

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 126, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.  
ZION-BENTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL  
SOUTH CAFETERIA**

The Board of Education of Zion-Benton Township High School District 126, Lake County, Illinois, met in Regular Session in the South Cafeteria, One Z-B Way, 3901 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Zion, Illinois, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

President White presided.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: President White, Vice President Nordstrom, Member Nieto, and Member Roberts.

Members excused: Secretary Leech, Member Karner, and Member Richards.

**APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY PRO TEMPORE**

President White Appointed Member Roberts to serve as Secretary Pro Tempore in the absence of Secretary Leech.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA AMENDMENT**

President White asked Dr. Clark if there were any amendments to the agenda. Dr. Clark indicated the following personnel approval item had come in since the agenda packet went out and needed to be added under Personnel Approvals Item 15:

Leave of Absence: Mary Keenan.

**DISTRICT 126 RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF**

Tyler Creamer was recognized for qualifying for the IHSA state wrestling tournament and Jordan Chisum was recognized for placing 6<sup>th</sup> in the IHSA state wrestling tournament.

Twelve students and staff members RaVonya Knight, Genevieve Sherman, and Patricia Vargas were recognized for their accomplishments on behalf of District 126 and the community.

At 7:20 a brief break was taken as parents and students celebrated accomplishments. At 7:24 the meeting resumed.

## **COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF, GUESTS, AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS**

Jason Ellis expressed his concerns and frustrations about his property being overtaxed; said that election turnout is dismal and change is coming; told the Board members that they work for the taxpayers and not the administration, that they should stop levying the maximum, and that they will be held accountable. Roger Whitmore stated he agreed with Mr. Ellis about taxes, that he cannot sell his home due to the reputation of the schools, that people are afraid to drive through Zion, that taxes are higher than Warren/Gurnee, and that we all need to work together to improve the reputation of the schools. Evelyn Richards thanked the Board members for serving, stated that students get a good education at District 126, that she values education as a former teacher for 34 years, but taxes are too high and there is nowhere to go to lower her taxes. She asked the Board to look at ways to reorganize to save money, as people are hurting financially.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Vice President Nordstrom, seconded by Member Nieto to approve the Consent Agenda items. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of members present voting 4-0. Included in the Consent Agenda are the following:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 24, 2019.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 20, 2019.
- Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 20, 2019.
- Activity Report – January 2019, **EXHIBIT “A”**.
- Bills Paid Report – January & February 2019, **EXHIBIT “B”**.
- Bills Payable Report – February 2019, **EXHIBIT “C”**.
- School Treasurer’s Report – January 2019, **EXHIBIT “D”**.
- Revenue & Expenditure Report – January 2019, **EXHIBIT “E”**.
- FOIA Requests, **EXHIBIT “F”**.
- Contractor Payout Requests, **EXHIBIT “G”**.
- Destruction of Closed Session Recordings – February 16, 2017 & February 23, 2017.
- Disposal of Property, **EXHIBIT “H”**.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Clark reported on the following:

- The next regular board meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, may need to be moved to a different date in order to have a quorum.
- Calendar of Activities (**EXHIBIT “I”**, District 126 Activities, is included and made a part of these minutes.)
- The IASB Lake Division Dinner Meeting is on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at Wauconda High School.
- The Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast is on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **Principals' Report**

#### **New Tech High @ Zion-Benton East**

Dr. Frusher reported on the following:

- 107 students applied to attend NT@ZB Class of 2023.
- Acceptance letters are being mailed out notifying next year's freshman class of their placement at New Tech for the 2019-20 school year.
- NT@ZB students have increased their interest in the Lake County Tech Campus for the 2019-20 school year.
- New Tech held their Teacher Institute Day on February 6, 2019. Certified staff participated in professional development sessions focused on SAT skills integration and SAT prep. Classified staff participated in a safety workshop in the morning.
- The Rotary Interact Club Annual Valentine's Day Blood Drive yielded 29 units of blood, which will go towards helping the lives of 87 people.
- Thursday staff professional development time focused on grades/failure rates and discipline, tardies, and attendance.
- NT@ZB administrators are finalizing teachers' summative evaluations.

