

**Official Minutes of the Monday, January 22, 2018  
Board of Education Meeting**

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**Call to Order** The Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 59 in County of Cook, State of Illinois, held a meeting in accordance with provisions of the Open Meetings Act, according to Illinois law, at the District 59 Administration Center, 2123 South Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois on Monday, January 22, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

**Roll Call** **Members Present:** President Barbara Somogyi, Vice-President Janice Krinsky, Sunil Bhave, Secretary - Members: Tim Burns, Karen Osmanski, Sharon Roberts, and Mardell Schumacher

**Members Absent:**

**Others** Superintendent, Dr. Arthur Fessler; Associate Superintendent, Tom Luedloff; Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, CBSO, Vickie Nissen; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Kelley Zeffahs; Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, Karen Starr; Assistant Superintendent for Communication and Design, Ben Grey; Executive Director of Student Growth and Accountability, Dr. Josh Carpenter; Executive Director of Facilities and Operations, Tony Rossi; Executive Director for Innovative Learning, Ross Vittore; Director of Communications and Design, David Pohlmeier; and Recording Secretary, Kathie Lange.

**Also Present** Susan Savage, Robert Frost Elementary School Principal; Randy Steinkamp, Devonshire Elementary School Principal; Dr. Mike Merritt, Brentwood Elementary School Principal; John Navickas, Assistant Principal; John D’Anza - Grove Jr. High School and DEA Exec. Board; Director of Fiscal Service, Janet Russo; Director of Facilities and Operations, Eric Swanson;

In addition, a scanned copy of the Guest Sign-In Sheet from January 22, 2018 is attached to minutes of this meeting (Attachment #1).

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**DISCUSSION**

**4.01 - Capital Improvement Projects 2019**

Members of the Board of Education completed a review of proposed capital improvement projects for fiscal year 2018-19 during the January 22, 2018 Board of Education meeting.

The Board of Education has agreed to support an estimated \$395,000 in district-wide capital improvement projects to be charged to the Operation and Maintenance Fund, scheduled for completion during the 2018-19 fiscal year.

A copy of the summary document covering capital improvements recommended for completion during the 2018/2019 fiscal year is linked here: [Summary](#)

#### **4.02 Park District Use of Land East of the New Administration Center**

The Board of Education discussed the potential for shared use of the greenspace adjacent to the new administration building currently in construction. The board asked the district administration to begin exploring possible options for the land use and partnerships with the Elk Grove Park District.

#### **4.03 Social Media**

Mrs. Somogyi indicated that had been several question since the last few weeks regarding Board members' use of social media. She read a statement prepared by the Franczek Radelet Law Firm:

“It has come to my attention that Board members are regularly posting on social media sites such as Facebook. As Board members, it is important to remember that when posting about issues that impact the District you are speaking for yourself without authority or endorsement from the Board of Education.

Board members should act in a dignified manner, consistent with their roles as elected officials and representatives of the District. They should not act in a manner that may expose the District to the risk of legal action or even a serious threat of legal action. The Board's anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies provide meaningful guidance with which Board members should abide when posting.

Board members should also keep their oath of office in mind always. As Board members we act only as a group and have no legal authority as an individual. However, the public may view our individual actions or postings as a

reflection of the Board, so it is important that we make it clear that we are speaking only as an individual and not on behalf of the Board. Please be mindful of this when engaging on social media.”

Board members discussed the attorney-recommended guidelines and practices for board member use of social media.

Dr. Fessler will check with the District’s attorney on specific questions presented by the Board with respect to Board members’ statements on media sites being viewed as a ‘public record’.

#### **4.04 Moratorium For 365 Days On Future Debt Issuance**

The Board of Education discussed a moratorium for issuing bonds for one year. Board members shared various views and responses, but the overall tenor was an indication that unless there was an unforeseen emergency, there would be no request for bonds in the immediate future. Administration also supports the direction.

#### **4.05 District 54 Goals**

The Board of Education reviewed District 54’s goals and discussed establishing a process to work with all stakeholder groups to update the CCSD59 strategic plan.

Mrs. Somogyi asked Dr. Fessler to set the timeline for process of updating the Strategic Plan and to advise the Board.

#### **4.06 New Administration Center Infrastructure Supporting Video Taping of Meetings**

Discussion continued about the potential for video taping board meetings. The Board asked administration to meet with Elk Grove Village to inquire about sharing resources.

Ms. Krinsky requested information on what the ancillary costs for closed captioning would be and also and any ongoing costs. This topic will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

#### **4.07 Board Policy 2:230**

The board policy about public comment was reviewed by the Board of Education and the board was asked to provide comments and suggestions to be discussed at a future meeting.

