

---

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NAPERVILLE  
COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS,  
HELD AT District Administration Building, 203 West Hillside Road, Naperville, IL 60540  
November 14, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M., CLOSED SESSION 5:00 p.m.

---

### **Call to order**

President Kristin Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Board members present: Kristin Fitzgerald, Kristine Gericke, Joe Kozminski, Charles Cush, Donna Wandke, Amanda McMillen, and Tony Casey.

Administrators present were:

Dan Bridges, Superintendent,

Bob Ross, Chief Human Resources Officer

Lisa Xagas, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Dr. Chala Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

Chuck Freundt, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Allison Boutet, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

### **Closed Session**

Donna Wandke moved, seconded by Amanda McMillen to go into Closed Session at 5:00 pm. for consideration of:

1. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (21) Discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 10/17/2022.
2. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District.
3. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal.
4. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives.
5. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9) Student Disciplinary Cases.

### **Meeting Opening**

Kristine Gericke made a motion, seconded by Amanda McMillen to return to Open Session at 7:12 pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Cush, McMillen, Casey, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, and Wandke. No: None. The motion carried

### **Welcome and Mission**

Kristin Fitzgerald welcomed all and read Naperville Community Unit School District 203's Mission Statement.

### **Roll Call**

**Board members present:** Kristin Fitzgerald, Kristine Gericke, Tony Casey, Charles Cush, Joe Kozminski, Amanda McMillen and Donna Wandke.

**Student Ambassadors present:** Sarayu Suresh Absent: Joanna Cho

**Administrators present:** Dan Bridges, Superintendent, Roger Brunelle, Chief Information Officer, Allison Boutet, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Michael Frances, Chief Financial Officer/CSBO, Chuck Freundt, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Chala Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Lisa Xagas, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Alex Mayster, Executive Director for Communications, Patrick Nolten, Assistant

Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, Bob Ross, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Jayne Willard, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Led by Elmwood Elementary School**

**Superintendent welcomed Elmwood Eagles. Principal Matt Langes had his students introduce themselves after which they led us in the Pledge of Allegiance in both English and Spanish.**

**Good News**

Naperville 203 and schools across the district honored our nation's heroes on Veterans Day. Here at the district office, we greatly enjoyed the opportunity to host a group of veterans for a nice breakfast, which was followed by a flag raising ceremony. Additionally, we are proud to share that Madison Assistant Principal Richard Bain received the Quilt of Valor during The Rotary Club of Naperville's Rotary Salutes Veterans Program. The Quilts of Valor Foundation honors service members and veterans who have been touched by war by thanking them for their service and sacrifice in serving our nation. Congratulations and thank you to Mr. Bain.

Congratulations to Washington Junior High counselor Mrs. Lauren Benters for being honored by the Chicago Bears as a Classroom Legend for her incredible work with students! The Classroom Legends program recognizes the work that good, quality teachers do by honoring educators who go above and beyond. Congratulations to Mrs. Benters.

We're proud to share that nearly 200 community members attended S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s latest Celebrate. Educate. Empower! event on "Belonging," which was held last week at Naperville North. Our own Dr. Chala Holland delivered an excellent keynote address on her own experience with belonging that connected extremely well with our audience. Thank you to everyone involved for hosting this extremely successful evening.

**Public Comments**

None

**Monthly Reports**

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

**Board Questions/Comments:**

None.

**Action by Consent:**

- 1. Bills and Claims** from WARRANT NO. 1047599 THRU WARRANT NO.30029829 TOTALING \$25,682,189.82 FOR THE PERIOD OF October 18, 2022 to November 14, 2022.

