

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for March 16, 2021**

Call To Order

Mr. Tepper called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: Julie Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
James Strezewski, Meg Woodman, Renee Klass, Michael Burns, Cynthia Zarkowsky and
Marc Tepper
Remote: None
Late: None
Absent: Dina Manka

Welcome to Visitors

President Tepper welcomed members of the faculty, community, and press to the Zoom meeting. Mr. Tepper noted that there were no public comments submitted.

Approval of Minutes

February 2021

A motion was presented by Mr. Strezewski and seconded by Mrs. Woodman to approve the minutes of February 2 & 16, 2021, as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

Aye: Strezewski, Woodman, Klass, Burns, Zarkowsky and Tepper

Nay: None

Financial Statements

Mr. Hitcho presented the financial reports noting that all reports were in order. With no questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Tepper directed the business office to place the following Financial Statements for the month of February 2021 appropriately on file in the business office: Treasurer's Report, Budget Reports, and Activity Report.

Board Reports

Finance Committee

Mr. Strezewski stated the Finance Committee had reviewed the Forecast5 financial projections. He noted that the projections for capital improvements and compensation and benefits were tightened up, giving a more realistic projection. The committee also reviewed the defined contribution plan offered by TRS to employees for supplemental savings. This plan will be in addition to the other plans offered to faculty and staff. While it's not necessary to approve the TRS plan, it offers another choice to employees and the committee members recommend approval.

Policy Committee

None at this time.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper reported HB2170 has been approved even though it has some troubling items included. He noted there are a lot of hearings going on in the Illinois legislature. These include HB 433, which allows for the consolidation of school districts, HB1906 which allows for the discontinuation of mandates for five years, and HB124 which allows school districts to drop certain unfunded curriculum mandates in the state is late in payments. The American Rescue Plan (APR) has been approved giving \$1,390,000 in funding to education following the ESSA guidelines. This funding will not supplant any state responsibilities to fund education but will be in addition. On March 1, 2021, Miguel Cardona was approved as the US Secretary of Education.

Mrs. Schmidt added that education lobbyists were able to remove a few of the more troubling items from HB2170 and several exploratory committees have been assigned. School district lobbyists will not support HB7 which requires school district consolidation. While this topic will not go away entirely, the costs associated with school district consolidation can be very high and districts would want to make sure it is not a forced action but has local consensus.

ELC Update

Mrs. Klass reported the ELC met on March 4, 2021, where besides the routine business items, the board also started looking at the current structure and financing of the ELC, which has grown substantially since its inception 6 years ago. Any changes would require a change of bylaws.

Thought Exchange Partnership Update

The next meeting will be April 1, 2021, where a discussion of non-academic student needs will be led by Mrs. Gluck and the District social workers.

Guiding Coalition on Interculturalism Update

Mrs. Zarkowsky reported the GCI met on February 24, 2021, where they reviewed the great things that are happening in the District. For instance, on the February 24, 2021, asynchronous day, students were engaging in a variety of activities about accepting themselves and accepting others. The GCI had an opportunity to review the 2022-23 calendar options and provide feedback. Also, the GCI has created an Instagram feed featuring local families. The GCI members will present to the Board of Education on April 6, 2021.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee.

Mr. Burns reported the committee has met several times to discuss how to bring all students back to school safely. It has been very positive work and he thanked Mrs. Sheridan, Mr. Keenan and Mr. Miranda for their leadership and efforts in the area. The administrative team will take over planning for the return of students and the committee will go on hiatus until Fall 2021, when it will return to its original purpose of looking at long term space and facility issues.

Human Capital and Adult Leadership Committee

Mrs. Zarkowsky reported the committee did not meet in February.

Lake Division Meeting – March 10, 2021

Mrs. Woodman reported all Board members attended the March Lake Division meeting, which was held virtually. The speaker was Mr. Zack Messersmith, who spoke about the role of board members as an advocate in legislative processes.

Other

None at this time.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Update

Mrs. Schmidt reviewed the steps the District has taken in following guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and LCHD. Illinois released revised school guidance March 9, 2021. This new guidance allows for 3 – 6 feet of distancing in classrooms. Based on the CDC's model, Lake County incidence rates have plateaued at 9.4 as of March 12, 2021, and Positivity Rates are at 2.9%, putting the metrics in a very good place close to the moderate transmission category.

Currently, KCSD96 has processed about 2700 saliva samples per week for a total of over 19,000 samples since January. Of those samples, 11 were identified as needing follow up, and 9 of those tested positive and were asymptomatic. This indicates that the screening processes in place are working as intended. Once all staff members are fully vaccinated, we can discontinue their population screening. So far 92% of staff members have received their first dose, and 59% have received their second dose. A total of 96% of the D96 staff intend to be fully vaccinated and we expect all to have both doses by April 10, 2021. After April 9, 2021, parents can discontinue participation in the population screening if they choose, although they can continue to participate as long as the District offers the screening process.

KCSD96 remains aligned to the most updated CDC guidance which requires continued use of face masks, social distancing as defined by the new guidance of 3-6 feet in classrooms, contact tracing, increased cleaning and disinfecting, and continued hand hygiene. In-person instruction will be prioritized over other activities, bus capacity is limited to 50 persons, cluster cases would initiate a return to remote learning, and a full remote option must be offered to families who are at increased risk.

