

BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64
Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting held at 7:00 p.m.
February 28, 2022
Lincoln School - LRC
200 S Lincoln Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Board President Pearl called the special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Phyllis Lubinski, Carol Sales, Tom Sotos, and Gareth Kennedy. Board member Dr. Nicole Woitowich attended via phone. Also attending in person was Superintendent Dr. Eric Olson. Approximately 10 members of the public were present.

Board of Education meetings are videotaped and may be viewed in their full length from the District's website at <http://www.d64.org>. The agenda and reports for this meeting are also available on the website or through the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

President Pearl noted that the Board would be looking at two items tonight: interviewing candidates to fill the vacancy on the Board, and voting on mitigations removal. She took a moment to send some positive thoughts to the people of Ukraine.

INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES FOR BOARD VACANCY

President Pearl noted the Board will essentially "pull names out of a hat" for the order of interviews. One candidate was on an airplane and would be coming later. Candidates Bosko Bjegovic did not respond to the invitation for an interview and was not present; neither was candidate Jonathan Haugeberg who had previously submitted an application. Candidates were seated in another room and were brought in when it was their turn to be interviewed.

The board conducted interviews with Larry Ryles, George Kouros, Rick Farmer, Rebecca Heneghan, Matthew Doubleday, Emily Norris, and Kimberly Keyworth, individually in turn, giving each fifteen minutes to answer the same questions. The candidates were provided the following set of questions ahead of the meeting:

- Why are you interested in this vacant seat on the board?
- What specific skills would you bring to this board?
- How will you prepare yourself for the challenges of being a board member during the pandemic?
- How is the role of an appointed board member similar/different than a board member who was elected?
- Do you have any close family members who are employees of D64? Do you or any closed employees work for or own a company that has contracts to supply goods or services to D64?
- How will you balance the needs of parents, students, staff, and administrators?

The Board allowed for questions from the candidate at the end of their interviews as well. President Pearl said the Board was likely to appoint a member tonight following deliberations. The appointed member would be sworn in at the March 17 regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were invited through a posted email address on the District's website and in the Board report; public comments received via email will be posted in the next board meeting report. Members of the public who were present in person were also invited to submit comments. Those comments were received as follows:

- Rachel Georgakis: parent in D64, addressed the board on the issue of rolling back the mitigations, having a plan in place in case things change, and continued use of data and metrics. She thanked the members for their time serving the community.
- Ariel Gurian: parent in D64, addressed the board on the issue of discrimination against unvaccinated students.
- Alla Bagryanskya: parent in D64, addressed the board on the issues of contact tracing and quarantine removal.
- Elizabeth Juiris: parent in D64, addressed the board on the issues of quarantine removal and the difference in treatment of vaccinated and unvaccinated students.

REVISIONS TO DISTRICT 64 HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING

Superintendent Olson noted this had been in discussion for a little while and more so since the move to "mask-recommended". He stated that the mitigation measures recommended for removal made sense at this particular time. He mentioned that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) no longer required masks on school buses and buses would now move to "mask-recommended". He said data and metrics continued to move in the right direction, that is why the administration was recommending the changes. Member Sotos asked for the removal of quarantine to extend to both vaccinated and unvaccinated students and for this to be effective immediately, not on March 7 as recommended by administration. The board discussed the timing. The discussion included the need to quarantine if a household member tested positive and whether this could be removed as well. Member Kennedy mentioned that given the current good numbers, the focus should be to keep students in school. He understood the need for time to put things in motion for the lunch to return to normal but thought contact tracing and quarantine should go away immediately. Member Lubinski agreed and quoted numbers from the CDC and Cook County indicating a drastic drop in new cases. Member Sales asked if positive students coming back would be required to wear a mask, Dr. Olson said this would not be the case. President Pearl noted that there were only three days until March 7, noting that the administration had consulted with staff, nurses, and principals to come to this recommendation. Member Kennedy asked if testing would still be offered for those who wanted it, Dr. Olson said the district would offer weekly testing and parents could opt-in anytime. The dashboard would and the number of

positive cases in the district would be kept up to date on the website. Member Waitowich said she would vote present as she thought the burden would be too great for parents of immuno-compromised and medically challenged students. In the end, the board agreed on a slightly amended motion. The board also discussed the need to have an outline of a plan should the pandemic take another turn and mitigations be needed again.

ACTION ITEM 22-02-13

It was moved by board member Kennedy and seconded by board member Sotos that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois, approve the removal of quarantining requirements for close contacts including household members; the reduction of social distancing, allowing elementary students to return to lunch tables; and the elimination of the test-to-stay option, as presented; effective immediately for quarantine and test-to-stay and effective March 7, 2022, for social distancing and lunch.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Sotos, Sales, Kennedy, Lubinski

Nays: Pearl

Present: Waitowich

Absent: None

The motion carried.

INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATE FOR BOARD VACANCY

The board took a five-minute break and resumed the interview process with candidate Terry Cameron having arrived from the airport. Mr. Cameron was given fifteen minutes to answer the same questions as the other candidates.

BOARD RECESSES & ADJOURNS TO CLOSED MEETING

At 10:38 p.m. it was moved by Board member Sotos and seconded by Board member Lubinski to recess from the special meeting and adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the following: the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3)].

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Waitowich, Sotos, Pearl, Sales, Lubinski

Nays: Kennedy

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

BOARD ADJOURNS FROM CLOSED MEETING & RESUMES SPECIAL MEETING

Following deliberations in closed session, the members returned to the special meeting at 10:57 p.m. to appoint the selected interim board member.

ACTION ITEM 22-02-14

It was moved by board member Sales and seconded by board member Kennedy that the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 64, Park Ridge-Niles, Illinois approve the appointment of Larry Ryles to fill the open Board position vacated by Rebecca Little effective immediately until the new Board is elected and seated following the April 4, 2023 elections.

The votes were cast as follows:

Ayes: Kennedy, Lubinski, Pearl, Sales, Sotos, Voitowich

Nays: None

Present: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:00 pm. it was moved by Board member Lubinski and seconded by Board member Kennedy to adjourn from the special meeting. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Signed Date: March 17, 2022.

President

Secretary