

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

October 2, 2023

The video of the October 2, 2023 meeting can be found here:
[October 2, 2023, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr. Samreen Khan was absent from roll call and arrived at 5:43 p.m.

President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; an internal audit, control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of Closed Session Minutes; and individual student matters.

The motion was made at 5:31 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Samreen Khan arrived at 5:43 p.m., during closed session.

A motion was made at 6:59 p.m. by Ms. Martin second by Ms. Noland, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Samreen Khan, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Student Board member Asraar Ahmed Siddiqui, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer Trisha Olson. The following were also present at the District's central office: Celia Banks, Daniella Beci, Mike Demovsky, Marcy Murphy, Marc Spacone, Brian Tennison, Jacob VandeMooretel, Patricia Waldau, Heather Weiss, and Dr. Frank Williams.

President Kerr led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Accent on Achievement – Dr. Johnson

A. National Principal Appreciation Month

In recognition of National Principal Appreciation Month celebrated in October, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented by Board Member, Ms. Martin, to Principal, Mike Demovsky of Bartlett High School and Principal, Marc Spacone of Larsen Middle School. National Principal Month recognizes the essential role that principals play in the education, growth, and well-being of students. They have used their vision, dedication, and determination to provide an atmosphere in which students can continue to learn and succeed.

B. National School Bus Safety Week

In recognition of National School Bus Safety Week, October 16-20, 2023, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented by Board President, Ms. Kerr, to Heather Weiss, DUTU President and Marcy Murphy, Director of Transportation. Members of the U-46 Transportation Department, including drivers, assistants, mechanics, shop staff, trainers, and office staff, work together to safely transport the District's students to and from in-district and out-of-district sites each day.

C. National School Lunch Week

In recognition of National School Lunch Week, October 9-13, 2023, a Proclamation of Appreciation was presented by Board Member, Ms. Schwartz, to Daniella Beci and members of the District's Food and Nutrition Services Department. The U-46 Food and Nutrition Services Department serves breakfast meals and lunches to thousands of students every day and encourage our students to eat healthily and live healthy lifestyles.

2. Comments from the Audience – Ms. Kerr

A. Public Comments

Tina Semock, U-46 School Bus Driver, returned and spoke of the need of wage increases for the Transportation Department. She stated that starting wages for bus drivers and assistants in U-46 is lower when compared to the immediate area. Ms. Semock compared U-46 to the Chicago Public Schools. In order, to attract and retain employees, she asked the Board to consider a Memorandum of Understanding to raise wages for Transportation employees.

Elva Luna, 10-year U-46 Bus Driver, stated that U-46 needs to focus on retaining current employees. She said U-46 is not competing with surrounding districts, not honoring experience, or hiring at a higher step level. She voiced concern if wages do not increase.

Jodeana Bergroschtje, described driver salaries. She shared experiences of Bus Drivers and Assistants. She said the District is close to losing a lot of employees.

Kathryn Bently, 17-year Bus Driver, stated that the staffing shortage requires drivers to cover routes for drivers, double up runs for drivers that already have a full route, and requires office staff to drive on a daily occurrence. She mentioned frustrations from parents, anxiety amongst some students, and risks to a timely response for medical attention. She reiterated that there are not enough employees and the pay is the problem.

3. Other Business – Board Member and Superintendent Update, If Necessary

A. Additional Information

There were no updates.

B. FOIA Requests – 7

Dr. Johnson stated that there were seven Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, which would be available on BoardDocs and the District's website.

4. Consent Agenda – Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Proposal – Plant Operations – Snow Removal Equipment Purchase
- C. Proposal – Plant Operations – Emergency Electrical Inspections and Repairs
- D. Proposal – Operations – Construction Management Services – International Contractors, Inc.
- E. Proposal – Operations – Construction Management Services – Gilbane Building Company
- F. Contract Renewal – Plant Operations – ABC Service Contract
- G. Contract Renewal – Early Learner Initiatives – One Hope United

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens to approve Consent Agenda items A-G, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

5. Discussion/Action – Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – October 2, 2023

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$1,998,862.14.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Martin, to approve the Itemized Bills in the amount of \$1,998,862.14. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

6. Work Session – Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts)

A. Proposal – Plant Operations – Liberty Elementary School Emergency Electrical Repair

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal summary and was available to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the invoice from Peters Electric and Technology, Inc. in the amount of \$26,629.00, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. President Kerr mentioned that the repairs were for water damage and asked if the water issue was addressed. Ms. Waldau answered yes, and explained that having the new feeds in and replacing all five should prevent this from occurring again.

B. Proposal – Plant Operations – Equipment Purchase – Playground Playsets

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the proposal from Cunningham Recreation: Playcore in the amount of \$385,302.75, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. President Kerr asked if there is a schedule for future playground replacements. Ms. Waldau said absolutely, that is part of the operational playground playset inventory, which tracks the age, the type of equipment, and what kind of repairs have been done.

7. Work Session - Contracts Over \$25,000.00 (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Contract Renewal – Curriculum and Instruction – Middle School Social Studies Resource

Mr. Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Mrs. Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mr. VandeMooretel, Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the one-year contract renewal with McGraw-Hill in the amount of \$56,538.00, and requests authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Mr. VandeMooretel answered President Kerr's question by stating that next year, the Board could expect a multi-year proposal for McGraw Hill.

B. Contract Renewal – Curriculum and Instruction – High School Social Studies Resource

Mr. Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Mrs. Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Mr. VandeMooretel, Coordinator of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the one-year contract renewal with McGraw-Hill in the amount of \$59,660.76, and requests

authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

8. Work Session – Change Orders (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Change Order – Plant Operations – Elgin High School Lower Tennis Courts Replacement, Project #245

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the change order and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the change order from Schroeder Asphalt Services, Inc. in the amount of minus \$10,375.85.

President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; an internal audit, control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of Closed Session Minutes; and individual student matters.


A motion was made at 7:33 p.m. by Ms. Noland second by Ms. Martin. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

A motion was made at 8:23 p.m. by Ms. Martin second by Ms. Noland, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.


9. Adjournment – Ms. Kerr

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Noland, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of October 2, 2023 at 8:25 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 20th day of November, 2023.



President



Secretary