

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
CHANNAHON SCHOOL DISTRICT 17  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**PIONEER PATH SCHOOL**

**Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting - 7:00pm**

**Thursday, May 11, 2023**

President Pope entertained a motion to call the open meeting to order at 7:06pm. Motion by Christine Bucciarelli, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, and Pat Clower  
Absent: Brandt Compton

President Pope led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pope welcomed all of the visitors.

Dr. Henkle thanked the retiring Board members, Julie Bankes and Kevin Murphy, for their service to the district.

President Pope read the election results for the Channahon 17 Board of Education which have been verified by the election authority, the Will County Clerk and are as follows:

**3 Four-Year Seats:**

- **Christine Bucciarelli:** 925 votes
- **Nichole Nyalka:** 781 votes
- **Brooke Baviacqua:** 737 votes

President Pope administered the oath of office to the newly elected Board members Christine Bucciarelli, Nichole Nyalka, and Brooke Baviacqua.

President Pope appoints Pat Clower as President Pro tem until the Board President is nominated and selected.

President Pro tem Clower opens nominations for office as follows:

- **President** – Derek Breen nominates Joe Pope for President, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. No other nominations. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.
- **Vice-President** – Joe Pope nominates Derek Breen for Vice President, seconded by Pat Clower. No other nominations. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.
- **Secretary** – Derek Breen nominates Christine Bucciarelli for Secretary, seconded by Joe Pope. No other nominations. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.
- **Treasurer** –CSD17 CSDBO. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

President Pope entertains a motion to move into the regular meeting agenda. Motion made by Christine Bucciarelli, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, and Joe Pope

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the following FY24 Regular Board Meetings dates: July 31, 2023 (if needed), August 28, 2023, September 25, 2023, October 23, 2023, November 13, 2023, December 18, 2023, January 22, 2024, February 26, 2024, March 18, 2024, April 22, 2024, May 20, 2024, and June 24, 2024. All Board of Education meetings are expected to be held at the Pioneer Path boardroom at 7:00pm. Motion made by Pat Clower, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays, none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, and Derek Breen

President Pope asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the amended consent agenda. Motion made by Pat Clower, seconded by Joe Pope. All ayes, nays, none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, and Christine Bucciarelli

### **Consent Agenda**

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve April 24, 2023 Regular Board Minutes
- Approve Treasurer's Report
- Approve Treasurer's Financial Report
- Authorize Treasurer to Pay Board Bills Listed
- Authorize Destruction of November 16, 2021 Recorded Executive Minutes

President Pope asked if there were any union comments. There were none.

President Pope turned the meeting over to Dr. Henkle.

Dr. Henkle congratulated Susan Byers, Colleen Arnold, and Terri Vales who will be retiring at the end of the 2022-23 school year. Mrs. Cobarrubias congratulated and thanked Susan Byers and Terri Vales for their dedicated work with the Galloway School students. Mrs. Dooley and Mrs. North congratulated and thanked Colleen Arnold for her many years of service to our students.

Dr. Henkle recognized and congratulated the following 2023 Joliet Region Chamber Education Committee Student Scholarship Winners: Violet Quezada (5th grade), Elise Petrick (6th grade), and Abigail Jungles (7th grade). All three students were selected for their academic success, participation in clubs and activities, and a written essay. Each received a \$1,000 Hawk Scholarship.

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve the Google Certification Training Program which seeks to increase the number of Google Education certified staff by providing a stipend to CSD17 staff members who choose to commit time outside of the school day to complete the training and assessments. The stipends will be as follows:

- Google for Education Level 1 Certification - \$100
- Google for Education Level 2 Certification - \$125
- Google Trainer - \$150
- Google Coach - \$175
- Google Innovator - \$200

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the Google Certification Training stipend. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, and Brooke Babilacqua

Dr. Henkle discussed the 6th-8th grade science teachers' recommended science adoption. After reviewing different curriculum options, they ultimately chose Open Sci Ed by Activate. This is a free open source curriculum. The Channahon Junior High and Three Rivers staff are pleased with the curriculum they have created over time and prefer to supplement. The teachers are requesting a modest increase in materials and supplies to reinforce hands-on science learning including Engineering Friday projects, phenomena-based approaches, and materials to conduct experiments, which the business office has approved in the FY24 budget.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the Open Sci Ed as our primary 6-8 Science Resource in the FY24 approved budget. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, and Pat Clower

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve the second and final read of Press Plus Issue 111 including the following Policies: 2:110, 4:60, 5:30, 5:90, 5:125, 5:150, 5:260, 6:230, and 8:20 and updates to Policies 5:250, 5:330, and 6:210.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the Second Read of Press Plus Issue 111 as well as updates to Policies 5:250, 5:330, and 6:210. Motion by: Christine Bucciarelli, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, and Nichole Nyalka

Dr. Henkle and the Board discussed the following changes to Policy 7:60 – Residency:

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the Second Read of Policy 7:60 to be brought back in June for final adoption. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Bavalacqua, Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, and Joe Pope

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve an increase in athletic officials' pay due to a shortage in officials and to remain competitive with other school districts. The increases below would cost a cumulative total of \$1,515 for all sports.