As a result of the recent survey, 495 students will return to in-person learning for a total of 66% of KCSD96 students in-person. Of those students, 424 have consented to the saliva screening and will return to school on March 29, 2021. The remaining students will return on April 7, 2021. Kindergarten will remain a ½ day program for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. The schedule for an expansion of in-person learning for grades 1 – 8 will look like this:

- **March 29:** 424 formerly full remote learners will return to in-person learning following the current schedule
- **Friday, April 2:** District Holiday No Attendance
- **Monday, April 5:** Non-Attendance Day
- **Tuesday, April 6:** Teacher Institute Day
- **Wednesday, April 7:** 23 additional formerly full remote learners will return to in-person learning post travel following the current schedule
- **Wednesday, April 7:** 311 IEP and 504 students are eligible to begin to attend 5 days per week across the district

- **Monday, April 12:** All in-person learners Grades 1-8 begin 5 day attendance

At this time, KCSD96 is recommending all schools will open 5-days per week for all learners in the 2021-22 school year, kindergarten will resume its full day program, and a full remote option will be offered to families who have an increased risk of severe illness.

Despite this return, three situations would cause a return to full remote learning:

1. Local or state official determination
2. A KCSD96 school or schools with multiple positive cases
3. Lack of internal capacity to support in person learning (adults)

Mrs. Schmidt encouraged all families, faculty and students to follow all health and safety protocols to ensure a smooth transition back to in person learning. This presentation will be shared with the community on March 17, 2021. Any questions from community members should be directed to building principals and administration for accurate information.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Consideration of Superintendent Search Firm Appointment

A motion was presented by Mrs. Zarkowsky and seconded by Mrs. Klass to Appoint School Exec Connect as consultants for the superintendent search. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Zarkowsky, Strezewski, Woodman, Klass, Burns and Tepper

Nay: None

Consideration of Summer School/Extended School Year Program Cost

A motion was presented by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mrs. Klass to provide extended school year programming and Tiers 2 and 3 intervention programming at no cost to students, and to provide Tier 1 enrichment programming at a cost of \$25/student for 3-day programming and \$50/student for 4-day programming. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Burns, Zarkowsky, Strezewski, Woodman, Klass and Tepper

Nay: None

Executive Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was presented by Mr. Strezewski and seconded by Mr. Burns to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

- The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probably or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Strezewski, Woodman, Klass, Burns, Zarkowsky and Tepper

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:11 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

A motion was presented by Mr. Strezewski and seconded by Mrs. Zarkowsky for the meeting to reconvene in open session. On a roll call vote the motion carried. The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:50 p.m.

Aye: Strezewski, Woodman, Klass, Burns, Zarkowsky and Tepper

Nay: None

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Woodman and seconded by Mrs. Klass to approve the minutes of the closed session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Woodman, Klass, Burns, Zarkowsky, Strezewski and Tepper

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment and Dismissal – Certified Staff

i. Resignations

A motion was presented by Mrs. Woodman and seconded by Mrs. Zarkowsky to accept the resignation of the following individual:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>FTE</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| McDaniels, Courtney | EC Teacher | 1.0 | WG | 06/03/21 |

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Woodman, Klass, Burns, Zarkowsky, Strezewski and Tepper

Nay: None

ii. Employment

None at this time.

Employment, Appointment and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

i. Recommendations for Employment, Appointment and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Mrs. Zarkowsky and seconded by Mrs. Woodman to approve the revised memo presented by Dr. Dalton for the employment, appointment and dismissal of certain educational support personnel as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Zarkowsky, Woodman, Klass, Burns, Strezewski and Tepper

Nay: None

ii. Unpaid Leave of Absence

A motion was presented by Mrs. Zarkowsky and seconded by Mr. Burns to approve the unpaid leave of absence requested by Anuradha Chandak, special education aide at Prairie School, as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Zarkowsky, Woodman, Klass, Burns, Strezewski and Tepper

Nay: None

Consent Agenda

A motion was presented by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Strezewski to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Presentation of Bills – March 2021 - to approve the March 2021 bills as presented in the following amounts:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Education | \$3,102,235.74 |
| Operations | \$353,910.89 |
| Debt Service | \$0.00 |
| Transportation | \$138,236.71 |
| IMRF | \$0.00 |
| Social Security | \$0.00 |
| Capital Projects | \$44,161.20 |
| Working Cash | \$0.00 |
| Tort Immunity | \$960.00 |
| <u>Life Safety</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| Totals | \$3,639,504.54 |

Approval of TRS Supplemental Savings Plan: To approve the resolution to authorize the adoption of the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Burns, Zarkowsky, Strezewski, Woodman, Klass and Tepper

Nay: None

Discussion Items

Mrs. Sheridan and Mrs. Spiller led the Board in a review of the calendar options for the 2022-23 school year. In all options, the first day for students would be August 18, 2022. Mrs. Sheridan reported that parents and faculty prefer to cluster days off together, allowing for several options in October and March having to do with family/educator conference days. Two options were provided for winter break, which

would be dependent on action Stevenson High School may take to accommodate final exams before winter break. Mrs. Sheridan will present the options to the PTO and has already met with the TEP, GCI and staff. The final calendar will be brought to the Board for action on April 6, 2021.

Information Items

2020-21 School Year Assessment Plans

The state has given school districts the option to test students in the late spring of 2020-21, or in the fall of the 2021-22 school year. If we test students for the 2020-21 school year in the fall of 2021-22, we would then be testing them again for the 21-22 school year in the spring, and would prefer not to do so. Students must be in-person to take the tests and there will be no penalty to the District if families chose not to participate this year. The District will not receive a rating based on the 2020-21 testing scores. Thus, District 96 has opted to complete all assessment requirements in the spring window.

FOIA Requests

The District received one (1) FOIA request(s) since February 16, 2021, which has been responded to appropriately.

Board Comments

The board members discussed the impact of COVID on school operations.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Board of Education, a motion was presented by Mr. Strezewski and seconded by Mrs. Zarkowsky to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Strezewski, Woodman, Klass, Burns, Zarkowsky, and Tepper

Nay: None

Mr. Tepper adjourned the March 16, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 9:01 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for April 6, 2021.

Date Minutes Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education