#### **4.08 Moderator**

The Board of Education asked administration to research the costs and options of potentially hiring a moderator or parliamentarian to be present at upcoming Board of Education meetings to help guide discussions and procedures.

Dr. Burns requested that future agendas include more specificity when topics are listed.

### **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Joan Burke - 1634 S. Chesterfield Dr., Arlington Heights - addressed the Board of Education on the topic of the productivity of this meeting and the length of presentations during Board meetings.

Judy Cox - Elk Grove Village resident - addressed the Board of Education on the topic of videotaping Board meetings and community involvement.

Cheryl O'Malley - Elk Grove Village resident - addressed the Board of Education on the topic of videotaping Board meetings.

Mary Cosenza Vicars - 1715 S. Ridge Drive, Arlington Heights - addressed the Board of Education on the topic of District 59's future plans. A copy of her address is attached to the minutes of this meeting. (Attachment #2).

Caryn Davidson - Mt. Prospect resident - addressed the Board of Education on the topic of parental involvement in the strategic plan, and the District's curriculum.

Michelle Notini - Mt. Prospect resident - addressed the Board of Education on the topic of the District curriculum and the Board's need for involvement in the conversation.

Lynn Oberg - Elk Grove Village resident - addressed the Board of Education on the topic of video taping Board meetings and to request more information about purposeful practice with respect to the curriculum.

Jim Stuber - Elk Grove Village resident - addressed the Board of Education on the topic of his observation of the last Board meeting and events from previous meetings.



4.	<a href="#"><u>4:110 Transportation</u></a>	
5.	<a href="#"><u>4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs</u></a>	
6.	<a href="#"><u>4:170 Safety</u></a>	
7.	<a href="#"><u>5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited</u></a>	
8.	<a href="#"><u>5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting</u></a>	
9.	<a href="#"><u>5:100 Staff Development Program</u></a>	
10.	<a href="#"><u>5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal</u></a>	
11.	<a href="#"><u>5:220 Substitute Teachers</u></a>	
12.	<a href="#"><u>5:240 Suspension</u></a>	
13.	<a href="#"><u>5:290 Employment Termination and Suspensions</u></a>	
14.	<a href="#"><u>6:60 Curriculum Content</u></a>	
15.	<a href="#"><u>6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction</u></a>	
16.	<a href="#"><u>6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program</u></a>	
17.	<a href="#"><u>7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities</u></a>	
18.	<a href="#"><u>7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights</u></a>	
19.	<a href="#"><u>7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited</u></a>	
20.	<a href="#"><u>7:70 Attendance and Truancy</u></a>	
21.	<a href="#"><u>7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment</u></a>	
22.	<a href="#"><u>7:190 Student Behavior</u></a>	
23.	<a href="#"><u>7:260 Exemption from Physical Education</u></a>	
24.	<a href="#"><u>7:275 Orders to Forgo Life Sustaining Treatment</u></a>	
25.	<a href="#"><u>7:305 Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries</u></a>	
26.	<a href="#"><u>7:340 Student Records</u></a>	







BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Superintendent shall communicate to the donors, in writing, expressing the appreciation of the members of the Board of Education, and that these donations shall be listed in the “official” minutes of this meeting.

**Roll Call**

Ayes: 7 Bhave, Burns, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher, and Somogyi

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Carried: 7-0-0-0

**NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Dr. Burns requested that the Administration look into finding a vendor that would be willing to have a more affordable payment plan for families for student band and orchestra instrument purchases.

**REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mrs. Osmanski shared that the Character Counts Coalition and the District 59 Education Foundation are both currently looking for members to serve on their organizations.

The District 59 Education Foundation is looking for ways to continue to provide grants, but the number of volunteers and fundraising opportunities has diminished. They will be participating in the upcoming Carnival of Exceptional Character.

Dr. Burns would like to see the Presidents’ Council resume meetings.

Mrs. Schumacher updated the Board on her 4th grade Cursive Kids class at Clearmont.

**REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S TEAM**

Mrs. McAbee shared that District 59 has been hosting Math Nights at schools and will share more details in the Board Weekly Update.

Mrs. McAbee also provided an update on some strategies planned for the District’s Communication Campaign. During conferences, schools will have a Parent Information Station at each school. Members of the Synergy Teams will be on hand to meet with parents.

Dr. Josh Carpenter invited Board members to attend a session with Jack Schneider, the author of Beyond Measure at the Administration Center on January 29, 2018.

