

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on  
December 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. held at York HS 355 W. St. Charles Road  
in the Auditorium, Elmhurst, IL, DuPage County**

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**Call to Order:** President Caforio called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**Board of Education Members**

Present – Mrs. Kara Caforio, President; Mr. Chris Kocinski, Vice-President; Mrs. Courtenae Trautmann, Secretary; Mrs. Athena Arvanitis; Mr. Jim Collins; Mrs. Elizabeth Hosler

Absent – Mr. Jim Collins (arrived at 5:45) ; Mrs. Karen Stuefen

President Caforio stated there are 5 board members present, 2 board members absent, a quorum is present.

**Administration**

Present - Dr. Keisha Campbell, Superintendent; Mrs. Tonya Daniels, Exec. Dir. Communications; Dr. Scott Grens, Associate Superintendent; Mr. Rudy Gomez, Exec. Dir. Technology; Ms. Kerry Leuschel, Exec. Dir. Secondary Ed; Mrs. Katie Lyons, Exec. Dir. Elementary Ed; Mr. Luke Pavone, Asst. Supt. Human Resources; Dr. Kevin Rubenstein, Asst. Supt. Student Services; Mr. Chris Whelton, Asst. Supt. Finance & Operations

Absent - none

**Closed Session**

President Caforio asked for a motion to adjourn to closed session at 5:34 p.m to discuss matters relating to The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal 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; AND The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students;

AND Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

Mrs. Trautmann moved and Mrs. Hosler seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Hosler, Mr. Kocinski, Mrs. Arvanitis, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carried. Mr. Collins, and Mrs. Stuefen were absent.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

President Caforio asked for a motion to reconvene to Open Session at 6:52 p.m. Mr. Kocinski moved and Mrs. Trautmann seconded the motion. Voice Vote - the motion was carried.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Board members led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the pledge of allegiance, President Caforio provided an opening statement to address the York HS bullying incident the week prior.

**Spotlight/Recognition**

Hawthorne Spotlight

Hawthorne elementary school Principal, Mr. Riordan and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Skaradzinski presented the different types of professional learning communities (PLC) taking place at Hawthorne that are designed to support students. The Board thanked the Hawthorne staff.

Celebration-York Fall Sports and Co-Curricular

Mrs. Hosler introduces the celebration and recognition of students from the many York fall sports and co-curriculars for a successful fall season. Students and staff from the following teams were asked to stand and

be recognized: E-sports, girls' tennis, girls swim and dive, girls' volleyball and football. Mrs. Hosler highlighted some achievements from the amazing fall season. E-Sports-3 students played in state finals; Girls Tennis Team - sectional champions and 6<sup>th</sup> at state with singles player placing 5<sup>th</sup> at state ; Girls Swim and Dive – sectional champions, with individual diver placing 11<sup>th</sup> at state with all state honors; Girls Volleyball – regional champions; and Football – West Suburban Conference (WSC) champions with a 9-0 record.

#### Proclamation-York Journalism Students

Mr. Collins read the proclamation recognizing 20 York Journalism students, who competed at the JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism convention in St. Louis. The students competed in the following categories for editorial, featuring, sports, review, and commentary writing; news editing, press law & ethics, yearbook, academics, clubs, student life, photography portfolio, video and online news package, and broadcasting. Two student received excellent distinction and five students received honorary mention distinction. The Board congratulated the students.

#### Proclamation-Girls Cross Country Placing 2<sup>nd</sup> at State

Mr. Kocinski read the proclamation recognizing the girls' cross country team for placing second at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) state meet and earning the titles of regional and sectional champions, along the way to the state meet. The team consisted of three All State runners, placing third, seventh, and ninth individually. The Board congratulated the students.

#### Proclamation-Boys Soccer Placing 4<sup>th</sup> at State

Mr. Kocinski read the proclamation recognizing the boys soccer team for placing fourth at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) state tournament and earning regional, sectional, and super-sectional champions along the way to the state tournament. The Board congratulated the students.

#### Proclamation-Lauren DeAngelis, Head Girl's Cross Country Coach Named "National Coach of the Year in Girls Cross Country" by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHSA)

Mrs. Hosler read the proclamation recognizing Lauren DeAngelis who was named the National Coach of the Year for girls' cross country by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHSA). She has coached the York girls' cross country for ten out of thirteen years of coaching cross country. Mrs. Hosler on behalf of the Board thanked Coach DeAngelis for being such an encouraging and supportive role model for our students. The Board congratulated Coach DeAngelis.

