

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, HELD AT Kennedy Junior  
High School, 2929 Green Trails Road, Lisle, IL 60532  
March 24, 2025 AT 7:00 P.M., CLOSED SESSION 5:00 p.m.

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### **Call to order**

President Kristine Gericke called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Board members present: Kristine Gericke, Kristin Fitzgerald, Donna Wandke, Amanda McMillen, and Joe Kozminski. (arrived at 5:15 pm).

Administrators present were:

Dan Bridges, Superintendent, (exited at 5:36 pm)

Michael Frances, Chief Financial Officer, (exited at 5:36 pm)

Dr. Mark Cohen, Deputy Superintendent/High Schools, (exited at 5:36 pm)

Dr. Meredith Haugens, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources (exited at 5:36 pm)

Others present: Brian Hextell and Audra Braski, PMA. Exited Closed Session at 5:36 pm.

### **Closed Session**

Donna Wandke moved, seconded by Amanda McMillen to go into Closed Session at 5:01 pm for consideration of:

1. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of school board approval of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by the Act. 02/18/2025, 03/10/2025.
2. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or legal counsel to determine its validity.
3. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the school board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.
4. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the school board has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal or when the school board finds an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.
5. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7) The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts.

Those voting yes: Cush, Fitzgerald, Gericke, McMillen, and Wandke. Those voting no: Absent: Kelley Black. None.

The Board of Education entered closed session at 5:02 pm

### **Meeting Opening**

Charles Cush made a motion, seconded by Joe Kozminski to return to Open Session at 7:02 pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Cush, McMillen, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, and Wandke.

Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried

### **Welcome and Mission**

Kristine Gericke welcomed all and read Naperville Community Unit School District 203's Mission Statement.

### **Roll Call**

**Board members present:** Kristine Gericke, Kristin Fitzgerald, Charles Cush, Joe Kozminski, Amanda McMillen, and Donna Wandke. Absent: Melissa Kelley Black.

**Student Ambassadors present:** Lux Akinde and Arwa Hameed.

**Administrators present:** Dan Bridges, Superintendent, Allison Boutet, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Mark Cohen, Deputy Superintendent/High Schools, Michael Frances, Chief Financial Officer/CSBO, Chuck Freundt, Assistant Superintendent for Leadership and School Services, Meredith Haugens, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Rakeda Leaks, Executive Director for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Katie Matthews, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Melissa McHenry, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Patrick Nolten, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, Jayne Willard, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Lisa Xagas, Assistant Superintendent for Strategy and Engagement.

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Led by Steeple Run Elementary School Students.**

### **Good News**

#### **Building the ARECC to Kindergarten**

On March 17th, over **200 Ann Reid Ducklings** attended Kindergarten Preview at 14 elementary schools, preparing for the next step in their educational journey! Over 60 Ann Reid staff members joined students and parents to provide support and build bridges from the ARECC. ARECC staff also secured interpreters to assist families with the transition from Early Childhood to Kindergarten. This marks the second year that the Ann Reid Ducklings have participated in Kindergarten Preview. Both elementary schools and families have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback!

The **Take a Breath Club** at Maplebrook Elementary helps students start their day feeling empowered and refreshed. Through light yoga and mindfulness activities, students develop mental strength, balance, and a positive mindset, setting the tone for a successful day of learning!

Our **Ranch View Elementary** students had a special opportunity to make history! Each student and staff member signed a large steel beam, symbolically leaving their mark on our school's new addition. The event was made even more memorable with coverage from Naperville Community TV, capturing this exciting moment for our community.

On March 13th, **Elmwood Elementary** hosted its much-anticipated **Taste of Elmwood** event, uniting students, families, and staff in a vibrant celebration of diversity. Attendees shared traditional foods, clothing, and cultural insights, creating a meaningful learning experience for all. A standout highlight of the evening was the student fashion show, showcasing cultural pride and creativity. The event was a tremendous success, fostering connection, celebration, and a deep appreciation for the rich diversity within our school community!

On **March 17**, three **Madison Junior High** 8th graders—**Riley, Noah, and Beau**—bravely shaved their heads at school in support of the **St. Baldrick's Foundation**, a charity dedicated to funding childhood cancer research. Their inspiring act of generosity and awareness makes us incredibly proud!

Astha Savalia, a **7th-grade student on Team Phoenix at Kennedy Junior High**, won **first place** in the **American Legion Essay Contest**. She was honored on **Saturday, March 15**, in a special ceremony by **Tom Jorstad, Commander of American Legion Post 43 Naperville**. Congratulations to Astha on this outstanding achievement!