**2. Adoption of Personnel Report**

	Effective Date	Location	Position
<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE-ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Malee Farmer	1/6/2023 - 8/5/2023	LJHS	Assistant Principal
<b>RESIGNATION-CERTIFIED</b>			
Julie Hasselberg	10/30/2022	Ranchview	LBS Teacher
Sara Robbins	11/4/2022	Madison	LBS Teacher
<b>APPOINTMENT-CERTIFIED FULL-TIME</b>			
Meghan Donovan	1/6/2023	NNHS	FACS Teacher
<b>REVISED CONTRACT-CERTIFIED FULL-TIME</b>			
Kaitlyn Ladone	10/31/2022	Steeple Run	1st Grade Teacher
<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED</b>			
Mary Bratland	11/18/22 - 12/22/22	JJHS	Learning Behavior Specialist
Sarah Perretta	1/17/23 - 5/26/23	Mill Street	3rd Grade - Dual Language
<b>RETIREMENT-CLASSIFIED</b>			
Jane Moser	12/31/2022	Print Shop	Document Services Support
Marlena McAleer	2/3/2023	Connections	Special Education AssistantCusto
<b>RESIGNATION-NON-UNION CLASSIFIED</b>			
Angela Adamo	10/31/2022	PSAC	Marketing and Communications Coordinator
<b>RESIGNATION-CLASSIFIED</b>			
Stephen Fattore	10/18/2022	Prairie	Special Education Assistant
Anthony Masino	10/27/2022	NCHS	Computer Support Associate
Thomas Dolan	11/20/2022	Transportation	Bus Driver
Carmen Gutierrez	10/24/2022	NNHS	Attendance Specialist
Heather Schmidt	11/4/2022	Connections	Special Education Assistant
Ardit Kurti	11/11/2022	JJHS	Custodian - Supervisor
<b>EMPLOYMENT-NON-UNION CLASSIFIED</b>			
Arthur Andersen IV	12/5/2022	IT	Director of IT - Infrastructure
<b>EMPLOYMENT-CLASSIFIED FULL-TIME</b>			
Christie Gillen	10/14/2022	Transportation	Bus Driver
Alessandra Emond	10/17/2022	Kingsley	Instructional Assistant
Plarent Luarasi	10/19/2022	Madison	Custodian
Jesenia Tellado	10/24/2022	NCHS	Custodian
Timothy Leisten	11/7/2022	NCHS	Custodian
Rafael Gonzales	10/24/2022	PSAC	Computer Support Associate
Katharine Kocsis	10/27/2022	Maplebrook	Special Education Assistant
Ruta Romanova	11/14/2022	5th Avenue	Senior Administrative Secretary
<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CLASSIFIED</b>			
Thomas Dolan	10/31/22 - 11/19/22	Transportation	Bus Driver

- 3. Minutes 10/17/2022**
- 4. Disposal of Assets**
- 5. Student Discipline as discussed in Closed Session**

Donna Wandke made a motion to approve Warrant #1047599 thru Warrant #30029829 totaling \$25,682,189.82 for the period of October 18, 2022 to November 14, 2022 and the remaining items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Kristine Gericke. Those voting yes: Kozminski, Cush, Wandke, McMillen, Fitzgerald, Casey, and Gericke. No: None. The motion carried.

## **Communications**

### **Written Communications**

#### **Freedom of Information Requests:**

Foley Freedom of Information Act Request-High School Information

Gupta Freedom of Information Act Request-Human Resources Information

Kerrins Freedom of Information Act Request-Security Information

Rizzo Freedom of Information Act Request- Library Information

Smart Procure Freedom of Information Act Request- Business Office Information

### **Student Ambassador Reports:**

#### **Sarayu Suresh NCHS:**

- Currently students are in the middle of course selection. As discussed last month. Latin classes are being phased out which many students are not happy about.
- On the other side, there are also classes that are being added like, Algebra 2 Modeling & Problem Solving.
- Our boys' soccer team won the state championship, after winning the semifinals 5-0. This is the first time they have won state. Congratulations to all of our NCHS athletes.
- Naperville Central hosted the iStep conference for the first time since 2008, with performances from Dynasty and RAIN.
- Theatre central put on a lovely production of The Still Life with Iris for their Fall Mainstage Play November 3-5
- We had our first Veterans' day assembly in two years last Thursday, with performances from the band and choir, and speeches from students and veterans.

## **Superintendent/Staff/School Report**

### **Superintendent Bridges**

#### **Audit Report**

Each year the District engages an independent accounting firm to perform an audit of the District's financial records in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in Governmental Auditing Standards. Lauterbach & Amen of Naperville have performed this year's audit and have found that our financial records correctly represent the District's financial position, otherwise known as an unqualified opinion.

Michael Frances introduced Matt who gave a high level report of the District's finances. They reviewed all processes and reviewed requested documents.

Gave the highest rating they give.

Fund balance of the district is very healthy.

Provide a management letter.

Seeing some overages in Capital Expenses but that is mainly due to timing.