#### Proclamation-Nicole Bellecomo-Young, Assistant Athletic Director Named "Assistant Athletic Director of the Year for Division 3A and 4A by the Illinois Athletic Director Association

Mrs. Trautmann read the proclamation recognizing Nicole Bellecomo-Young who was named the Assistant Athletic Director of the Year for Division 3A and 4A by the Illinois Athletic Director Association (IADA). IADA presents this award annually to an athletic administrator that exemplifies commitment, desire and leadership qualities. Mrs. Trautmann on behalf of the Board thanked Ms. Bellecomo-Young for all she does for York and our students, especially in the athletic program. The Board congratulated Nicole Bellecomo-Young.

#### Proclamation-Jordan Stopka, Head Boys' Soccer Coach, Named "Coach of the Year" by the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association (IHSSCA)

Mrs. Arvanitis read the proclamation recognizing Jordan Stopka who was named the Coach of the Year by the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association (IHSSCA). He has coached the York boys' soccer team for three years and through his experience as a player provides further development for York's soccer team. Mrs. Arvanitis on behalf of the Board thanked Coach Stopka for supporting our students and creating such a positive environment. The Board congratulated Coach Stopka.

#### **Public Hearing – Adoption of 2022 Levy Certificate**

President Caforio declared the hearing open at 7:57 p.m.

Overview – Mr. Whelton provided the presentation outline to include 1) Understand the tax levy components; 2) Differentiate between the tax levy and the extension; 3) Present the proposed tax levy and its impact; and 4) Share the rationale for the proposed levy. He also provided the 2022 tax levy timeline.

Public Comments – There were no public comments provided.

President Caforio declared the hearing closed at 8:10 p.m.

### **Public Comments**

Public comments revolved around the following: questionable English department required freshman reading curriculum; bring spring final exams back; how SEL skills are taught; bullying of students with special disability, need to create a positive culture; talk about student handbook to understand the consequences to bad behavior; teach students in middle & high school to understand students with disabilities; and concern with tax levy in conjunction with extending the scope of construction projects.

Per board policy 2:230, it is not the Board's practice to directly engage in discussion or ask or answer questions with the individuals addressing the Board during public comment.

The Board took at five-minute recess at 8:45 p.m.

### **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Approval of Regular Board Minutes: November 15, 2022

Approval of Closed Session Minutes: November 15, 2022

President Caforio asked if there were any changes to minutes and hearing no changes, the minutes were declared to stand as presented.

### **Reports and Presentations**

#### K-5 Literacy Instructional Materials Update

Dr. Campbell provided a recap that during the 2021-2022 school year, the Learning and Teaching team engaged in a process to identify strengths and growth areas as it relates to literacy outcomes for students across early childhood to grade 12. The process led to the identification of district-wide instructional priorities, curricular materials for K-5, and a robust professional development plan for leaders, coaches, specialists, and teachers. Given the significant investment in the curricular resources and the targeted and focus work that has been done, the administration would like to present to the Board and our community with a K-5 literacy update. Mrs. Lyons presented the topics to be covered in detail, 1) Components of Skilled Reading, 2) SY22-23 Literacy Instructional Priority, 3) SY22-23 Instructional Materials, 4) SY22-23 Professional Learning Plan, and 5) Progress and Next Steps. The Board commented that it has been great to observe the work in the classroom during school visits. President Caforio highlighted an important piece from the presentation that even though these instructional materials are a significant district investment they maintain a level of rigor across the district and in our classrooms. This is important for commonality of instruction and rigor. She wondered about the work for grades 6-12. Ms. Leuschel answered by highlighting the literacy adult learning plan with many of these opportunities already taking place across all grades levels, such as learning communities, EC-12 collaboratives, professional learning communities (PLC), and specialists (reading and EL). Dr. Campbell added that we have started the work to look deeply to develop and to have clarity of what our resources are and how these resources are aligned to the standards.

Other Board members commented that observing our students in the classroom, there is consistency where all students were working to achieve the same goals; impressed with the rigor of the work in the classroom and clear that the writing in the early grades taking place are the building blocks for the students; appreciate hearing about the impact to the students with adopting these curricular resources; continue to provide the Board with the complete picture from the resource ask, to the implementation, to the impact to our students; seeing the curriculum in action is impressive, observed the students enthusiasm and engagement in the moment and the level of energy was maintained from classroom to classroom.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

#### **A. Personnel Report**

- B. Financial Reports
- C. Bryan Remodel Bid 23-01
- D. Sandburg Remodel 23-02
- E. Churchville Main Office Remodel Bid 23-04
- F. York Auditorium Bid 23-03
- G. Service Contract for Dr. Linda Yonke
- H. Social Work Intern Job Description
- I. School Psychologist Intern Job Description
- J. Exchange Student for 2023-2024 School Year
- K. 2023-24 Emerson PTA Fundraising
- L. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes
- M. Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes

President Caforio asked if there were any consent agenda items to pull, Mr. Collins asked to pull item G. to for further discussion.