**The North Huskie Science Bowl team won their ninth consecutive State Championship, earning a spot in the 2025 National Tournament in Washington, D.C.** The team went undefeated against top competitors, including IMSA, Stevenson, Fremd, and Libertyville High Schools.

Hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Science Bowl is the nation's largest science competition, testing students' knowledge in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, and Mathematics. Congratulations!

Naperville North students **Jeffery Tong** and **Jacob Cui** took part in the **State Superintendent's Student Summit at Illinois State University on March 14**. Jeffery played a key role in planning and facilitating the event, which brought together students from across Illinois for meaningful discussions and collaboration with **State Superintendent Tony Sanders**.

### **National Board Certified Teachers**

Jacquelyn Barker, Maria Garcia, Page Lundquist, Erin Meehan-Browning were recognized as becoming Board Certified in 2024.

Jennifer Nekolny, Christine Bell, Angelica Kalat, Elizabeth Skopec, Erin Prout, Phoebe Conner, Christine Halblander, and Nikole Epstein were recognized as renewing their Board certification in 2024.

### **NNHS Science Bowl State Champions**

NNHS Principal Wachtel and Science Bowl Coach Kevin Farrell recognized the students of the Science Bowl who won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the State competition for the 9th year. They will next compete at the national level in Washington, D.C.

### **Presidential Scholar Candidates**

Superintendent Bridges and Principal Wachtel recognized six students from NNHS who were named as Presidential Scholars.

### **Student Ambassador Reports**

#### **Arwa Hameed-NCHS**

- Senior Party was Feb. 22 and Senior Cap & Gown pick up happened at the beginning of the month.
- Winter sports all wrapped up and the spring season has begun
- All spring seasons are off to a great start, but we want to celebrate Lacrosse. Both girls and boys teams won their first two games.
- Indoor track season wrapped up last week with Girls track finished 2nd at the conference meet Thursday and the Boys team won the conference championship Friday.
- Central's Got Talent next Friday ◦ Singing, acting, and other unique performances- along with student emcees who will support the entire performance with fun introductions and character.
- Underclassmen have state ACT and PSAT series testing after break on April 9 & 10
- Prom is April 26 and the theme is Masquerade → selected by the JCC
- Arsenic & Old Lace, Theatre Central's latest musical, was a success. Theatre Central's musical Grease will open on May 1st
- 4.0 Academic Award Ceremony coming up on April 16th
- Looking forward to Spring Break - Duck break

#### **Lux Akinde-NNHS**

- I'd like to start off by saying thank you for taking the input of teachers and students about delaying the block schedule until the 2026-27 school year, because many North students and teachers are very supportive of the decision to delay starting the block schedule.

- North's spring sports just started and we are looking forward to a successful athletics season. The Naperville Sun released their All Area Girls Basketball team with Natalie Frempong, a Junior, making the first team, and Senior Anna Richards getting an honorable mention.
- In the theater department our annual One Acts just showed on March 14th and 15th and we had 6 very successful performances created by students, with students as the performers and directors.
- We held our annual St. Baldrick's event last Friday and passed our goal, raising over \$27,000 for kids cancer research.
- We also had our annual Airband last Thursday, with a lot of amazing choreography and funny performances, and we also had our Spring Dance on Saturday.
- A few upcoming events are the Multicultural Show, taking place on the 28th, and next week is spring break. The district has a few trips planned like the choirs from Central and North going to Italy, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands that I am very excited to be going on.
- After spring break is a big week for students because we have the ACT and the PSAT. Teachers have been working hard to prepare us.

## **Public Comments**

### **President Gericke gave parameters.**

Public comment was given by a teacher and a parent regarding the Innovative School Experience. There was mention that the focus has been on Middle School and High School with very little focus on Elementary. It was mentioned that Elementary teachers have the most instructional minutes and the fewest planning time. The recommendation does not address those issues. Comments were made regarding the lack of sharing of other options for transportation. There is time to get feedback from parents and the community in regards to this plan and the start and end times. The District has been encouraged to use the extra time to get additional input.