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

**Were part of the Capital expenditures due to supply chain issues?**

Mr. Frances responded that some may be but it is mainly because our year ends on June 30 but some bills come in later.

**Are these bonds that we cannot repurchase.**

Mr. Frances noted these are the bonds that the Board of Education has been abating as these are not callable.

**Five Year Financial Forecast**

Superintendent Bridges indicated that it is time to update the Board and the community on the Five Year Financial Forecast. Superintendent Bridges introduced Chief Financial Officer/CSBO Michael Frances to provide the update.

- Making data driven decisions is crucial for all organizations.
- We use the forecast for a variety of reasons from budget and tax levy planning to running what if scenarios throughout the year.
- Current year budget as the main driver and baseline moving forward.
- Include five years of actual results for historical perspective and to help see trends
- Current and projected CPI, EAV and new construction drive the majority of results on the revenue side
- While salary and benefits, as well as staffing levels drive the majority of projected costs.
- Known or projected changes to State and Federal funding
- The main driver is the consumer price index, which drives annual changes in property taxes.
- The most recent actual is 7%. Tax cap legislation limits this increase to 5%, which is the figure all taxed capped districts will be using for their 2022 tax levies.
- The 5% estimate for the 2023 levy year is the maximum amount allowed under the tax cap as the year to date CPI figure through September of this year is currently at 8.2%. The final value for 2022 will be known in mid-January, at which time these projections will be updated, and that figure will also be the main driver of the 2023 tax levy a year from now for taxes paid and distributed in the summer of 2024.
- The other driver of property taxes under the tax cap is the amount of new construction added to the assessed valuation of the district annually. For every \$1 million of new property, the district receives approximately \$50 thousand of additional tax revenue.
- \$37 million of additional assessed value is the current estimate for this year's levy from data provided by our township assessor's offices. The remaining projected values have been increased from previous projections where recently we were using \$25 million of new growth annually.
- We have looked at our taxes informally this way for many years, but two years we adopted this new approach in our annual financial report and will again reflect this change in our financial statements.
- With the many recent changes to interest rates, we have begun seeing and will continue to see an increase in the amount of income we receive on the district's investments.
- One piece of good news is our recent estimate for Corporate personal property taxes from the Illinois Department of Revenue. Their estimate has this line item potentially being a few million dollars over current budgeted levels.
- Most state and federal funding are projected flat throughout the projections. Adjustments have been made from this year's last allocation of budgeted ESSER funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 so that are not projected into future years as they were one-time sources of revenue.
- On the expenditure side, staff salaries are the largest area of cost, now and moving forward. We are projecting the costs of any current contracts as well as other contracts being based on CPI increases and step increases as they have been in the past.
- There is currently no change to numbers of staff in the results.
- Health insurance is our next largest cost, which is projected at 8% for next year to reflect recent cost trends, then 5% annually thereafter.
- Most other expenses are at 5% for next year to account for inflation and then 2% annually

- The estimated annual Technology improvements as well as tonight's annual Building and Grounds capital plans are also included.
- We have also kept the annual abatement of the district's debt in the projections. Overall, the district has very little debt and is getting close to being debt free. The annual amount needed to be transferred over the next few years is being reduced and helping the overall results of the projections.
- On the revenue side, again the largest drivers are CPI and new construction. If actual values differ from the projections, they each have varying effects to the results.
- For every 1% difference of a CPI assumption, revenue would change plus or minus \$2.7 million
- For every 1 million dollar difference in new construction from the assumptions, revenue fluctuates almost \$50,000.
- If there are future reductions to the district's Evidence Based Funding from the State of Illinois, we would lose \$125k for every 1% proration. Thankfully we have not seen any prorations of general state funding for many years.
- On the expense side salaries and benefits make up over 77% of all costs.
- Every 1% change in salary drives an additional \$1.9 million in expenses. For health insurance, every 1% change, costs increase by \$353k.
- As mentioned earlier, the districts financial reports show fund balances deferring the receipt of June taxes received last fiscal year into the current fiscal year.
- The values for FY22 are listed as unaudited at this time since we have not yet fully reconciled our new audit report presented this evening with our financial system. We anticipate having this updated for any future financial documents. A fairly flat projected red line indicates our initial financial projections as stable over the next few years in this initial update.
- We compare revenue to expenditures on an annual basis to see if and when and also to what extent we may be spending more dollars than we are receiving.
- The current year has a budgeted deficit, mainly due to the increased costs for the addition at Steeple Run elementary. While the current fund balance is sufficient to absorb some deficits, we will need to watch this closely and make adjustments to future expenses as necessary.
- As always, all results are dependent on the current set of assumptions and will be updated throughout the year as the future becomes clearer.

