

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for December 15, 2020**

Call To Order

Mr. Tepper called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: Julie Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

Remote: James Strezewski, Meg Woodman, Renee Klass, Michael Burns, Dina Manka, Cynthia Zarkowsky and Marc Tepper attended via Zoom virtual meeting.

Late: None

Absent: None

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

November 2020

A motion was presented by Mr. Strezewski and seconded by Mr. Burns to approve the minutes of November 17 and 20, 2020 as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

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

Nay: None

Financial Statements

Mr. Hitcho presented the financial reports noting that all reports were in order. He reported the District has made one investment in December. With no questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Tepper directed the business office to place the following Financial Statements for the month of November 2020 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 recommended fee schedule for the 21/22 school year, the audit and the transportation contract amendment. The committee recommends approval of all three.

Policy Committee

Mrs. Zarkowsky reported the policy committee reviewed eight policies submitted by PRESS. The recommendations included legal updates, language changes, and a 5-year review. The policy committee recommends approval of the policies following public review.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper reported on federal legislation under review that includes a request from the Department of Defense to start rating public schools. While nothing is final yet, we will watch to see what happens with this legislation.

ELC Update

Mrs. Klass reported the ELC met with routine agenda items of hires, resignations, policy review and an update on in-person services. The ELC has been approached by other districts asking how they continue to service students during the pandemic. The food bank also continues at the ELC and is being used by many families.

Thought Exchange Partnership Update

Mrs. Manka reported the next meeting of the TEP will be January 7, 2021.

Guiding Coalition on Interculturalism Update

Mrs. Schneider reported the GCI, following up their previous work of creating a big vision, broke into 5 smaller groups to work on curriculum, diversity, physical space, staff representation and student voice.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee.

Mr. Burns reported the committee did not meet in December.

Human Capital and Adult Leadership Committee

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

Other

Mrs. Klass reported she had visited Angela Santucci's kindergarten classroom recently. Mrs. Santucci presented a literacy lesson and the students were very engaged.

Mrs. Schmidt thanked the District 96 PTOs, who recently updated their KINF definition to provide broader support to families in need. The PTOs provided \$100 gift cards to families in need identified by each school building.

Administrative Reports

Re-Opening Plan Status and Check In

Mrs. Schmidt stated that District 96 has been consistently following the Lake County Public Health Guidelines and metrics, as the consortium school districts have. While Positivity Rates are important, Incidence Rates are the most critical for determining next steps. Since November 17, 2020, Incidence Rates in Lake County have gone down from 83.5/100000 to 48/100000, and Positivity Rates have reduced from 15.5% to 11%. In Region 9, Positivity Rates have reduced from 17.1% to 11.2%. While we don't use the District 96 zip codes of 60047, 60089 and 60061 to make decisions, the Incidence Rates have ticked upward from 43/100000 to 48.5/100000, while the Positivity Rates have remained steady with a slight increase of 8.2% to 8.4%. Among our staff zip codes, Incidence Rates have dropped from 122/100000 to 75/100000, and Positivity Rates from 13.4% to 9.5%. While the downward trend is promising, the category remains Substantial Spread. Currently, Region 9 is in Tier 3 mitigations but on track to move to Tier 2; this is a decision that can only be made by the Governor.

Public comments from Health Department officials indicate they agree it's best for children to learn in-person. While District 96 must comply with the IDPH decision tree protocols, there are mitigating measures that we can add to increase the likelihood of returning to in-person learning sooner. One of these measures is adding screening and testing to our current mitigations of maintaining a 6' distance, small class sizes, wearing masks, maintaining hand hygiene, self-certifying daily, cleaning and sanitizing protocols, barriers where necessary, cooperating with contact tracing and following the IDPH decision tree. There are two types of testing, symptomatic testing of individuals and proactive screening. Adding both to the current mitigation measures will lower the risks of transmission and allow for students to return to in-person learning in a hybrid model sooner than metrics alone.

District 96 has been approved for a CLIA Waiver meaning all schools can store and administer the BinaxNow test. The District has obtained a BinaxNOW supply for symptomatic adults and students with parental consent. The test is being administered by appointment only at Woodlawn Middle School currently. Proactive Population testing has now become available for schools and Mrs. Schmidt is recommending the Board approve pursuing this testing for all adults, and students who participate in in-person learning. In order to qualify, the District would have to run a pilot program, and with the Board's approval, will begin the pilot with 12-month employees working through the winter break. While it is not required, all faculty and staff will be strongly encouraged to participate. Adults reporting to the schools five days per week would be screened twice per week. Students in the in-person hybrid model would be tested once per week. Requiring student participation is acceptable as long as the District continues to offer a full remote learning model.

The Pfizer vaccine has been approved and Counties will begin administration of the vaccine immediately upon receipt. Health care workers are in Phase 1A, and currently educators are in Phase 1B of administration. School districts are lobbying to maintain this status. The local health department will distribute the vaccine and the opportunity to sign up with Lake County for vaccine information has been made available to the District 96 community. Districts 96, 102, 103, 125 and the ELC are pursuing the opportunity to become a "closed pod" to vaccinate employees on campus. The vaccine is not approved for children under 16.

