

April 2, 2018

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (2:220)

President Juanita R. Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call (2:220)

The following members were present: Juanita R. Jordan, Sharron Davis, Barbara Nettles (via phone), Joyce Dickerson, Kathy Taylor and Elaine Walker. The following member were absent: Natalie Myers.

Also present were: Dr. Kimako Patterson, Superintendent, Mrs. Julia Veazey, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Carrie Ablin, Director of Students Services and Ms. Terri Sharpp, Director of Business Affairs.

Natalie Myers arrived at 7:05p.m.

3. Pre-K Compliance Presentation

Mrs. Carrie Ablin, Director of Student Services, presented results from the October 2017 District State Compliance visit. The presentation consisted of classroom and facility ratings per school building. The report listed district strengths and deficiencies as well as plans to remedy each issue. Categories rated included; Expansion Classrooms, Lunchroom Accommodations, Lesson Plans, Parent Advisors, Certified Staff, Chocolate Milk and Registration. The programs overall rating (8 classrooms) 8 being the highest is 4.06, individual classroom scores; CH-3.5, FC-4.57, HI-3.16, MJ-4.03 (3 classroom average), MP-3.97 and NH-4.84. Mrs. Ablin acknowledged that there is still room for improvement, but we are moving in the right direction.

4. Post Policies 2:260, 4:15, 4:110, 4:150, 4:170, 5:20, 5:90, 5:100, 5:200, 5:220, 5:240 and 5:290

Dr. Patterson shared with the Board that she has posted the 12 policies for their review that included notes.

5. District Permanent Substitute Teachers

Dr. Patterson briefly discussed the need to hire 3 additional long-term permanent substitute teachers for the district and the internal benefits to do so. Dr. Patterson and the board then engaged in a brief discussion as it related to the cost associated with employee absences, lost plan time versus the daily cost for maintaining the 3 additional long-term permanent substitute teachers; this would bring the total number of long term permanent substitutes to 9.

6. Human Resources Update

Dr. Patterson in the absence of Dr. Ken Scott, Director of Human Resources, presented a report on some anticipated FMLA requests, an increase in global staff changes/transfers as well as anticipated resignations as a result of those changes.

7. Grading Scale Change (Discussion)

Dr. Patterson began by highlighting important points brought out during the March Work Session and Regular Board Meeting discussion on the topic of a possible Grading Scale Change. The current grading scale says; 100-92 (A), 91-83 (B), 82-74 (C), 73-65 (D), 64-below (F). Teachers are proposing to adopt the traditional grading scale that says; 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C), 69-60 (D) and 59-below (F). Dr. Patterson presented documented statistics on the number of D/F students currently versus what it would be with the amended scale as requested for comparison purposes. Dr. Patterson and the Board then continued discussing the issue of a change in the current District Grading Scale and the current District Policy regarding the Grading Scale. Final decision to be made during the Regular Board Meeting Monday, April 16, 2018.

8. 2018-19 Proposed School Calendar

Mrs. Veazey presented the 2018-2019 Proposed School Calendar and Calendar Legend; including the beginning/ending date, Institute Days, and other relevant days that make up the 185 days on the academic calendar. Mrs. Veazey commented that all dates are available for review, including emergency closing days should we have a snow day. The calendar will be approved at the upcoming Board Meeting.

9. Junior High LEEDS Certification

Dr. Patterson spoke briefly about the LEEDS Certification and the position it places the district in as it relates to opportunities to write for competitive grant funds. Dr. Patterson commented that this has been an ongoing battle, one in which came with promises and stipulations dating back to the opening of the new Junior High School, to no avail. Happily, Dr. Patterson then informed the Board that the District has obtained LEED Certification (Green Globe Certified) allowing the District the opportunity to now write for competitive grants.

10. Audit Engagement

Ms. Sharpp began by informing the Board that the current contract for Baker Tilly Audit has been posted for review as the district are in the final year of the 3-year contract. Ms. Sharpp mentioned that the cost has increased over the 3 year period to \$42,500. After which, Ms. Sharpp announced the upcoming audit dates; April 26-27 (Preliminary) and September 17-28 (Final).

11. Bremen Township Treasurer 2017-2018 Interest Earned

Ms. Sharpp provided the interest figures for the 2016-2017 school year and informed the Board that the numbers were included on the March 2018 ledger.

12. Prevailing Wages

Ms. Sharpp reported on the annual requirement for the district to provide the Prevailing Wage of facility workers that work on public projects in Cook County. Ms. Sharpp informed the Board that the rates have been upgraded as of September 1, 2017.

13. Fundraiser (Fieldcrest)

Ms. Sharpp presented an amended fundraising schedule for Fieldcrest School to be reviewed and approved.

14. Depositories- Bank Account Info

Ms. Sharpp presented the Annual report for the Board to review and approve, no changes have been made.

15. Republic Waste Contract Renewal

Ms. Sharpp presented to the Board the cost for a 1 year renewal versus a 3 year renewal, which will give the District a savings of nearly \$4,000 over the 3 year period. Contract will be presented for approval during the Regular Board Meeting.

16. New Business (2:200)

Dr. Patterson informed the Board that the District has received 3 FOIA requests. Those recent requests include; Names/Email Addresses of all retiring teachers; Electronic copies of all paperwork submitted by vendors regarding Internet Access and Telecommunication; Salaries, stipends and benefits of all District Office staff.

Dr. Patterson then briefed the Board on plans for upcoming events sponsored by the Prairie-Hills District 144 Foundation for Excellence in Education.

17. Executive Session (2:200)

18. Adjournment (2:200)

Sharron Davis moved and it was seconded by Joyce Dickerson to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote, all members present voted aye: Nays: None. Absent: None.

Motion Carried 8.55p.m.

Submitted by,

Juanita R. Jordan, President

Barbara Nettles, Secretary