	Baseball	Softball	6th Basketball	7&8 Basketball	6th Volleyball	7&8 Volleyball	Track	Wrestling (Dual)	Wrestling (Tri)	Soccer	Soccer (just 1 official)
Current	\$60	\$60	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$80 + shells (\$14)	\$65	\$90	\$75	\$75
Proposed	\$70	\$70	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$130 w/o shells	\$85	\$125	\$75	\$100

This item will be brought back for action at the June meeting.

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board consider filling the FY24 school nurse vacancy at Three Rivers School with a Registered Nurse (RN) rather than a nurse assistant. This will allow us to meet recently updated State requirements, while also providing training and onboarding prior to the retirement of our lead RN at CJHS who is planning to retire during the 2023-24 school year. This item will be brought back for action at the June meeting.

President Pope turned the meeting over to Mr. Grosso for the Business Office Report.

Mr. Grosso reminded the Board of the discussion in February to pursue replacement of our current radio system. The District currently uses two-way radios for all bus communications as well as instant communications with staff throughout all of the buildings including recess. Our current VHF analog radio system is in extreme need for an upgrade for various reasons including security, limited coverage, sound degradation, low voice quality, frequencies and hardware not meeting FCC licensing standards, and hardware becoming obsolete.

In order to bring our radio system to modern standards, all radios, antennas, and antenna cabling must be replaced with digital UHF equipment, along with digital repeaters in each building to provide increased coverage, secure communications, and expanded channel options. A Motorola secure UHF frequency system is being sought. Administration has received two project estimates thus far and is awaiting a third. This item will be brought back for action at the June meeting.

The Board was concerned the District would be without radio communication during the installation. Mr. Grosso explained that the switchover will take place when students are not present and all radio systems will be tested prior to use.

Mr. Grosso brought the Board up-to-date on the CJHS slab core report from Soil Engineering & Testing Consultants (SET). Cores were drilled to examine slab content and depth, substrate

soil conditions, vapor barrier location, and slab humidity levels. Slab humidity readings ranged from 58.3% during a dry period in October to 84.3% following a rain event in early December. The slab is approximately 5 inches thick. There are 4-5 inches of granular crushed brown rock under the slab. Ten inches below the floor surface is a geo-fabric material used as a vapor barrier which is in the incorrect location. Moisture, especially following a rain event, is being held in the sub-slab gravel base between the vapor barrier and the slab. Any water under the vapor barrier is not coming through, however, water that is between the slab and vapor barrier is trapped and unable to escape. ARCON's next step is to review the roof/flashing and perform a water hose test which is scheduled to take place this summer.

The Board requested to see the original blueprints of the Junior High. Mr. Grosso will locate the prints for the Board's review.

Mr. Grosso requested direction from the Board regarding pursuing appraiser estimates for the purpose of providing a substantiated valuation change to the Village of Channahon per Ordinance 154.85 (Dedication of Park Lands and School Sites). The Ordinance requires subdividers and developers to make cash contributions to school districts in the event a District opts to choose a cash contribution from a developer in lieu of land. The Village is in the beginning planning stages of revising this ordinance and reached out to both Minooka High School District 111 and CSD17 about providing recommended improved acre valuation changes. The current ordinance value of improved land in the Village is at \$45,000/acre. Neighboring districts revise this value annually, with appraisals performed every 5-6 years. Appraisals are not required to recommend a change in value, but an appraisal would be a way to substantiate any recommended changes. The last appraiser fee estimate provided to the District was in 2012 at an amount of \$7,500. The appraiser fee could be shared among the neighboring districts if they chose to have an appraisal as well.

The Board suggested the District get comps from neighboring districts in addition to an appraisal and asked administration to bring this item back for action in June.

Mr. Grosso updated the Board on the security camera project Request for Proposal (RFP) submissions that were due on May 5 and were reviewed by administration and Alan Priest of TDSi, CSD17's consultant. Please note that the submissions do not include cabling. The camera system cabling aspect of the project has been combined with the wireless access point structured cabling project (originally scheduled for summer 2024). A recommended proposal for the cabling project will be available for action at the June meeting.

Administration attended several product demonstrations across three different camera manufacturers. In addition, the administration team received scheduled camera software system (aka Video Management System or VMS) demonstrations from six vendors. After reviewing all proposals and consulting with TDSi, administration is recommending the Board approve the proposal from Sound Inc. for a total cost of \$489,959.52. Although it is not the lowest proposal, Sound Inc. has more experience in public schools and one of the owners is a local resident.

