesaretti: **Motions Carried.**

## **B. Adopt the 2023 Tax Levy**

Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poheling, to approve the 2023 Tax Levy and accompanying resolutions contained herein for requested amounts that can be summarized as follows: Educational \$52,365,979; Operations & Maintenance \$9,638,046; Transportation \$901,908; Working Cash \$42,000; IMRF \$196,739; Social Security \$1,640,236; Life Safety \$0; Tort Immunity \$740,538; Special Education \$504,008; Total Aggregate Levy: \$66,029,454.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Erin Stone; voting “nay” – none; absent – Jon Cesaretti: **Motion Carried.**

## **CONFERENCE ITEMS**

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Good and Welfare**

Mrs. Kim recognized the Ed Foundation for the efforts put into Trivia Night as well as all of their fundraisers. Many volunteers contributed to the success of the event.

Mrs. Poehling moved, seconded by Mrs. Paflas, to adjourn to executive session to discuss Specific Personnel and Special Education/Individual Student Matters.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Anne Hart, Bonnie Kim, Allyson Paflas, Amy Poehling, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Erin Stone; voting “nay” – none; absent – Jon Cesaretti: **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:44 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:09 p.m.

Being no further business, Mrs. Hart moved, seconded by Mrs. Poheling, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by **General Consent.**

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President

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Secretary