
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NAPERVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 203, DUPAGE AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, HELD AT Washington Junior High School, 201 North Washington Street, NAPERVILLE, IL 60540
March 7, 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 p.m. Board members present: Kristin Fitzgerald, Kristine Gericke, Donna Wandke, Joe Kozminski, Tony Casey, Amanda McMillen, and Charles Cush

Administrators present were:

Dan Bridges, Superintendent,

Bob Ross, Chief Human Resources Officer

Michael Frances, Chief Financial Officer/CSBO

Chala Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

Chuck Freundt, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Brian Hextell, PMA

Closed Session

Kristine Gericke moved, seconded by Tony Casey to go into Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. for consideration of:

1. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District.
2. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives.
3. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (7) the sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts.
4. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (9) Student Disciplinary Cases.

Meeting Opening

Charles Cush made a motion, seconded by Joe Kozminski to return to Open Session at 7:09pm. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Wandke, Casey, Kozminski, McMillen, Gericke, and Cush. 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, Donna Wandke, Amanda McMillen, Tony Casey, Joe Kozminski, Kristine Gericke, and Charles Cush.

Student Ambassadors present: None.

Administrators present: Dan Bridges, Superintendent, John Bruesch, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Roger Brunelle, Chief Information Officer, Michael Frances, Chief Financial Officer, Chuck Freundt, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Chala Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Rakeda Leaks, Executive Director of Inclusion and Diversity, Alex Mayster, Executive Director for Communications, Patrick Nolten, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, Bob Ross, Chief Human Resources Officer, Jayne Willard, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Lisa Xagas, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by the Board of Education

Good News

Students, staff and community members across the district found ways to celebrate Black History Month in February. A few examples shown on this slide include the creation of a [Black History Month Periodic Table](#) to recognize and celebrate black Americans at Naperville North, a district-wide SUCCESS event highlighting Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Elmwood kindergartners learning about and creating stories and artwork on important black American figures.

Three Naperville 203 high school students recently reached the finals of the 48th annual Harvard National Forensics Tournament. Hundreds of students from across the country competed through the prelims, quarterfinals and semifinals, with only 12 – including Naperville North’s Jimmy Baek and Zachary Wu, and Naperville Central’s Joey Rubas – reaching the finals. Congratulations on a job well done.

Public Comment:

None.

Action by Consent:

1. Adoption of Personnel Report:

	Effective Date	Location	Position
RESIGNATION-CERTIFIED			
Janell Larson	5/27/2022	Lincoln	School Social Worker
Jennifer Robinson	5/27/2022	Madison/Steeple Run	School Psychologist
APPOINTMENT-CERTIFIED PART-TIME			
Andres Olivares	3/2/2022	Maplebrook	Occupational Therapist
EMPLOYMENT OF INTERNS-CERTIFIED			
Ethan Bricker	8/12/2022	Naper/ Prairie	Social Work Intern
Michael Weisensee	8/12/2022	Mill Street	Social Work Intern
LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED			
Courtney Levin	SY 22/23 20% LOA	Naperville North	Social Science
RESIGNATION-NON-UNION CLASSIFIED			
Tracey C. LaFlamme	3/11/2022	PSAC	Business Office Specialist
RESIGNATION-CLASSIFIED			
Sheryce D. Jetter	3/11/2022	Kennedy	Special Education Assistant
EMPLOYMENT-NON-UNION CLASSIFIED			
Kevin M. Bee	3/14/2022	Buildings & Grounds	Operations Manager

Dan Goulson	3/7/2022	PSAC	Senior Support Analyst
Sheree G. King	3/2/2022	PSAC	S Senior Support Analyst
EMPLOYMENT-CLASSIFIED FULL-TIME			
Jacqueline A. Swanson	3/7/2022	Kennedy	Special Education Assistant
EMPLOYMENT-CLASSIFIED PART-TIME			
Jonathan W. Richert	2/28/2022	NCHS	Assistant Auditorium Manager

2. Student Discipline

Donna Wandke made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda including Student Discipline as amended, seconded by Amanda McMillen. Those voting yes: Casey, Wandke, Gericke, Cush, McMillen, Kozminski, and Fitzgerald. No: None.