Dr. Carpenter also shared details of the PARCC testing preparation. The intent this year is to be more deliberate with preparing students to to the navigating the test. The District will also send a communication to parents about the upcoming assessment, which will include resources for taking practices test, and will include strategies such as getting a good night’s sleep in preparation for the test.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION** at 9:25 P.M. by Ms. Krinsky, seconded by Mrs. Schumacher to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 22nd day of January, 2018 the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education recess in a closed meeting for discussion of “The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District” , Student disciplinary cases”, “The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students”, -5ILCS 120/2 (c) ( 1,9,10) of the Open Meetings Act.

**Roll Call** Ayes: 7 Bhave, Burns, Krinsky, Osmanski, Roberts, Schumacher, and Somogyi  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Motion Carried: 7-0-0-0

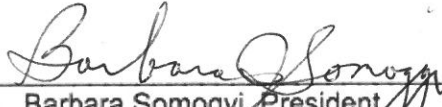
**RECONVENE**

**MOTION** at 10:15 P.M. by Mr. Bhave, seconded by Ms. Krinsky to adopt the following resolution:

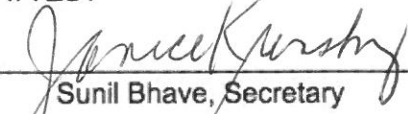
BE IT RESOLVED THAT on the 22nd day of January, 2018, the Community Consolidated School District 59 Board of Education meeting is reconvened.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** at 10:16 PM by Mrs. Osmanski, seconded by Mrs. Schumacher to adjourn. On voice vote, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

  
Barbara Somogyi, President

ATTEST

  
Sunil Bhav, Secretary

**ATTACHMENT #1****Sign In Sheet from January 22, 2018 Board of Education Meeting**

January 22, 2018  
GUESTS

NAME	ADDRESS
Lynn Oberg	Elk Grove
John D'Amico	Grove
Michael Kaveney	E.G.
Dan Kingsmill	E.G.V.
K. Ogilvie	Arlington Hts
Dan Malowicki	Arlington Hts.
Judy + Leo Cox	EGV
Al Shih	
Jodi Briggs-Drey	11005 S Harvard Ave
Carrie Abrams	FROST
MICHAEL MERRITT	BRENTWOOD
Nick Janice	614 W. HOW
RICHARD OBERG	ELK GROVE
John Navicker	FISH
Zell KAM	

## **ATTACHMENT #2**

Mary Cosenza Vicars January 22, 2018 Speech to School Board

At the last meeting, Sharon said, I think that the residents who gathered the petitions and forced the bond to go to referendum “made the administration and board look harder internally at what we do.” I think she meant it and I thank her. I hope that is what the board will do.

So where do we go from here? I think we have been straight with you, but I don’t know why our concerns have fallen on death ears. I have read the emails that went to Attorney General. I know what four of you have said about us. I also don’t think that on January 8 at 10:15 p.m., not to go to referendum was open and transparent. Our lawyer agrees.

I am tired of the spins that Art and his administrative team put on stories. I don’t think there is any such thing as an alternative fact. It is either true or not and if it is intentional, it is a lie.

I want to work to improve the quality of education for all students.

I am asking Art and the administrative team to work on improving the PARCC scores for all our students. That is the reason that started coming to school board meetings for almost a year. That is the reason I continue to come.

Our district average is below the state average has continued to decline for the past three years. The State says that if there is a trend such as the one that we have, that is reason for concern. Shouldn’t the board look into this?

If schools with similar low income, ESL populations, and other similar demographics, are doing better on PARCC, shouldn’t the board look into this?

When parents from many different 59 schools tell you that the curriculum is weak in the core subjects, shouldn’t you be looking this, despite what the district website says?

When Mardell says the kids at Clearmont can’t spell and so do parents, shouldn’t you be looking into this?

When parents tell you that their children don't have meaningful homework in nearly all their classes, shouldn't you look into this? Shouldn't specific homework be given, and the teachers assess that work that students have done?

In all the classes in all the many school districts that I have seen, students use textbooks for nearly all their classes. Don't you think that it is odd that we don't?

If you want our children to be prepared for life, should they be first prepared academically for high school?

When Janice tells me that it was the board, not the administration, that noticed that expenses were greater than our revenues, the board ordered Art and the administration to make cuts. If you believe that, and if Art could be wrong on finances, couldn't he be wrong on this?

As our elected representatives, many of your constituents want you to do what is best for our children. Will you ask the hard questions of Art and the administrative team?