

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 126  
District Office Conference Room  
11900 S. Kostner  
Alsip, IL 60803  
June 8, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board and audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Therese Zaker, "To approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 Regular Board Meeting". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Pierce, Tannehill, Warrick, Sinnott-Snooks, LaChica, Conley, Zaker. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Muna Conley, "To approve the Consent Agenda". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Zaker, Tannehill, LaChica, Conley Warrick, Sinnott-Snooks, Pierce. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

Steve Gress indicated we received FOIA's from Local Labs, IASB, Prime State Wire and Roy Erkison and we responded in the proper amount of time.

**EDUCATIONAL REPORT**

Lori Connolly reported Benchmark Education has updated both the English and now their Spanish literacy program that the district uses. The last update was 5 years ago. While the upgrade maintains the overall structure, format, and goals of the literacy program, much has been improved based on customer feedback and latest research on the Science of Reading and best instructional practices. Some changes include more opportunities for practice and application of decoding and encoding for our youngest readers, more differentiation, language transfer support and support for students with dyslexia, more authentic and contemporary titles with better representation of diversity, robust tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary instruction integration, incorporation of language objectives in

lessons, and an increase balance of self-selected writing with text-based writing. District teachers had the opportunity this spring to learn about the upgrade, compare current units and instruction to the upgraded units, and pilot materials. Teachers completed an anonymous survey to provide their feedback and input and it was overwhelmingly positive

Also, Lori stated that student data is essential when making instructional decisions for our students. Our district has a variety of data points for our students - state and local assessments. It takes a lot of time for our teachers to sort the data because we have a variety of spreadsheets and reports to use, but the data is housed in different places. We have tried to find ways to pull data together, but it is time consuming and challenging to ensure there are no human errors when entering data manually. Otus is an award winning all-in-one student data management platform that integrates all student data to best gather, visualize, and act on student growth data. Any assessments that we have can be directly uploaded into the Otus system and then multiple reports can be generated comparing students' data pieces or data over time. Using Otus will allow administrators and teachers to see real-time data and can review data by categories such as grade level, cohorts, race, gender, and student populations like special education or English language learners. There is also another layer to the Otus platform that supports standards-based reporting which will be another beneficial feature down the road.

Lastly she included that our district has used the HMH intervention programs, System 44, Read 180, and most recently Math 180, for several years and our students have had much success in closing the academic gaps and strengthening their skills with these programs. The company is giving these programs an overhaul for next school year. Math 180 will still build on standards that will accelerate student growth toward algebra by emphasizing standards found in the progressions to algebra. The program was divided into 2 courses, but will now be streamlined to allow for greater flexibility to address students' needs. The two literacy programs, System 44 and Read 180, are now incorporated together rather than keeping them as 2 completely separate programs. Again, the idea is to provide greater flexibility in addressing students' needs. Material will be newly designed. The software has been upgraded and, especially in literacy, the System 44 software will not visually look so significantly different from the Read 180 software so that there is no stigma associated with the programs when being used in one class. In addition to the programs being different, the assessment HMH will be using is called the Growth Measure Assessment for both literacy and mathematics. Training for both programs will be provided this summer and additional training and coaching support will be provided throughout all of next school year.

Jessica Warrick moved, seconded by Therese Zaker, "To approve the Title I/ESSRA School-Wide Program for Hazelgreen, Lane, Stony Creek and Prairie Junior High Schools". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Zaker, Tannehill, LaChica, Conley Warrick, Sinnott-Snooks, Pierce. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

#### **PURCHASING**

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Muna Conley, "To approve the subscription purchase of Otus for staff and students at a cost not to exceed \$42,075.00". Upon roll call the vote was: Aye: Pierce, Tannehill, Warrick, Sinnott-Snooks, LaChica, Conley, Zaker. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

Jennifer Warrick moved, seconded by Joe LaChica, "To approve the Benchmark Advance 2022 Classroom print and digital 3-year purchase for Lane, Hazelgreen and Stony Creek at a cost not to exceed \$234,958.50". Upon roll call the vote was: Aye: LaChica, Tannehill, Warrick, Sinnott-Snooks, Pierce, Conley, Zaker. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

Muna Conley moved, seconded by Jennifer Warrick, "To approve the purchase of signs for Hazelgreen, Lane and Stony Creek from Stewart Signs at a cost not to exceed \$67,350.00". Upon roll call the vote was: Aye: Warrick, Conley, Zaker, Pierce, LaChica, Sinnott-Snooks, Pierce. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

**FINANCIAL**

Joe LaChica moved, seconded by Harry Tannehill, "As the Board of Education will not meet during the month of July, 2023, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to pay the bills, payroll and benefits incurred from June 9, 2023 through July 13, 2023. The July bills and payroll will be ratified at the August 10, 2023 Board Meeting". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Pierce, Tannehill, Warrick, Sinnott-Snooks, LaChica, Conley, Zaker. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Therese Zaker, "To approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding reimbursement of expenditures for the school-based health service program". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: , Sinnott-Snooks, LaChica, Pierce, Tannehill, Warrick, Zaker, Conley . Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

Therese Zaker moved, seconded by Joe LaChica, "That after a review of all of the Closed Session Minutes and audiotapes, the Closed Session Minutes of August 11, 2022 will remain closed to the public due to the confidential nature of the topics discussed and the listing of specific individuals; November 21, 2021 audio tapes will be destroyed."

All Closed Session minutes previously reviewed by the Board and designated to be closed will remain closed to the public". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Tannehill, Pierce, Sinnott-Snooks, Warrick, LaChica, Conley, Zaker, LaChica. The motion carried 7-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Therese Zaker moved, seconded by Lori Pierce, "To adjourn the meeting". Upon roll call, the vote as follows: Aye: Conley, LaChica, Sinnott-Snooks, Zaker, Tannehill, Warrick, Pierce. Nay: None. The motion carried 7-0 at 7:26p.m.

  
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President

  
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Secretary