Superintendent/Staff/School Report Naperville 203 COVID Update

- Our goals have remained consistent throughout the pandemic. We must continue to be flexible in our planning in order to ensure our plans are responsive to the current situation. We have to ensure a safe learning environment and work environment for our students and staff.
- We must remain committed to continuing our focus on our primary mission and purpose of our school district - the academic and social-emotional growth of our students and focus on healing and moving forward.
- Even with updated guidance from CDC, we are confident that our guiding principles continue to guide us.
- The DuPage County Health Department recommends schools monitor the trend in new cases to inform the need for more or less mitigation strategies. Our primary indicators to consider will first be our building case counts followed by our community transmission rate. We will monitor for both spikes and trends in order to have a clear picture when determining how and when to add or reduce mitigations. We have updated our dashboard to reflect this.
- We recognize that if the vaccine is considered to be one of the most important mitigation factors, we will need to continue to partner to provide opportunities for those who wish to be vaccinated. Should at some point a vaccine become limited in availability or effectiveness, this could serve as another indicator.
- Hospital Intensive Care Unit bed availability is an indicator of hospital capacity. Hospitalizations tend to lag increases or decreases in new infections, so hospitalization indicators provide a less timely notification of changes in trends. It is an additional indicator we will monitor.
- Throughout the pandemic, we have indicated that we would follow the guidance from public health officials. Since our last update on February 22, the CDC updated its guidance.
- The CDC's latest guidance is based not only on where we are right now in the pandemic, but also on the tools we now have at our disposal — such as vaccines, boosters, tests, and treatments — and it's latest understanding of the disease. In its new framework, the CDC established a COVID-19 Community Levels framework. [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data.
- Effective February 25, 2022, CDC exercised its enforcement discretion to not require masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs.

- With current high levels of vaccination and high levels of population immunity from both vaccination and infections, the risk of medically significant disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 is greatly reduced for most people.
- In addition to protecting those at highest risk of severe outcomes, focusing on reducing medically significant illness and minimizing strain on the healthcare system reflects our current understanding of SARS-CoV-2 infection, immunity from vaccination and infection, and the tools we have available. Vaccines are highly protective against severe disease, and continuing to expand vaccine coverage and ensuring people are [up to date with vaccination](#) is essential to protecting individuals against hospitalizations and deaths.
- The community level for DuPage County is currently low.
- In response to the updated CDC community level guidance and Naperville 203's local metrics, we have updated our dashboard.

Board Questions/Comments:

Thank you for the dashboard and that it is linked to each school and that we have included not just the cases per 100, 000 but also the hospitalizations.

For the low spread level it says to follow the CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, have those been updated as well or is it still five days quarantine and then five days masking?

Superintendent Bridges remarked that the CDC no longer recommends isolation for close contact tracing.

Mrs. Xagas added that we still require five days of isolation for those who are positive or if a student has symptoms they are required to have a negative test or be out five days. The CDC guidance has changed regarding close contact tracing but at this time, we are still notifying parents if their child has been a close contact.

Superintendent Bridges noted that we have returned to preCovid times in terms of how we handle infectious disease within our schools.

Even though the community is in low transmission, could additional mitigations be put onto an individual school?

Superintendent Bridges stated that we would continue to monitor on a sit by site basis. We will work to continue community education and will work with HD on any site by site outbreaks.

Thank you for taking our comments and thoughts regarding the dashboard.

Thank you for the simplicity of the Dashboard and what the colors mean.

Thank you. Easy to understand. It is exciting to hear that our mitigations are working and our case counts are lower.

President's Report

We have been continuing to revise our Policy Manual. Next week we will begin reviewing the Manual. PRESS has reviewed all updates. Next week, 1, 2, 3 and 8, then 4 and 5 then 6 and 7.

Board of Education reports:

None

Discussion without Action

Debt Service Levy

Superintendent Bridges noted that annually, the Board of Education has the option to abate all or part of the debt service levy if it is determined that the District has adequate resources to make the required bond payments without the tax levy. The 2021 levy year required bond and interest payments total \$2,882,000. Since the district is estimated to receive \$158,200 from the Federal Government for offset on the Build America Bonds, the abatement is for \$2,723,800.

New for this year, Public Act 102-0519 increases our levy by any prior year adjustment, which resulted in a decrease from certificates of error, Property Tax Appeal Board refunds, or court order. On March 1st, we received the value from the DuPage County Clerk's office. The aggregate refunds for District 203 totaled \$303,750.16. This amount is set to be added to the District's tax extension by the Clerk. However, the Board may elect to abate these funds through a resolution process similar to the Debt Service abatement.