**President Gericke reminded the Board and Community that because questions raised during Public Comment address District Operational matters the board has designated our Superintendent as the spokesperson for the District. As our designate to respond to Public Comment, he will apprise the Board accordingly.**

## **Monthly Reports**

- Treasury Report- The Board received the January Treasurer's Statement
- Investments- The Board received the January Investment Report
- Insurance-The Board received the January Insurance Report
- Budget-The Board Received the January Budget Report

**President Gericke reminded the Board and Community of the board agreements. She noted that it is each Board member's responsibility to prepare for each meeting and to effectively express our concerns either to the Superintendent or the Board President in a timely manner. Board members have also agreed that avoiding surprises is paramount in displaying respect to all District Administration. The Board has tasked itself to send questions in advance of each meeting to the Superintendent to allow the provision of the best possible response for the community. It also allows for efficiency during the community's meeting. Those same questions as well as new ones may be asked in Open Session. For transparency, please note if any questions were asked earlier. Mr. Bridges did you receive questions from Board members? Superintendent Bridges responded that he received questions from six Board members. Mrs. Patton confirmed that emails with a link for the Board agenda were sent and delivery confirmed at 4:02 pm, Thursday, March 20, 2025. No emails bounced back.**

**1. Bills and Claims** from WARRANT NO. 1066845 THRU 1067459 AND WARRANT NO. 9000000107 TOTALING \$28,014,256.71 FOR THE PERIOD OF February 19, 2025 TO March 24, 2025.

**2. Personnel Report**

	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>RESIGNATION-ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Hugh Boger	6/30/2025	Scott	Principal
<b>REASSIGNMENT-ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Eric Decker	7/1/2025	NNHS	Assistant Principal
Greg Hodges	8/4/2025	NNHS	Dean
<b>RESIGNATION-CERTIFIED</b>			
Megan Murphy	8/10/2025	NNHS	Mathematics Teacher
Brian Glasby	5/27/2025	NNHS	Science Teacher
Katherine Reiter	4/18/2025	Kingsley	Kindergarten Teacher
Adrienne Linton	8/10/2025	Maplebrook	Art Teacher
Tom Okkema	8/10/2025	Elmwood	5th Grade Teacher
Nicholas Castelluccio	8/10/2025	Meadow Glens	2nd Grade Teacher
Elaine Kauper	8/10/2025	Meadow Glens	3rd Grade Teacher
Morgan Nicoski	8/10/2025	Scott	Kindergarten Teacher
Samantha Gorney	8/10/2025	WJHS/JJHS	Occupational Therapist
<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED</b>			
Scott Silder	SY 25/26	Scott/ River Woods	Music - Instrumental
Sara Paris	11/3/25 - 12/19/25	Ellsworth	3rd Grade
<b>EXTEND LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED</b>			
Marisa Bolin	.2 SY 25/26	JJHS	School Psychologist
<b>RETIREMENT-CLASSIFIED</b>			
Gwyn Padgett	6/30/2025	NNHS	Department Secretary
Anthony Hodczak	8/29/2025	Transportation	Bus Driver
Mary Pat Witmer	6/30/2025	Prairie	Senior Secretary
<b>RESIGNATION-CLASSIFIED</b>			
Kirsten Valkner	3/21/2025	NCHS	Campus Supervisor
Nguyen Minh Chu	3/17/2025	Transportation	Bus Driver
Amanda Azura	3/14/2025	District	Classroom Nurse
Sotir Bebi	4/11/2025	Jefferson	Custodian
<b>EMPLOYMENT-CLASSIFIED FULL-TIME</b>			
Danine Polizzi	3/10/2025	Elmwood	Special Education Paraprofessional

Michael Kolak	3/5/2025	Transportation	Bus Driver
Rinku Kumari	3/11/2025	Madison	Special Education Paraprofessional
Maria Trujillo	3/18/2025	Elmwood	Instructional Paraprofessional
<b>EMPLOYMENT-CLASSIFIED PART-TIME</b>			
Laura Hirsch	3/19/2025	Prairie	3-5 Instructional Paraprofessional

3. Board meeting Minutes: 02/18/2025, 03/10/2025
4. Closed Session Minutes: 02/18/2025, 03/10/2025
5. Certified Employees recommended for re-employment and dismissal, full-time, part-time, temporary and permanent substitutes
6. Educational Support Personnel recommended for dismissal, time sheet, instructional assistants, and temporary positions
7. Administrator Contract Renewal
8. Summer 2025 FACS/PLTW Projects (JJHS FACS/PLTW & MJHS PLTW) Bid Package 2
- Rest of Project
9. NNHS Addition-Site Work (Turf Field, Access Road, Transportation Lot Expansion)
10. IHSA Membership Renewal 2025-2026

Board Member Cush thanked Michelle Swope for her work to answer questions during the Bills and Claims review.