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

**How do we take into account the surplus from the previous year? Do we adjust the budget to account for that surplus?**

Mr. Frances responded that the state only allows us to report revenue one time. The tentative amended budget will note additional expenses so that will cause the fund balance to go down.

**How do we adjust our following year budget when we have had surpluses year after year?**

Mr. Frances remarked that we are continually working to get that number closer to zero. We continue to be prudent. Last years overage was caused by some contingencies that we did not spend. We no longer have those contingencies so we won't have that overage. Sometimes the overages happen because we make the spend in one FY instead of another.

**Thank you for your work on the salaries and benefits getting close to the budgeted amount.**

#### **School Report Card**

Superintendent Bridges remarked that the report cards were release late in October. Dr. Nolten Thanked Superintendent Bridges, the Board of Education and staff at the building levels.

Overall ELA results suggest that we are moving in the right direction following the pandemic.

Illinois has a very high bar for what is proficient.

There are a lot of districts who saw dips in seventh and eighth grade as we did.

Getting back to where we were pre pandemic.

**Board Questions/Comments:**

**Thank you for the report.**

**IAR-seventh and eighth grade results. Statewide as well as the district there was not much movement, were you able to identify why there wasn't much movement?**

Dr. Nolten stated these are being seen nationally so there is a thought that these ages are just not engaging. There is not one specific reason.

**Have you had a chance to look at the MAP data?**

Dr. Nolten remarked that it looks better and the growth looks better. The MAP assessment is more relevant.

**The reminder that the dip in 2021 is not necessarily an academic dip but is also a dip in the numbers of students who tested is helpful.**

Dr. Nolten added there is that as well as a compressed testing schedule.

**It is useful information to know how we have done compared to the state.**

Dr. Nolten remarked that number was a combination of all results of accountability.

**It is helpful to share with the community how well we are doing.**

**How does that compare with where we were pre pandemic?**

Dr. Nolten noted that we were at 96%. Our rank changed one percentage point.

With context, we are doing well.

**Want a sense of where we are in terms of a gap perspective? Are we seeing widening, narrowing or gaps staying the same?**

Dr. Nolten responded that the gaps are mostly staying the same. Certain groups attended school more than others when there was the opportunity.

**We really focused on EC and decreasing class sizes. I am hopeful that with time, we will begin to see that focus helping. What do these gaps look like at grade levels?**

Dr. Nolten stated that with MAP, we are hopeful that we will see those changes over time and how cohorts grow over time.

**Even with IAR, we should be able to see so closing of gaps.**

**Can you repeat how we did compared to districts around us?**

Dr. Nolten remarked that with our benchmark districts, we have the highest growth and proficiency.

**Can you talk about achievement gaps for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and how are we supporting them at the HS?**

Mrs. Willard noted that each High School has two support periods per week. We also focus on math and are targeting students who need additional support. Math specialists are pushing in and doing a lot of co-teaching. They are doing a lot of professional learning on supports. Teams have a good plan and we are monitoring it regularly.

**There is room for improvement at all levels.**

**Can you talk a little bit more about SAT?**

Dr. Nolten noted a national trend for reduction in SAT scores. There are students who think they mean less, as these scores are optional at many colleges. Some will say there is a general decline in the education of students in the US especially in Math.

## **President's Report**

**President Fitzgerald pleasure to attend the SUCCESS event at NNHS. This event was well received by the families who attended.**

