

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Minutes for April 6, 2021**

Call To Order

Mr. Tepper called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting.

Roll Call

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

Welcome to Visitors

President Tepper welcomed members of the faculty, community, and press to the Zoom meeting. Mr. Tepper stated that no public comment(s) were submitted to Mrs. Schmidt and that this meeting was being recorded.

Administrative Reports

Guiding Coalition on Interculturalism and Equity

Mrs. Sheridan introduced members of the Guiding Coalition on Interculturalism and Equity (GCI). Debbie Sainte Rose provided the history of the group, which was created by the Board and administration in 2015. In September 2016, the first committee was formed with seven members. Following several months of work, the team came up with a name (GCI) and purpose. As the GCI progressed, they incorporated four tools into their work, the Intercultural Development Continuum, the Mosaic of Diversity, the Iceberg Analogy, and the Ladder of Inference.

Over time, the GCI added members to the group and expanded their work to include a presentation to the Board, a KCSD96 Institute Day, and a Consortium Institute Day. The GCI also launched the Newcomer Welcome video, letter and parent meetings. Students were incorporated into the GCI in 2018 and in 2019 the GCI split into 4 committees including cultural conversations, representation walks in schools led by students, curricular audits and more student involvement.

In 2020, the GCI continued their work virtually by surveying teachers, and creating a “mini” GCI whose members were students. Three 8th grade students, Maya Heller, Tanusha Santosh and Rajan Sukhatme, spoke to the Board about their experience as part of the GCI. Their suggestions included supporting conversations about racist comments, creating policy on how to handle them, and incorporating equity topics into SEL curriculum.

The GCI created an Instagram feed, D96GCI, which highlights the “humans” of District 96. As the GCI moves into the 21/22 school year, they will continue staff education and representation, work in the four committees, and engage in an equity audit. Mrs. Sheridan noted that support from the Board members will make sure the work continues and becomes a goal in the District.

Superintendent's Update

Mrs. Schmidt reviewed the metrics and mitigation changes since March 2020 to the present. Currently the Incidence Rate is 3.4%, which is higher than March but puts us in the Low Transmission category. The District is now processing about 2000 population samples per week. Since January, 13 people were identified for further testing, 10 of whom tested positive for Covid-19. Contact tracing resulted in 0 people being identified as close contacts.

As of the most recent survey, 93.5% of D96 educators have received their second dose, and a total of 96% of D96 educators intend to be vaccinated. The pods at Stevenson High School and Round Lake High School have been put on pause and may reopen to provide vaccines for students when appropriate.

Mrs. Schmidt explained that schools operate under specific guidelines for school-based learning. All other activities outside of the school day are governed by the IDPH and the state of Illinois. The state has created a bridge from Phase 4 to Phase 5. This bridge would relax mitigations when 70% of people over age 65 are vaccinated and the state has reached 28 consecutive days of no reversal in COVID-19 hospital admissions and deaths. So far only 44.7% of this group has been fully vaccinated and as hospital admissions and deaths creep up, we restart our 28-day calendar every day. To reach full Phase 5, 50% of all people age 16 and over would be fully vaccinated and we would experience 28 consecutive days of stable COVID-19 metrics.

It is likely we will not have updated (Bridge to Phase 5) guidance in time for a graduation celebration and so the District has begun working on a plan that complies with the current Phase 4 mitigations. Each middle school has about 200 8th grade students and principals and assistant principals are looking at options to recognize the students using appropriate safety mitigations.

Mrs. Schmidt reviewed the in-person/full remote attendance by school, which shows the differences between school buildings. Lunch continues to be the biggest challenge as each school needs to use more space to maintain the 6' social distancing, which requires more supervision. Mrs. Schmidt noted that on April 12, 2021, all in-person learners will begin attending school 5-days per week.

Plans for opening the 2021-22 school year include 5-days per week of in person instruction, full day kindergarten, and tuition based early childhood classes. The state will require school districts to offer a full remote learning program but likely it will require medical documentation to qualify.

Mrs. Schmidt reviewed the scenarios that would require a return to full remote learning. These include a local or state decision to do so, a cluster of positive cases in a particular school, or a lack of internal capacity with a high number of adults unavailable. She reminded everyone to continue to adhere to all safety protocols, both in and out of school, and to seek information from the appropriate sources.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Consideration of FY23 Academic Calendar

Mrs. Sheridan reviewed the recommended academic calendar for the 2022-23 school year. August, September, November, January and February have only one option and are presented as is. Optional recommendations are October Option B with conferences following a District holiday, December Option C with winter break beginning on Friday, December 23, 2022, March Option B putting conferences directly

before spring break, April moved the half day to Friday, April 21, and May/June Option C with June 2 as the last day of attendance.

A motion was presented by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mrs. Klass to approve the FY23 academic calendar as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Consideration of SchoolExecConnect Letter of Agreement

Following review by KCSD96 legal counsel, the Letter of Agreement with SchoolExecConnect to provide superintendent search services was presented for consideration. With no questions or comments forthcoming a motion was presented by Mrs. Zarkowsky and seconded by Mr. Burns to approve the Letter of Agreement as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:36 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

A motion was presented by Mr. Strezewski and seconded by Mrs. Woodman for the meeting to reconvene in open session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried. The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:48 p.m.

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

Nay: None

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

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

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

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment and Dismissal – Certified Staff

i. Resignations

A motion was presented by Mr. Strezewski and seconded by Mrs. Woodman to accept the resignations of the following individuals:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>FTE</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| Peterson, Katrina | Special Education | 1 | Woodlawn | 6/3/2021 |
| Tlapek, Emma | Grade 1 Dual Lang | 1 | CntryMead | 6/3/2021 |

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

ii. Employment

A motion was presented by Mrs. Woodman and seconded by Mr. Burns to approve the employment of the following individual for the 2021-22 school year and placed appropriately on the salary schedule:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>FTE</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| Mahmood, Saba | School Psychologist | 1 | Woodlawn | 8/9/2021 |

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

iii. Contract Leave of Absence Request

A motion was presented by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mrs. Woodman to approve the contract leave of absence request submitted by Jill Hammer for the 2021-22 school year as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

iv. Request for Additional Staff

A motion was presented by Mrs. Zarkowsky and seconded by Mr. Strezewski to approve the request for an additional 1.0 FTE special education teacher at Willow Grove for the 2021-22 school year as presented by Mrs. Dunn. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Employment, Appointment and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

i. Recommendations for Employment, Appointment and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Mr. Strezewski and seconded by Mrs. Klass 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: Strezewski, Woodman, Klass, Burns, Manka, Zarkowsky and Tepper

Nay: None

Discussion Items

Review of Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2021-22 School Year

Mr. Tepper reviewed the proposed Board of Education meeting dates for the 2021-22 school year. With no comments or objections from other board members, Mr. Tepper directed the administration to publicize the dates as presented.

Curriculum Adoption: *Really Great Reading* Early Literacy Foundational Skills

The Board directed Mrs. Sheridan to place the proposed curriculum adoption, *Really Great Reading*, on public review. The Board will consider the proposed adoption at their next meeting on April 20, 2021.

Information Items

Faculty Retirement and Recognition Plans – May 28, 2021

Mrs. Schmidt reported the District will host an outdoor picnic on May 28, 2021 to recognize faculty members across the District. All Board members are invited to attend and further details will be provided.

Board Comments

Mr. Burns read a thank you card.

Adjournment

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

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

Nay: None

Mr. Tepper adjourned the April 6, 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 20, 2021.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

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