Charles Cush made a motion to approve WARRANT NO. 1066845 THRU 1067459 AND WARRANT NO. 9000000107 TOTALING \$28,014,256.71 FOR THE PERIOD OF February 19, 2025 TO March 24, 2025 and the remaining items on the Consent agenda with exception of 7.11, Transportation Contract Renewal seconded by Kristin Fitzgerald. Those voting yes: Kozminski, Cush, Wandke, McMillen, Fitzgerald, and Gericke. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

#### 11. Transportation Contract Renewal

Can we ask vendors to add to their contracts language to lessen their carbon footprint?  
Superintendent Bridges stated that if the Carbon Action Plan is approved, we can discuss that.

Charles Cush made a motion to approve the Transportation Contract Renewal seconded by Kristin Fitzgerald. Those voting yes: Cush, Fitzgerald, McMillen, Kozminski, Wandke, and Gericke. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

### Communications

#### Written Communications

##### Freedom of Information Requests:

Ro Health Freedom of Information Act Request- Student Services Information  
Innov AI Freedom of Information Act Request-Business Office Information  
Eagle3Analytics Freedom of Information Act Request- Business Office Information  
Fogel Freedom of Information Act Request- Office of the Superintendent Information  
Allamillo Freedom of Information Act Request- Strategy and Engagement Information  
Kelley Black Freedom of information Act Request-Board of Education Information  
Kelley Black Freedom of information Act Request-Board of Education Information  
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Kelley Black Freedom of information Act Request-Board of Education Information  
Kelley Black Freedom of information Act Request-Board of Education Information  
Kelley Black Freedom of information Act Request-Board of Education Information  
LRS Freedom of Information Act Request-Business Office Information  
Probst Freedom of Information Act Request-Business Office Information  
Allium Data Freedom of Information Act Request-Business Office Information

#### **Board of Education Reports:**

**Board member Wandke mentioned the NEF Building a Passion breakfast on April 16, 2025.**

**Opportunity to add to what we can do to support our students.**

**Vice President Fitzgerald reported on the State Assessment Review Committee. Thanked Dr. Nolten for his help. Dialogue-concern that we over correcting in our efforts to ensure national alignment in our assessment of students. Lot of dialogue about alignment. A lot of districts are making comments on the standards. Important for our proficiency standards to be as close as they can be to NAEP.**

**Is it correct that IL standards are higher than some others across the country?**

Dr. Nolten stated the threshold in being proficient, we are the most challenging state to meet that threshold. Intention is to realign to the National assessment.

**Vice President Fitzgerald noted that Math wise that is a true statement, English is not. Making sure they all closely reflect the national standard.**

#### **Presidents Report**

**None.**

#### **Superintendents Report**

**Superintendent Bridges stated, recently we have received some questions regarding changes and potential changes at the federal level. Along with our legal counsel and various statewide advocacy groups we continually monitor policy decisions. We must also consider state and local mandates. Regardless of any potential changes at the federal level, Naperville 203 remains committed to its beliefs, vision, and mission. This includes continuing to be advocates for funding and programming to support each of the students in our district.**

#### **Discussion without Action:**

**President Gericke shared parameters.**

#### **Innovative School Experience Update**

**Superintendent Bridges noted the memo in Board Docs. He gave a reminder of all the presentations going back to January 21. School Day is in response to actions the Board has requested. We continue to experience some challenges. There are some bargaining implications. Concerns around the Professional learning and the start times and the difference between Elementary and Junior High. We have looked at many scenarios for transportation. We are working on a plan for additional engagement. Need to update the Board of Education question documents. Take specific questions from the Board on what needs to be clarified.**

#### **Board Comments/Questions:**

**Thank you for hearing our comments about the gap between Elementary and Junior High. With the rollout moved to 2026-2027, what are the plans to engage the community to hear their voices?**

Superintendent Bridges noted we don't have a formalized plan. We are working on engaging our parent groups, to hold focus groups to hear specific concerns.

**In terms of expressing a few more details. Can you share with the community what adding enough busses to become a two tier system would look like?**

Superintendent Bridges stated we still have some issues that have to be addressed. Students who arrive early. Would need additional buses, 60 Full size, 19 half size and three wheelchair buses that would cost about \$12.5 million. We would need additional staff, mechanics. Currently have 111 routes and have 107 drivers. Have office staff who are having to fill in as drivers. We also would need space to park the additional buses.