Mrs. Schmidt will share tonight's presentation with the full community on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. The District will continue to monitor trends. Pending Board approval, the Proactive Population test will be piloted with current staff over winter break, and expand to include all building administrators and office staff on January 4, 2021. On that date, we will request consent from parents to test in-person students. We anticipate bringing in low-incidence students on a shortened schedule January 11, 2021 and will update the community on the metrics trends and the status of returning to in-person hybrid learning on January 12, 2021. Should we proceed with returning students to in-person, it will be the same phase-in model used in October with students in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 coming in first, students in grades 3 thru 6 coming in next, followed by students in grades 7 and 8 coming in.

College and Career Pathways: Exploration and Application

Mrs. Gluck introduced her team, Michelle Garlick, Jackie Jessonge and Michelle Koulentes. The team presented on the District's progress toward the Board's 2020-21 goal of "100% of middle school students will participate in exploring college and career pathways."

National data indicates that college will be required for 68% of careers in the United States. Many students arrive at high school unprepared to consider college and career opportunities. Grades 6 – 8 is a good time to begin exploring college and career options to prepare for high school and beyond. The preparation includes both academic and soft skills. The District has done vertical articulation for grades 6 – 8 and high school. Dedicated career/college time is available once per month during FLEX. Grade 6 begins by learning their own individual styles, interests and strengths. This is a good transition to middle school. Grade 7 explores career clusters, opportunities and problem-solving. Grade 8 focuses on more specific career opportunities and begin planning for such in high school and post high school. Some of those skills include writing a resume, writing a letter to someone in their selected field, and learning how to interview. These are good skills to prepare for high school. Future plans for the program include a connection with Stevenson High School, hosting a career fair for students, practice interviews and problem-based learning activities.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Public Hearing On Tax Levy

Mr. Tepper opened the public hearing at 8:19 p.m. Mr. Hitcho explained the need to file a request for funds to be levied to the county clerk by December 22, 2020, even though all the information needed will not be available until April 2021. At this time, KCSD96 has completed a review of the budget and will submit an estimate of the amount of funds to be levied. Once the EAV and CPI is known in April 2021, a final request for funds to be levied will be presented to the county clerk. With no comments or questions from the Board members, Mr. Tepper opened the hearing to questions from the public. With no comments or questions from the public, Mr. Tepper closed the public hearing at 8:25 p.m.

Consideration of First Student Transportation Contract Amendment

Mr. Hitcho explained the strain on the transportation needs this year going in and out of in-person learning. In order to ensure that transportation is available when KCSD96 returns to in-person hybrid learning, he recommended approval of the contract amendment with First Student Transportation. A motion was presented by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Strezewski to approve the contract amendment with First Student Transportation as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Executive Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

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

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee 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)

- Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- 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 8:24 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 9:33 p.m.

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

Nay: None

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

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

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

Nay: None

Approval of Pursuit of Proactive Population Testing Supplies

A motion was presented by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mrs. Klass to approve the pursuit of Proactive Population Testing Supplies as presented by Mrs. Schmidt. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment and Dismissal – Certified Staff

i. Resignations

None at this time.

ii. Employment

None at this time.

iii. Leave of Absence Request

A motion was presented by Mrs. Woodman and seconded by Mr. Strezewski to approve the request for a leave of absence submitted by Ellen Stewart, as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:
Aye: Woodman, Klass, Burns, Manka, Zarkowsky, Strezewski 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. Manka 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

Consent Agenda

A motion was presented by Mrs. Woodman and seconded by Mrs. Manka to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Presentation of Bills – December 2020 - to approve the December 2020 bills as presented in the following amounts:

Education	\$3,098,119.29
Operations	\$552,376.32
Debt Service	\$0.00
Transportation	\$99,358.79
IMRF	\$0.00
Social Security	\$0.00
Capital Projects	\$57,286.84
Working Cash	\$0.00
Tort Immunity	\$111.00
<u>Life Safety</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Totals	\$3,807,252.24

Approval of Resolution Regarding Amount of Funds to be Levied: To approve the 2020 Tax Levy as presented.

Approval of 2021-2022 Registration Fee Schedule: To approve the 2021-22 fee schedule, with no increase, as presented.

Acceptance of FY20 Audit Findings: To accept the FY2020 Audit completed by Eder, Casella & Company as presented.

On a roll call vote the motion carried:
Aye: Woodman, Klass, Burns, Manka, Zarkowsky, Strezewski and Tepper
Nay: None

Discussion Items

Review of November Board Activities

Mr. Tepper thanked Board members for participating in the workshop held on November 20, 2020. The team continues to work on the outcomes from the workshop, which will be released shortly.

Information Items

FOIA Requests

The District received one (1) FOIA request(s) since November 17, 2020, which was responded to appropriately.

Board Comments

Board members discussed the upcoming Consolidated Election on April 6, 2021 and an update on the Request for Proposal for superintendent search firms.

Adjournment

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

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

Nay: None

Mr. Tepper adjourned the December 15, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for January 19, 2021.

Date Minutes Approved

January 19, 2021



President, Board of Education



Secretary, Board of Education

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