## **Board of Education Reports:**

**Donna Wandke spoke of the city event for diversity and inclusion. Wonderful to see the collaboration.**

**DuPage Division Dinner-learning and professional learning for school board members.**

## **Discussion without Action:**

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

**Superintendent Bridges introduced Pat Dolan, Director of Building and Grounds to give the Capital Improvement plan.**

- Thanks for allowing me to present this years Capital Improvement Plan or CIP. As we have discussed in previous presentations to the board, the CIP is a description of potential projects we would like the Board to consider for next year.
- If tonight's Capital Improvement Plan is approved, my team and I will be meeting with administrators and consultants starting in January to put together details to determine final scope of the projects and refine their budgets.
- When it comes to project development it's typical for my department to continuously balance upgrades identified in the 2013 Comprehensive Facility Assessment with issues that arise during the school year.
- Every year we meet with the Assistant Superintendents to consider changes in curriculum, programs, regulations and demographics that will influence what projects are selected for work during the year.
- In 2026 we will ask for permission to begin a brand new 10-year Comprehensive facility assessment document to guide capital and maintenance programs in the future.
- We anticipate that we will continue to request approximately \$6 million in funding in the foreseeable future for these plans.
- We upgraded the conditioning system for Central's pool. We also renovated a few high school spaces including the Health tech office at North and the Horticulture classroom at Central
- We also had two Learning Center projects: one at Washington JHS and Kingsley Elementary. We also installed new playgrounds at Highlands and Scott Elementary. We replaced the electric boiler at Kennedy with two smaller gas-fired boilers to give more flexibility and energy efficiency. We also built a new classroom in the Eagles Nest at Elmwood to accommodate enrollment concerns.
- We were able to repave seven different asphalt projects across the district. Summer Mod projects varied based on the expectations of school and district administrators. We replace two major roof areas at Naperville North and Highlands Elementary
- The new stadium scoreboard at North was just recently installed. The windows for Washington have been delayed significantly by supply chain issues, but we are planning on finishing that project next summer. We also had to defer a couple of large projects including the NNHS Fascia Panel Project and NNHS/NCHS Irrigation Projects due to lack of materials.
- Our request is another \$6 million in funding for various projects around the District for the upcoming year. There are several HVAC-related projects we anticipate starting at the end of this school year. These will address chiller replacements at NNHS, Mill St and Naper.
- The two largest architectural projects we are proposing for this summer would be the deferred renovation of the interior courtyard at Kennedy, and a replacement of the original windows at Madison JHS and Kingsley ES..
- We are also proposing to finish up the exterior concrete panel replacement at North as well as adding new water mains to support automatic irrigation of our soccer and practice grass fields. One large project will be the start of a complete tear off and replacement of the foam roof at Madison JHS.
- We have several large and small playground projects we are looking forward to as well as continuing our program for door lock upgrades, flooring and asphalt paving projects.
- Starting in the school year 2024-2025 We are tentatively planning various upgrades in HVAC and plumbing systems...again based on my department's evaluations and the 2013 facility condition assessment report.
- At Naperville North we are also anticipating a renovation of the tennis courts at NNHS.
- As we consider all future projects we are anticipating projects at schools which currently are in the rotation for extended year, including summer science and math programs, etc. For example window replacement for River woods could begin after they have completed their multi-year slot for summer school. As I have already mentioned, we will develop an RFQ for a new comprehensive facility assessment of all D203 buildings.



## Board Questions/Comments:

**Thank you for the summary.**

**Are there other things that can get done with the money that hasn't been spent?**

Mr. Dolan stated that we have been doing a number of flooring projects and will be completing some lighting projects. We really are able to get a lot of work done year round.

**How far along are we in the door and lock replacement?**

Superintendent Bridges asked if we could come back in a future meeting with that?

**Are there any energy efficient considerations in these projects and what are the costs?**

Mr. Dolan noted that we are always looking for those efficiencies as well as the durability.

Always a consideration in the overall mix of projects.

Superintendent Bridges added that we can provide a future report of the environmental efficiencies.

**I assume that the reduction of carbon footprint will be a part of the comprehensive blueprint?**

Superintendent Bridges responded that we have identified that as one of our Blueprint Initiatives and we will be in the process of seeking requests for qualifications for consulting in terms of outlining a more comprehensive plan.

**Will this be included in the \$6 million expenditures or will it be separate?**

Superintendent Bridges responded that we would expect that we will need to ask for additional funding.

**Do we have some of these expenses that are shared expenses?**

Mr. Dolan remarked that we are partners with both the city and the park district. We have worked out an agreement with the city on a storm water renovation at JJHS. We have great relationships with the city. Can you talk about Home and School involvement? How does the money they raise play into these improvements?

Mr. Dolan responded that every year there are projects that we work with Home and School, for either funding or ideas. We try to facilitate with all the school communities.