President Caforio asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda items: A. Personnel Report; B. Financial Reports; C. Bryan Remodel Bid 23-01; D. Sandburg Remodel Bid 23-02; E. Churchville Main Office Remodel Bid 23-04; F. York Auditorium Bid 23-03; H. Social Work Intern Job Description; I. School Psychologist Intern Job Description; J. Exchange Student for 2023-2024 School Year; K. 2022-24 Emerson PTA Fundraising; L. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes; and M. Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Minutes.

Mrs. Trautmann moved and Mrs. Arvanitis seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Arvanitis, Mr. Kocinski, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Hosler, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carried. Mrs. Stuefen was absent.

#### Consent Agenda Item G. Service Contract for Dr. Linda Yonke was pulled

Mr. Collins wondered the reason for bringing back Dr. Yonke. Dr. Campbell stated that last year, since Dr. Yonke served as interim superintendent, the board approved 20 days from January 2022 - May 2022 for Dr. Yonke's services to support Dr. Campbell's transition, along with providing a variety of consultative services. Of the allotted 20 days originally contracted, 6.5 days were used. With the announcement of York's principal, Dr. Bagdasarian in his recent promotion to superintendent for another school district, we have an opportunity to engage in a very thorough and robust hiring process. We are asking the board to approve 13.5 days from December 1, 2022 – May 1, 2023 for Dr. Yonke to provide consultative services in the hiring and recruitment process of school administration.

President Caforio asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda item: G. Service Contract for Dr. Linda Yonke. Mrs. Hosler moved and Mrs. Arvanitis seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Hosler, Mrs. Arvanitis, Mr. Collins, Mr. Kocinski, Mrs. Trautmann, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Motion carried. Mrs. Stuefen was absent.

### **Agenda Action Items**

#### Approve 2022 Resolution Certificate of Levy

Mr. Collins explained why he will vote no on the levy. The Board commented that the levy is one decision and abatement is another discussion and decision during a board meeting in the early part of 2023, along with labor shortages, busing contract, construction bids, and the audit review.

President Caforio asked for a motion to approve the 2022 Resolution Certificate of Levy. Mrs. Arvanitis moved and Mrs. Trautmann seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mrs. Arvanitis, Mrs. Trautmann, Mrs. Hosler, Mr. Kocinski, and Mrs. Caforio voted aye. Mr. Collins voted nay. Motion carried. Mrs. Stuefen was absent.

### **Superintendent's Communication**

#### English Learners and Dual Language Program Review

Dr. Campbell provided a recap of the District's current Dual Language Two-Way Immersion Program, proposed in 2016 to address the achievement gap for English language learners in the district. At that time,

it was determined that the district's bilingual programs were not meeting the needs of students with emergent bilingual needs. Dr. Grens added the District's Dual Language Two-Way Immersion Program is in its fifth year of operation. During these five years, district qualitative and quantitative data indicates opportunities to analyze the program and existing strategies to best meet the needs of all English language learners, as well as all students in the Dual Language program. In an effort to reflect on the progress to date and to execute an action plan to elevate outcomes for English language learners, along with all students in the Dual Language program, the Learning and Teaching Department, under the direction of the Executive Director of Elementary Education, will conduct a methodical review of the district's EL and Dual Language programming across early childhood to grade 12 from January to June, 2023.

#### FOIA – Freedom of Information Act Requests

Dr. Campbell reviewed the following FOIA requests since the last board meeting.

- 1 FOIA request for specific attorney billing, granted.
- 1 FOIA request for construction contracts, granted.
- 1 FOIA request for student residency, granted.
- 1 FOIA request for specific curriculum documents, granted.
- 1 FOIA request for broad curriculum documents, granted.
- 1 FOIA request for documents from state representative, granted.

#### Social Media Highlight:

Mrs. Daniel introduced the social media highlight video. The video can be viewed in BoardDocs, under Superintendent's Communication-Social Media Highlights.

**Board Communications:** President Caforio asked for a small request of the administration, that the group of York students working with administration in regard to the recent incident to provide the board with any action plans.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- December 19, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m. - District 205 Center, Rooms 216, and 217
- January 17, 2023 Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 p.m. - District 205 Center, Rooms 215, 216, and 217

**Adjournment - End of Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

We certify this document as the correct minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Elmhurst CUSD 205 Board of Education held on December 13, 2022.



Kara Caforio – President



Courtenae Trautmann – Secretary