Proposal (Priority 1, 2, and 3):

- AXIS Cameras (models specific to each camera location—near 100% coverage interior and exterior)
- All four buildings including the Park District side of the Fieldhouse

- Dell Storage and VMS Server—centralized at CJHS (30-day storage)
- AXIS Camera Station VMS (playback, view, exporting software)
- Replacement of entry door intercoms at all four buildings
- Perpetual licensing on all cameras and VMS
- All interior and exterior camera mounts
- Removal of old analog live-feed only cameras at NBG and TRS
- Labor, installation, programming, staff training, and project closeout
- One-year labor warranty from installer and 5-year warranty from manufacturers (standard across the industry)
- Requested a 5-year service agreement

Administration is finalizing the grant application from the Department of Justice's COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) School Violence Prevention Program which includes funds for technical security improvements. The maximum award for any individual district is \$500,000 and at 75% of a project's total cost. A local cash match of 25% is required. Receiving grant funds is not a guarantee as it is a highly selective process and is based on financial need, local crime rates, enrollment, and security needs. Last year 58% of the applications were awarded.

Due to this project being under data communications, it is exempt from a formal bidding process. Even though Sound Inc. was not the lowest proposal, they were chosen due to their experience in K-12 schools and the quality of the bid.

The Board expressed concern as to whether the proposal prices will change if Priorities 2 and 3 are not started this year. Mr. Grosso explained the prices are firm and Priorities 2 and 3 will be started upon the completion of Priority 1.

President Pope recommended a motion to accept the proposal from Sound Inc. for the purchase and installation of security cameras and related server storage hardware, inclusive of all applicable product licensing, programming, and training in the amount of \$489,959.52. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, and Derek Breen

Last month Mr. Grosso brought to the Board's attention the District's agreement with Frontline Financial Forecasting (formerly Forecast 5 5-Cast) which ends on June 30, 2023. This web-based forecasting tool allows administration to project the District's financial position given a variety of complex scenarios. The cost for the past five years has been a flat \$8,000 per year. A one-year renewal is \$8,600. A three-year agreement calls for a cost of \$8,400 (FY24), \$8,862 (FY25), and \$9,349.41 (F26). Administration is recommending a one-year renewal with Frontline Financial.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve a one-year renewal with Frontline Financial for the 5-Cash financial project tool for the amount of \$8,600. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, and Christine Bucciarelli

Mr. Grosso recommended the Board approve proposals submitted for four separate pavement repairs, sealcoating, and parking space expansion maintenance projects. Each of the four repair/maintenance projects are under \$50,000 and are exempt from public bidding as indicated in Board Policy.

The Board questioned while we are breaking up the projects rather than doing sealed bids. Mr. Grosso explained that he confirmed it is legal to separate the pavement projects as long as each building is identified as its own project and all bidders have the opportunity to bid each project. The Board suggested in the future there could be savings in volume by combining the projects into one rather than separating them.

President Pope recommended a motion to accept the proposal from J. Lucas & Sons for pavement maintenance, as well as a sidewalk replacement at Pioneer Path School for the amount of \$9,100. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, and Brooke Babilacqua

President Pope recommended a motion to accept the proposal from Wolf's Sealcoating for pavement maintenance as well as lot restriping and space widening at NB Galloway School for the amount of \$25,150. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Nichole Nyalka, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, and Pat Clower

President Pope recommended a motion to accept the proposal from J. Lucas & Sons for pavement maintenance at Three Rivers School for the amount of \$8,630. Motion by: Christine Bucciarelli, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, and Nichole Nyalka

President Pope recommended a motion to accept the proposal from Wolf's Sealcoating for drive path and lot maintenance at Channahon JH for the amount of \$12,200. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Brooke Babilacqua, Pat Clower, Nichole Nyalka, and Joe Pope

**New Business** - None

**Other Board Matters** - Dr. Henkle recognized Julie Bankes, who is now present at the meeting, for her dedicated years of service to District 17. Julie served on the CSD17 School Board from 2011-23.

Dr. Henkle inquired if the Board members would be available to attend the 8th grade graduation.

Dr. Henkle shared some statistics with the Board from a webinar that he and Mr. Grosso watched regarding social media and how it is affecting our students. The webinar is seeking school districts to partner in a lawsuit against the four big social media companies for the psychological damages to our youth that are caused by their social media. This is not considered a class action suit. There is a contingent fee on the front end that is nonrefundable. Dr. Henkle will bring back more information at a future meeting.

**Upcoming Events**

- Thursday, May 25, 2023 – 6:00pm 8th Grade Graduation
- Monday, June 26, 2023 – 7:00pm School Board Meeting

**Adjournment** - President Pope entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm. Motion made by: Pat Clower, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Submitted by: Susan Sprouse

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Joe Pope, President

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Christine Bucciarelli, Secretary