**Please send any additional questions to Superintendent Bridges.**

**Superintendent Bridges asked for a motion to move items 10.01 and 10.02 up in the agenda and them we will return to agenda item 9.02.**

Amanda McMillen made a motion to move agenda items 10.01 and 10.02 to earlier in the agenda, seconded by Donna Wandke. Those voting yes: Kozminski, Cush, Wandke, McMillen, Fitzgerald, Casey, and Gericke. No: None. The motion carried.

## Discussion with Action:

**Establish date for Public Hearing and direct FY23 Amended budget to be put on Public Display  
Mr. Frances noted the Steeple Run work as well as the Driver's Ed Cars.**

## Board Questions/Comments:

**Are they already in the five year forecast?**

Mr. Frances responded they are included.

Donna Wandke made a motion to establish a date for a Public Hearing and direct the FY23 amended budget to be put on display, Amanda McMillen seconded. Those voting yes: Wandke, Gericke, Fitzgerald, McMillen, Cush, Kozminski, and Casey. Those voting no: None. Motion carried.

## 2022 Tax Levy Determination

**Annually the district sets a tax levy, which provides the district with over 85% of its total revenue. Setting the annual tax levy as governed by the Truth in Taxation law, school code property tax code, and property tax extension limit laws and each have specific requirements**

**This is only for action for the resolution to provide notice for a Public Hearing. The Board is not acting on the levy. Truth in taxation requires us to hold a hearing if what we expect to receive will be greater than what was received last year.**

**Mr. Frances shared a presentation that walked thru the levy process.**

- Tonight is the Board's first look at the tentative tax levy for 2022. For tonight's presentation I am going to review
- The laws and requirements that drive the levy process
- The variables that are used in the calculation
- The recommended levy and estimated tax rates as well as the impact on the average homeowner
- The timeline we need to follow
- The recommendations to move forward
- Property taxes are the largest piece of revenue for most school districts throughout the state of Illinois and an even larger share of revenue for districts in our area. Over 85% of our district's budget comes from local property taxes.
- The tax levy we are presenting tonight is the district's formal request for taxes and the first step in the process.
- County Clerks will calculate tax rates around mid-March for bills to be distributed by County Treasurers typically at the beginning of May.
- All taxing agencies must comply with the truth in taxation law, which requires a public hearing if the levy request is greater than a 5% increase over last year's tax extension. Our request tonight will require us to hold a hearing at the December 19 Board of Education meeting.
- Districts in tax-capped counties also must comply with the property tax extension limitation law. Both DuPage and Will Counties, and therefore District 203, have been under this law since its inception in 1991 which limits the overall growth in taxes to existing taxpayers in total to the lesser of the calendar year Consumer Price Index or 5%.
- Of the three variables, only the consumer price index is known at this time. For the 2022 levy, all tax-capped districts are limited to the CPI for the 2021 calendar year, capped at 5%. Even though the actual CPI for 2021 was 7%, tax cap laws limit the increase to 5%.
- The other two variables, new construction and EAV, are not finalized at this time, so we must make estimates on those numbers. We work with our local tax assessors, who have been very helpful in providing estimates for our calculations.
- Not knowing what those final unknown variables will be, we typically increase the levy slightly in order to capture any unanticipated increase in new construction.
- The Board has the ability to reduce the levy after adoption but cannot add to it
- Finally, as far as timeline, all taxing bodies must adopt and file their annual tax levy by the last Tuesday in December, which is December 27 this year.
- The Consumer Price Index is the major driver for changes in annual tax revenue.
- The average over the last thirty years is 2.3%.
- The actual CPI for calendar 2021 used for the 2022 levy was 7.0%, but again, the tax cap law limits that increase to a max of 5.0%. Even with the 5% for this year, the average CPI over the past ten years has been about .5% lower than either of first two ten-year average spans under tax caps.
- Most of us are aware that the current year CPI is again at a high level. The final calendar year 2022 CPI won't be known until January and will not be used in any levy calculation until this time next year.
- While the district's overall maximum increase from existing taxpayers is limited to the CPI on an annual basis, individual property tax bills may differ. There are 3 main factors that determine changes to individual tax bills.
- First, the tax cap law limits what a taxing body can collect in total.

