

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 126
PRAIRIE JUNIOR HIGH
11900 South Kostner
Alsip, IL 60803
February 10, 2022**

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
Kim Powers
Harry Tannehill
Donna Waldrom
Therese Zaker

Also Present: Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent
Steve Gress, Assistant Superintendent
Lori Connolly, Director of Teaching and Learning
Robert Condon, Director of Special Education
Audience Members (see attached sign-in sheet)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Joe LaChica, "To approve the minutes of the January 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: LaChica, Sinnott-Snooks, Tannehill, Pierce, Waldrom, Zaker, Powers. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Steve Gress stated that we received a FOIA request from SmartProcure and we responded within the proper length of time.

STAFF/STUDENT/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Craig Gwaltney spoke about the letter that was sent home to parents and staff earlier in the day regarding moving to masks optional beginning February 22nd. He addressed the issues that would come with making this change. Craig and the Board Members spoke with the audience regarding this matter and answered all questions pertaining to it.

EDUCATIONAL REPORT

Lori Connolly reported that Math teachers have been reviewing their curriculum and evaluating high quality mathematical tasks across all grade levels, including special education teachers and over the coming months, the District Leadership Team is planning for teachers to have opportunities to analyze student work resulting from the implementation of high-quality tasks and to explore student thinking together. This analysis of student work will provide teachers with a deeper understanding of what their students' mathematical understandings are in order to better plan for future lessons to address partial understandings and build students' mathematical skills and understanding.

Lori also stated that the primary grade teachers have been refining their literacy practices regarding phonics instruction and designing their small group instruction to incorporate decodable books to support students' phonics and phonemic development more intently.

Lori spoke about the PJH social studies department is participating in professional development on Documentary-Based Questions (DBQ). She explained that using a new online platform called The DBQ Project, our teachers are not only learning how to use the online platform, but also how to use historical DBQs as an authentic assessment. DBQs requires students to use primary resources, find meaning in the information, and form an evidence based argument. This requires higher ordered skills that will last students a lifetime. She is planning to incorporate DBQs into the social studies curriculum in grades 5 and 6 next school year. She also mentioned that the PJH PE department is participating in an online course provided by PE Central called, My Students Don't Look Like Me: Culturally Relevant Physical Education. Several of the PE teachers were also able to attend the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD) state conference. The teachers were able to collaborate, share what they learned, and discuss what would be incorporated into their PE classes and curriculum.

Lastly, Lori mentioned that summer school planning has already begun. For this upcoming summer, we are excited to be able to do just that for our families. We will continue with an enrichment summer school in June, but it will be STEM focused. This will allow students to participate in a hands-on experience integrating all content areas. The organization, National Inventors Hall of Fame, offers a program for schools called Camp Invention. Teachers receive all lessons and materials to engage students in several modules of STEM activities, such as robotic aquatics and marble arcade design. Students will learn about topics, research and create inventions. Enrichment summer school will be offered for a full day with the district providing both breakfast and lunch for students. We will also hold our traditional summer school in July with an option for families to sign their children up to stay for an afternoon session. The district would again provide breakfast and lunch for students. The afternoon session will once again be STEM focused using the National Inventors Hall of Fame club workshops. Activities will include chemistry, engineering, physics, movement, problem solving, research and so much more. The plans are in the early stages, but we are looking forward to providing our students with an opportunity to expand their learning in new and engaging ways.

Craig Gwaltney discussed the current enrollment reports and reported that the last two years have been down a bit due to COVID but we still remain in the 1500 area. We will need to add a 1st grade classroom at Lane School for the 2022-2023 school year. Lane currently only has one 1st grade classroom.

Therese Zaker moved, seconded by Donna Waldrom, "To adopt the 2022-2023 School Calendar as presented by the Board Calendar Committee". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Sinnott-Snooks, Waldrom, Tannehill, Pierce, Zaker, Powers, LaChica. Nay: none. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Harry Tannehill moved, seconded by Joe LaChica, "To adopt the Resolution Regarding Transportation Serious Safety Hazards for the 2022-2023 school year". Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Aye: Waldrom, Pierce, Zaker, Powers, LaChica, Sinnott-Snooks, Tannehill. Nay: none. 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: LaChica, Sinnott-Snooks, Tannehill, Pierce, Zaker, Powers, Waldrom. Nay: None. The motion carried 7-0 at 7:50 p.m.


President


Secretary