**EXHIBIT "J"**, New Tech High @ Zion-Benton East Board of Education Report – Thursday, February 28, 2019, is included and made a part of these minutes.

#### **Zion-Benton Township High School**

Dr. Pawelczyk reported on the following:

- The IL 5Essentials Survey has been extended to March 15, 2019.
- SAT preparation continues with Khan Academy-SAT Practice being encouraged on Tuesdays and Thursdays in advisory.
- Because of its work with the Great Stories Club through the American Library Association, the ZBTHS school library has been selected to be a model program for other school libraries who want to participate in this program.
- Two wrestlers, Tyler Creamer and Jordan Chisum, qualified for the IHSA state meet. Jordan Chisum secured 3 wins at the state tournament to put him in 6<sup>th</sup> place.
- The Zee Bee community came together to support Mary Stella Woodson, the daughter of a ZBTHS teacher who is battling a health condition, and organized an event on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, to raise funds for the family.

- Along with Lauren Delahanty, Dr. Pawelczyk met with all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to share encouragement as the District strives to help students earn A's, B's, and C's in all of their classes.
- Over 400 students were recognized at the Academic Awards Ceremony for earning either High Honor Roll or Honor Roll.

**EXHIBIT "K"**, Zion-Benton Township High School Board of Education Report – Thursday, February 28, 2019, is included and made a part of these minutes.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE UPDATES**

ZBTHS Assistant Principal Niemi provided an overview of the 2018-19 semester one discipline data and reminders regarding SB100 discipline requirements. The data reflects a positive semester in regards to student behaviors. The number of exclusionary discipline incidents have continued to decrease, as students are allowed to remain in school, and the deans use reflective practices designed to build supportive relationships with students. The highest percentage of incidents occurs in the freshman and sophomore grade levels. Assistant Principal Niemi reported that along with a sharp decline in the number of in school detentions (ISDs), there was also a decline in the Suspension Pending Conference occurrences. Mr. Niemi credits the addition of the Learning Support Specialist and Social Workers now working with the students for the declining number of students who are repeat offenders.

Dr. Frusher reported on the first semester discipline for New Tech High. The data continues to reflect low numbers of infractions and those that do occur are typically at the freshman level. Seniors consistently remain the students with the least infractions.

**EXHIBIT "L"**, Student Discipline Updates, is included and made a part of these minutes.

### **District Interventionists' Report**

Dr. Clark introduced four of the District Interventionists, who are working with freshman and sophomore students.

Lauren Delahanty, the Student Success Coordinator, reported that she is working on a number of intervention strategies such as Guided Study support systems, weekly work groups for students not in Guided Study, and 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade assemblies with Dr. Pawelczyk. She also discussed a few upcoming projects that will assist incoming freshmen, such as a ZB Boot Camp and the peer mentoring program.

Latoya Barnes, the Learning Support Specialist, reported that her focus is on working with students with discipline issues or those having trouble in their classrooms. Some of the strategies deployed include weekly or bi-weekly

meetings with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, meeting with all 9<sup>th</sup> graders who were sent out of the classroom repeatedly, and mediating student-teacher conferences and student conflicts. Upcoming projects include a minority girls success assembly, classroom intervention support, behavior intervention reward systems, and peer mentoring assistance.

Courtney Lastacy, the Literacy Academic Coach, reported that she is currently working on differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners. She is also meeting with students to help them with Reading, English, or Social Studies work as well as formulating literacy intervention plans to help students succeed in their classes.

Cyranda Ahonen, the Math Academic Coach, reported that she is also working on differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners, formulating math intervention plans to help students succeed in the classroom, and remediating students who failed first semester.