- Secondly, the part that is controlled by the taxing bodies is the amount that they certify to be levied. However, this amount is still subject to the overall tax cap.
- The last piece is the potential difference of changes to assessments of individual properties. Property tax values do not rise uniformly across all parcels. The burden of taxes may shift from taxpayers with lower increases to those with higher increases.
- The first is total EAV or Equalized Assessed Value. This is the total assessed value of all taxable property in the school district.
- Over the last five years the district's, EAV has grown from 4.7 billion to an estimated amount for 2022 of over 5.6 billion. This value will be finalized in the spring.
- The overall EAV is changed by two factors. The first is the existing EAV percent change. This change is what we are estimating an average assessment of a property to change by.
- Based on preliminary numbers from our township assessors, this year's estimate at 4.5% is higher than in most previous years and most similar to 2020.
- The second overall change to EAV is the amount of New EAV, or what we typically call new construction. The final value of new construction will also not be known until the spring. Since we don't yet know that final number, we typically increase the levy slightly to cover potential higher values in this area. Tonight's levy would cover up to approximately 50 million of New EAV growth.
- The tax rate has been very stable between 4.88 and 5.05 with an estimate this year of 4.93 percent.
- Looking ahead a few months to the early spring is when County Clerks calculate tax rates and begin the process of extending taxes, which will notify us of the actual amount the district will receive.
- If our adopted levy request in December is higher than the clerks tax cap calculation, then the levy will be adjusted downward. This is what we anticipate happening if adopted as presented.
- However, if our request is lower than what we are allowed to receive under the cap, we will only receive the levy request.
- If Debt Service is again abated: Average tax bill will increase by CPI (5.0%)
- If Debt Service is not abated: Average tax bill will increase approximately 6.1%
- BOE may consider additional abatements lowering expected increase
- Here is the timeline we are following for the adoption of the levy
- Today marks the date for the tentative levy determination. Later this month, we will be reviewing the levy and assumptions with the citizen finance advisors
- There will be an additional opportunity for the Board to review and discuss the levy at the next meeting scheduled on December 5.
- The Board will be asked to adopt a final levy on December 19 so that we can file the required documents by the last Tuesday in December.
- And finally, the Board will consider adopting our annual debt service abatement at an upcoming meeting in March

**Board Questions/ Comments:**

**Thank you for the presentation.**

**Is there new legislation that allows us to decrease the levy and recover if we see changes in the coming years?**

Mr. Frances responded yes, you can recapture. Still limited to 5% for up to 3 years. As a caution, it will require you to levy for more in future years. New law allows more flexibility.

**We would not necessarily have to recover if we ended up with a surplus.**

Mr. Frances noted that is correct.

**I am concerned that we are going into deficit in the years in the future. What are the plans for staffing?**

Mr. Frances remarked that these projections are with current staffing levels.

Superintendent Bridges added that many times we have some salaries in Collective Bargaining agreements that are tied to CPI so there will be some larger salary increases.

**Can you tell me what the increase in staffing was last year?**

Mr. Frances noted that he doesn't remember but can get that information.

**Is it better to accept the higher levy now and we can reduce it in March?**

Mr. Frances noted that there are laws that require the Board to inform the County Clerk if the Board is going to lowering the levy.

**Can you talk about why you have made your recommendation to capture the full levy specifically with regard to those out years of staff?**

Mr. Frances responded that the vast amount of our salaries are tied to CPI. We are trying to live within our means. We have to fund the labor agreements and all other cost increases.

Superintendent Bridges added that besides Food Service are there any other services that will be going out to bid.

**Thank you for the work that goes into this levy. As a BOE, our work is to look at the impact on our taxpayers. I respect the work but cannot help but look at the surpluses we have had. I am not comfortable with the recommendation. Because we have had surpluses, I would like to see us levy less.**

**What is the impact on taxpayers if we didn't do the EAV growth?**

Mr. Frances stated a reduction in the tax levy would reduce the tax rate for every single piece of property.

**My biggest concern is staff. Would be concerned about the limitations we could have on increases in staff if we don't levy. Salaries are continuing to grow.**

**Didn't we receive some funding due to COVID that we no longer have the funding but we have maintained the positions at our costs. Was some of the surplus due to the lack of positions being filled?**

Mr. Frances responded yes, that is some of the reason for the surplus.

I am not suggesting that we cut staff. We have this legislation that we pushed for and now we are not using it.

