

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 126
PRAIRIE JUNIOR HIGH
11900 South Kostner
Alsip, IL 60803
August 10, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Pierce called the roll.

Present: Marigrace Sinnott-Snooks, President
Joe LaChica, Vice President
Lori Pierce, Secretary
Harry Tannehill
Jennifer Warrick
Therese Zaker

Absent: Muna Conley

Also Present: Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent
Steve Gress, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Lori Connolly, Director of Teaching and Learning
Nicole Leggett, Bilingual Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Jennifer Warrick, "To approve the minutes of the June 8, 2023 Regular Board Meeting". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Warrick, Sinnott-Snooks, Tannehill, Pierce, LaChica, Zaker. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Therese Zaker moved, seconded by Harry Tannehill, "To approve the Consent Agenda". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Tannehill, Pierce, Zaker, LaChica, Warrick. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

FOIA REQUESTS

Steve Gress reported from Prairie State Wire, SmartProcure, Ironworkers 63 and two from NBC5. We have responded in the required timeframe.

FINANCIAL

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Joe LaChica, "To ratify the July bills paid by the District and approved by the Superintendent for the dates of June 2 through July 13, 2023". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Tannehill, Pierce, Sinnott-Snooks, Zaker, LaChica, Warrick. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

EDUCATIONAL REPORT

Lori Connolly reported that this summer we had a district leadership team of teachers and administrators come together for two days in July to extend our work with UIC / CASPIR focused on building leadership capacity and how it influences work carried through into our schools and teachers learning teams. Our administrative team worked with UIC for an additional intensive full day discussing building and teacher team effectiveness and cultivating an adult learning community within our schools. This work will continue throughout this school year as we expand our work beyond mathematics.

She also spoke about our district literacy coach, Meghan Balchunas, supported the updated K-5 literacy program implementation over two days with additional training for teachers, including new teachers to our district for this school year.

Finally, Lori reported on summer school. She mentioned our traditional summer school session just ended last Friday, July 28, 2023. Students were engaged in a variety of learning activities centered around developing literacy and mathematical skills while also engaging in research related to a STEM topic. For example, students in grades K-2 became scientists learning about reptiles. Our

students in grades 3-5 became food truck entrepreneurs and researched and planned for a new food truck business which also included developing their menu and marketing plan. Our oldest students in middle school became public relations specialists for self-driving cars! Students created a plan to inform the public about the self-driving car their company was working on, including safety features and technologies it will possess. Then for those students who stayed for the optional afternoon session, students across all grade levels spent the afternoon collaborating and creating with Legos. The grade bands were engaged with lessons from Lego Education centered around STEM learning. They learned how to work together towards a common goal, be critical thinkers, problem solve and develop their fine motor skills.

Craig Gwaltney spoke to the board about staffing and registration. We are on track with registration looking for our numbers to be the same as years past. He also stated we have filled all our teaching positions but are in need of a few Instructional Aides and Tech Aides.

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Therese Zaker, "To approve the 1st Grade Field Trip for Lane and Stony Creek School to County Line Orchard in Hammond, Indiana on September 5, 2023 (L) and September 8, 2023 (SC)". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Tannehill, Pierce, Zaker, LaChica, Warrick. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Therese Zaker, "To approve going out to bid for the Hazelgreen Interior Project". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Tannehill, Pierce, Zaker, LaChica, Warrick. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

Joe LaChica moved, seconded by Jennifer Warrick, "To approve the 2023 Health Life-Safety Amendment". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Tannehill, Pierce, Zaker, LaChica, Warrick. Nay: none. The motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Craig Gwaltney gave a construction update to the board in regards to opening day and the students return to school.

ADJOURNMENT

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Lori Pierce, "To adjourn the meeting". Upon roll call, the vote as follows: Aye: Tannehill, Pierce, Zaker, LaChica, Warrick, Sinnott-Snooks. Nay: None. The motion carried 6-0 at 7:37 p.m.


President


Secretary