**Can you put that into context? To add 60, how many do we currently operate?**

Cindy LaBorn, Director of Transportation stated we have 132 buses on the lot. Roughly 80 full size buses. 40 half size buses.

Superintendent Bridges responded that we can get the full correct information.

**So, we would be adding one third more buses. Want to address the concerns with the students who are getting picked up early. Ok, so the majority of 10, 000 students are getting picked up an hour or more before school starts.**

***Moving the implementation date to 2026-2027. If we are to make the decision a year from now that would allow for more time for specificity in the plan. Why wouldn't we take some of that time and still be able to make the decision earlier prior to implementation than we were expecting to do this time?***

Superintendent Bridges stated, we had hoped to have this approved in February. Need to have Professional Learning in place. Would be hard to go through the Professional Learning for something that has not been implemented. We are hearing some positive feedback from parents on the additional time. The sooner we have answers, the better for all.

**Do we know what the cost implications for families who will need additional childcare will be?**

Superintendent Bridges stated that Mrs. Boutet has spoken to before and after school care partners. Mrs. Boutet reported a specific update on the middle school before and after school care. Could start as early as 6:30 am. Do have drop in options where families can use as many days as they need. Neither partner foresees any waitlist issues. The monthly rates vary. She shared costs. We are looking at a potential zero hour option for students. That is new and we will need more time before we bring that back to the Board of Education. We do believe we will be able to offer families some options.

**Can you repeat the part on the number of students?**

Mrs. Boutet noted, they will start with staffing for 50 students per school and will add if we have additional students.

**Do we know what proportion of the population will be negatively impacted by the new proposal?**

Mrs. Boutet asked are you talking about start and end times or the day?

**I am talking about the logistics.**

Superintendent Bridges stated that through the next level engagement we could get a better sense of that.

**Given the extra time for implementation it will be important to have another regroup to get information from parents. Panel of parents who have talked through the issues. Could get some better idea of how many people will need additional support.**

***Thank you for the updated information. Outcomes and metrics were aligned to what is going on in the school. Will there be any followup with surveys from parents and students to measure how this is working if approved?***

Mrs. Willard stated that she and Dr. Noltan are working on developing questions to get feedback. We will include student voice.

**There are a lot of positives to this Innovative School Day. Time will allow for a smooth rollout. This allows more time for projects and labs. Allows more time for students to have conversations and do things they don't have time to do now in the classroom. More time for Professional Learning is important and the delay is a positive. There are about 30% discipline cases during the unstructured time. How many are caused because of what has started in the unstructured time?**



Mrs. Boutet stated, we don't have the exact metrics but Middle School principals would say that a lot of discipline issues begin in the morning when there is unstructured time.

Dr. Cohen added that for the 7.190 presentation we will take a deeper look. He gave statistics that included most happening during the first hour. Truancy is also an issue early in the day. He shared some comments made by students and parents who were part of the Policy 7.190 discussion.

**Thank you to the staff, design teams, administration for all of the work on school day. This is important for our students so I don't want to see this get pushed further down the road. Thank the Superintendent and administration for listening. We are making progress from the beginning. Challenge is to continue to get feedback from staff and community to further bridge the gap. We have a lot of initiatives in the district, we need to look at what we are expecting from our staff at each level. I don't want us to overwhelm them. We may need to make some shifts. Appreciate the work you have done to undergird this with the research you have done. Grateful we are taking so seriously the math especially at the High School level. Appreciate the look at this system wide. Appreciate the efforts on increasing attendance. Thank you for the additional facts on transportation. What do you mean by zero hour?**

Mrs. Boutet responded we are in the beginning stages of looking at it. We may use community partners to help with the zero hours. Trying to bring as many options for our families.

**These would be options that would have no cost that would benefit to students?**

Mrs. Boutet stated they could be free or low cost for families but could be an added cost for the district. We could offer an experience for our families. We are looking at the overall experience for students.

**Can you talk about the work to make it possible for students to participate afterschool sports especially at the Middle School level?**

Mrs. Boutet noted that many of us are working and talking to community partners. AD's meet often with other AD's in the conference. There is some relief that we are delaying a year. We are looking at what the start times would be. We currently now start closer to 4:15 than 4:00. The benefit to starting last, we would be able to leave at dismissal. Continued conversations with AD's and principals. Looking at release times especially for large conference events where we are chasing the sun.

**Thank you for the work.**

Mrs. Boutet added that Community relations have been having conversations with community partners.