Board Questions/Comments

What would the tax money be used for if we were to collect it?

Mr. Frances responded that it could be used for most anything. It is a very small amount.

How does this tie in to previous budget forecasts?

Mr. Frances stated we typically forecast up to 99.9% of our tax extension because of the history that we have never collected 100%. This law potentially gets us closer to 100%. If we don't abate this, we would increase our projections slightly.

Would this offset any deficit and if so how much?

Mr. Frances remarked yes, by \$300,000.

How does this play into the conversations we have been having with regard to the reserve?

Would you prepare a resolution so we have it if the Board of Education wants to take action as part of the saving taxpayer dollars? It is hard to make a decision without considering it in light of the whole entire effort on the reserve.

So you can be prepared, we'll prepare a resolution to have for consideration and we'll put on the agenda.

In regards to the \$303,000, it would be added only for this year or would it be added every year?

Mr. Frances noted that this is a one time value. There will be refunds from this year that will be added next year.

This does not add \$300,000 each year like the levy?

Mr. Frances responded, correct, there will be a different amount next year.

So this is a decision for this year and next year we will be asked to make the decision again and we could make a different decision?

Mr. Frances stated that he would not recommend going back and forth on.

How is it not good to go back and forth each year.

Mr. Frances noted that the Bond abatement has been consistent the past 6 years. If you don't do it every year, there will be less consistency in tax bills.

To clarify, this additional abatement does not build on itself.

Will consider next meeting in light of the recommendation with regard to policy.

Resolution: Transfer of Funds for Debt Abatement

Superintendent Bridges stated conditional to the approval of the abatement would require passage of this resolution on March 21.

Board Questions/Comments

At the next Board of Education meeting, there will be two resolutions, this one and one for the additional amount.

EC-12 Certified and District SPED Staffing Projection

Superintendent Bridges noted that annually many members of administration work collaboratively to provide a recommendation to the Board of Education on staffing projections. There is a memorandum with some background information and data in Board Docs regarding staffing projections for the 2022-2023 school year. We will be asking for action on March 21.

Board Questions/Comments:

What is the rationale for Junior High increase? It sounds like it is more of an accounting change than new people being hired.

Dr. Bruesch noted that we accounted for all staff including additional 5th grade staff at WJHS. The new staff accounts for about 3, which is the change from the increasing of world languages and a slight increase, from the change from quarter to trimester and then a slight change in student services.

So, in the past, these were paid out of different funds.

Correct.

TRS Supplemental Savings Plan

Superintendent Bridges asked Michael Frances to talk about this plan.

TRS is required to define their supplemental savings plan. Our legal counsel has prepared this. All school districts will have to opt into one of the plans. As a district, we already offer a 457 plan; this would be an additional plan.

Board Questions/Comments

None.

We will look for action at the March 21 Board of Education meeting.

Discussion with Action

Suspension of Policy 4.172

Superintendent Bridges noted that at the February 22 meeting it was mentioned that we would review suspending this policy. There is a memorandum in BoardDocs with a background of the need for creation of this policy in order to comply with the Executive Order. On February 25, the CDC updated mask guidance and there is no longer a mask mandate.

Board Questions/Comments

None.

Amanda McMillen made a motion to suspend Policy 4.712, Face Covering Policy, seconded by Kristine Gericke. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Casey, Wandke, Gericke, McMillen, Kozminski, and Cush. No: None.

Consideration of Board of Education Expenses

Superintendent Bridges noted that the Board is required to present expenses related to meals, travel and lodging for approval by roll call vote. The expenses are for the Board meal before the February 7 Board of Education meeting

Board Questions/Comments:

None.

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

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Upcoming Events

Superintendent Bridges noted the next inFocus 203 is Wednesday March 9 at 7:00 pm. Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday March 21 at 7:00pm. NEF Breakfast will be held on March 23.

Adjournment

Joe Kozminski moved seconded by Kristine Gericke to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Those voting yes: Fitzgerald, Kozminski, Gericke, Casey, Cush, McMillen, and Wandke. Those voting no: None.

Approved: March 21, 2022

Kristin Fitzgerald, President, Board of
Education

Susan Patton, Secretary, Board of
Education