This rate is unprecedented and I would hate to see us get into a position where we could not support them.

I have concerns of the list of things that we would like to fund and the cost of all that we are needing to spend.

**If CPI is at 5% then we can't recover anything as long as CPI is capped at 5%. The tool is good but it will limit our ability to recapture.**

Superintendent Bridges noted the 5.99% ask will not increase taxes by that amount, those are taxed at 5%.

**I am looking at all the past years of surpluses and our reserves. We have had so much that we have already returned \$10 million to the taxpayers. I would like to see us use our tools thoughtfully.**

I am concerned about the wage growth.

This board has demonstrated a willingness to return to taxpayers.

I would be good to go to the 5.99% if we discussed the \$9 million surplus.

**Superintendent Bridges reminded the board of what the action is tonight and we will continue to have conversation at the next Board of Education meeting.**

Amanda McMillen made a motion to approve the resolution for the public hearing for truth in taxation, Joe Kozminski seconded. Those voting yes: Cush, Casey, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, McMillen, and Gericke. Those voting no: Wandke. Motion carried.

## **Discussion without Action**

### **2024-2025 Calendar**

**Superintendent Bridges noted that Dr. Nolten has been working with a committee to meet the criteria set by the Board of Education for the 2024-2025 calendar.**

**Dr. Nolten walked thru the process.**

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

Superintendent Bridges remarked that there are always going to be individual stakeholders that would like something different. We try to do what is right for students.

**Why are some of the election days noted as buildings closed but e learning is allowed?**

Dr. Nolten noted that it is a mistake for November 5.

**Is it possible to share this with staff as a tentative calendar?**

Superintendent Bridges noted that Alex Mayster is working on a communication to staff and will include this.

**How did it come about to have to return on Tuesday after Memorial Day?**

Dr. Nolten stated there are limitations and we try to balance out the days between semesters.

Superintendent Bridges added that it is difficult to meet all the criteria.

**Send any additional questions to Superintendent Bridges.**

**We will look for action on December 19,**

## **Policy Update PRESS 108 Update**

Superintendent Bridges reminded the Board of Education about the Policy Manual update that we have done with PRESS. The listed policies are primarily updates to school code. The goal for tonight would be to identify any additional information needed.

Superintendent Bridges will create a document with Board of Education questions and will post on the agenda for all to see.

The value of this is that this keeps our policies up to date with school code changes.

There are policies that are unique to this district that we will keep that reflect the values of the district.

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

**Continue to submit questions to Superintendent Bridges.**

**I submitted questions and was hoping we would begin discussion this evening.**

Superintendent Bridges added that we will get questions and answers to Board early next week.

## **Discussion with Action**

### **Consideration of Board of Education Expenses**

**Superintendent noted the memo in BoardDocs listing the expensed of the Board of Education related to dinner on October 17 as well as the DuPage Divisional Dinner.**

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

**None.**

Charles Cush made a motion to approve the Board of Education expenses as presented, seconded by Joe Kozminski. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, Casey, Cush, McMillen, and Wandke. Those voting no: None. The motion carried.

## **Summer School-2022 Review and 2023 Plans**

**Superintendent Bridges noted that BOE requested additional information that has been added to BoardDocs.**

**It was great to see the presentation last week on the 2022 Summer school and the plan for 2023.**

**Board Questions/ Comments:**

**I am confused as to why we had tuition collected in 2021?**

Mrs. Willard stated that some students take more than one course and we did not allow Drivers Ed to be the free course.

**I would like to keep an eye on the transportation. Want us to be able to expand services instead of increasing the cost of transportation.**

Donna Wandke made a motion to approve the Summer School Plans for 2023, seconded by Charles Cush. Those voting yes: Wandke, McMillen, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, Cush, and Casey. Those voting no: Cush. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Upcoming Events**

Superintendent Bridges noted that the Thanksgiving Holiday is November 23-25. The next Board of Education meeting will be December 5, 2022.

**Adjournment**

Charles Cush moved seconded by Joe Kozminski to adjourn the meeting at 9:53pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Cush, McMillen, Casey, Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, and Wandke. Those voting no: None. The motion carried.

Approved: December 19, 2022

---

Kristin Fitzgerald, President, Board of Education

---

Susan Patton, Secretary, Board of Education