Ms. Lastacy and Ms. Ahonen reported they will be working with staff and administration on solidifying consistent and equitable grading practices. They are also working on after school English and math labs as well as developing professional development opportunities for teachers on implementing successful instructional strategies in the classroom.

Dr. Clark thanked the interventionists, expressed that many students are improving academically because of their efforts, and stated that the interventionists have developed significant data tracking systems to coordinate their important work.

### **SEDOL Report**

No report.

### **RECESS**

No recess was taken.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Business/Bid/Finance Committee**

##### **Report from February 13, 2019, Meeting**

Vice President Nordstrom reported that the primary topic of the meeting was to listen to presentations for architects for the upcoming natatorium project and to determine the best firm for the project.

##### **Approval of STR for Architectural Services**

CSBO Liddle reported that after receiving RFQ Proposals for the natatorium project and interviewing architects, the BBF Committee unanimously agreed that STR Architects would be the best firm for the project. CSBO Liddle and the BBF Committee are recommending that the Board retain STR Architects as the District's architects for the natatorium project. A motion was made by Member Roberts, seconded by President White to retain STR Architects as the District's architects for the Natatorium Project and potential future projects; and authorize the Administration to enter into an agreement with them for the Natatorium Project based on a fee of 8.25% of construction costs. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of members present voting 4-0. (**EXHIBIT "N"**, STR Architect Services, is included and made a part of these minutes.)

### **Approval of Camosy Construction as District's Construction Manager as Constructor for Natatorium Renovation**

CSBO Liddle reported that Administration has been very pleased with the work Camosy Construction has done as the District's construction manager for the performing arts center and the security vestibule projects. CSBO Liddle is requesting approval to retain Camosy Construction as the District's "Construction Manager as Constructor" for the natatorium project. A motion was made by Vice President Nordstrom, seconded by Member Nieto to retain Camosy Construction as Construction Manager as Constructor for the natatorium project based on their proposal of a 3.75% fee, and general condition costs that will not exceed those listed in their proposal. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of members present voting 4-0. (**EXHIBIT "O"**, Camosy Construction as District's Construction Manager as Constructor for Natatorium Renovation, is included and made a part of these minutes.)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Amended 2019-20 School Calendar**

Dr. Clark reported that there have been three additional school cancellations due to weather and requested that the Board approve the amended 2019-20 school calendar, which would include an early release on the Friday, April 19, 2019, make-up day. A motion was made by Vice President Nordstrom, seconded by Member Nieto to approve the amended 2019-20 school calendar as presented. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of members present voting 4-0. (**EXHIBIT "P"**, 2019-20 Calendar Amendment, is included and made a part of these minutes.)

### **Approval of Resolution Abating Property Taxes Levied by the Board of Education for the 2018 Levy Year**

CSBO Liddle reported that as previously shared with the Board, the District applied for and received a Property Tax Relief Grant from the Illinois State Board

of Education in the amount of \$1,793,018.36 based on an abatement of \$1,835,424.00, which will provide taxpayers with relief of those funds. CSBO Liddle presented the Board with a Resolution prepared by the District's attorneys outlining the terms of the abatement. CSBO Liddle recommended that the Board adopt the Resolution Abating Property Taxes Levied by the Board of Education for the 2018 Levy year. A motion was made by President White, seconded by Member Roberts to approve the Resolution Abating Property Taxes Levied by the Board of Education for the 2018 levy year. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of members present voting 4-0. (**EXHIBIT "Q"**, Resolution Abating Property Taxes Levied by the Board of Education for the 2018 Levy Year, is included and made a part of these minutes.)

### **Approval of P.E. Uniform Bid**

CSBO Liddle, with the support of the BBF Committee, recommended that the Board award the P.E. Uniform Bid to American Outfitters. A motion was made by Vice President Nordstrom, seconded by Member Nieto to award the bid to American Outfitters for the P.E. Uniform Bid beginning with the FY20 school year. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of members present voting 4-0. (**EXHIBIT "R"**, P.E. Uniform Bid, is included and made a part of these minutes.)