#### **Discussion with Action:**

##### **Carbon Action Plan**

**Superintendent Bridges recommend approval as presented  
Last meeting staff and students presented this program.**

#### **Board Questions/Comments:**

**Appreciate all the work that has gone into the plan. This is a model for student engagement. Look forward to the evolution and regular updates.**

**Donna Wandke made a motion to approve the Carbon Action Plan as presented, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Wandke, Kozminski, McMillen, Gericke, and Cush. No: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.**

##### **Career 203 Update**

**Superintendent Bridges stated in collaboration with NUEA, these recommendations were made. Recommend approval as presented.**

#### **Board Questions/Comments:**

**None.**

Donna Wandke made a motioned to approve the Career 203 Updates as presented, seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: Wandke, Gericke, Cush, McMillen, Kozminski, and Fitzgerald. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

#### **EC-12 Certified Staffing & District SPED Projection**

Superintendent Bridges stated these are annually reviewed with enrollment projections. Recommend approval as presented.

#### **Board Comments/Questions:**

None.

Kristin Fitzgerald made a motioned to approve EC-12 Certified Staffing & District SPED Projection as presented, seconded by Charles Cush. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Wandke, Gericke, McMillen, Kozminski, and Cush. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

#### **Debt Service Levy**

Superintendent Bridges noted on the recommendation based on the Board of Education and Citizens' Finance Advisory. First discussed in November. Recommend approval as presented.

#### **Board Questions/Comments:**

**There are concerns about the current climate with the dissolving of the Department of Education. Is it advantageous to hold on this?**

Superintendent Bridges stated the initial recommendation was to collect it. Impact is about \$2-\$3 per household. Modified recommendation based on Board of Education and Citizens' Finance Advisory. This is the least impactful collection.

**Numerous things that are uncertain, at the Federal level and the current five year forecasts. Pushback would be that we not abate. This is a limited impact on taxpayers. We are in negotiations. Recommend we not abate.**

***Concerns about the current uncertainty. I support this in most years. Not in support of the abatement.***

Similar concerns give me pause. Thank you for the level of impact. We need to be sure we preserve dollars for somethings we don't know about now.

***I feel being out in the community on a regular basis, I hear about the amount of our property taxes. This is less than 1% of our budget so it will not have much of an impact either way on taxpayers. Want to try to do anything we can to reduce our property taxes. Recommend we support.***

Struggling to support the recommendation. Given the changes we are looking at. Some of the opportunities we are talking about for families will not be free.

***Want to remind the Board of Education that we have taken very seriously the impact on taxpayers. We have reduced the levy every time. Balance needs to be on insuring we are able to provide for our staff and students. We are working hard to understand the burdens on taxpayers.***

Superintendent Bridges stated that the Initial recommendation was to not abate this levy. Administration is fine.

Donna Wandke made a motioned to approve the Debt Service Levy as presented, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Wandke. Those voting no: Cush, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, McMillen, and Gericke. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion failed.

#### **Resolution: Transfer of Funds for Debt Abatement**

Superintendent Bridges noted that this will not need to happen since the Debt Service Levy failed.

**Board Questions/Comments:**  
None.

**Donna Wandke** made a motion to approve the Resolution: Transfer of Funds for Debt Abatement as presented, seconded by **Joe Kozminski**. Those voting yes: Wandke. Those voting no: Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, Cush, and McMillen. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion failed.

**UGP**

**Superintendent Bridges** noted that Administration has completed its work in response to a Uniform Grievance that had been filed.

**Board Questions/Comments:**  
None.

**Donna Wandke** moved based upon and after the Board's consideration of the written appeal filed on November 8, 2024 pursuant to Board Policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*, as well as the information submitted by the Administration related to its Uniform Grievance investigation, that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's Uniform Grievance decision dated October 29, 2024, seconded by **Amanda McMillen**. Those voting yes: Wandke, McMillen, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, and Gericke. Those voting no: Cush. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

**Old Business:**  
None.

**New Business:**  
None.

**Upcoming Events**

- Next Board of Education meeting on Monday April 7, 2025 to be held at PSAC.
- Spring Break-March 31-April 4, 2025.
- NEF Building a Passion Breakfast on April 16, 2025

**Adjournment:**

**Charles Cush** moved, seconded by **Joe Kozminski** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Cush, McMillen, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, and Wandke. Those voting no: None. Absent: Kelley Black. The motion carried.

Approved: April 21, 2025

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Kristine Gericke, President, Board of Education

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Susan Patton, Secretary, Board of Education