### **Approval of Summer Renovation Projects and Camosy Construction as Construction Manager as Constructor**

CSBO Liddle reported that A Committee of the Whole meeting was held on February 20, 2019, to review recommendations from the Long Range Planning Committee regarding using recently received Evidence Based Funding to repurpose the ZBTHS west mezzanine and ZBTHS lecture hall in order to increase and enhance educational opportunities for students. CSBO Liddle recommended that administration work with Camosy Construction as construction manager for these projects. A motion was made by Vice President Nordstrom, seconded by Member Nieto to approve administration to work with Camosy Construction as construction manager and bid the renovation of the ZBTHS west mezzanine and lecture hall for summer 2019, with final bid awards subject to Board approval. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of members present voting 4-0. (**EXHIBIT "S"**, Summer Renovation Projects and Camosy Construction as Construction Manager as Constructor, is included and made a part of these minutes.)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Capital Projects Update**

CSBO Liddle reported on the following:

- The final punch lists for the ZBTHS and NT@ZB additions are being completed.

- The ZBTHS parking lot is completed except for the additional exit off of 21<sup>st</sup> street for which a permit is still pending.
- The performing art center project is progressing, and the construction manager still believes it is on schedule to open in December.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board discussed moving the date of the March 21, 2019, Regular Meeting in order to ensure a quorum is present. A decision was made that the date would be switched to Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

CSBO Liddle reported that Winthrop Harbor is proposing a TIF for the entire Sheridan Road corridor in downtown Winthrop Harbor. CSBO Liddle will attend the joint review meeting held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, as the District's representative and will maintain a similar position to other TIF districts, which is that the proposed TIF is not in the District's best interest.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

## **PERSONNEL APPROVALS**

A motion was made by Vice President Nordstrom, seconded by Member Nieto to approve the personnel approvals as amended. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of members present voting 4-0. Included in the personnel approvals were the following:

### -Appointments:

Pitlock, Robert (Program Attendant).

### -Employments:

King, Kyle (Assistant Boys' Track Coach),

Pedroza, Tiffany (Bilingual Instructional Aide),

Walls-McGee, Sheila (Full-Time Paraprofessional).

### -Leaves of Absence:

Harmon, Julie (Data Specialist),

Kennan, Mary (Teacher).

### -Resignations:

Grieco, Tina (Freshman Girls' Soccer Coach),

Leal, Jailene (Cheerleading Coach),

Moynihan, Robert (Special Education Teacher and Head Varsity Football Coach),

Nuccio, Richard (Assistant Football Coach),

Urrutia, Monica (Cheerleading Coach).

**EXHIBIT "T"**, Monthly Personnel Report, is included and made a part of these minutes.

## **APPROVAL OF 2019-20 STAFFING RECOMMENDATION**

Dr. Clark reported that at the February 20, 2019, Committee of the Whole meeting, administration shared a recommendation to utilize the District's recently received additional Evidence Based Funding to hire a district wide career counselor for the 2019-20 school year. Currently, these career guidance tasks are managed by the college

and career counselors at each campus. Hiring a district wide counselor dedicated to career guidance will allow the college and career counselors to focus on college guidance responsibilities while the career counselor works to expand career and vocational related opportunities. A motion was made by President White, seconded by Member Nieto to approve a district wide career counselor position effective with the 2019-20 school year. Motion was approved by a roll call vote of member present voting 4-0. (**EXHIBIT "U"**, 2019-20 Staffing Recommendation, is included and made a part of these minutes.)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon no further business, President White called for adjournment of the meeting by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. by a voice vote of members present voting 4-0.

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SHAWN WHITE, President

ATTEST:

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GINA ROBERTS, Secretary Pro Tempore

SW/GR:MNFeb2819R