



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



**PIONEER PATH SCHOOL
Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
Monday, February 26, 2024**

President Pope entertained a motion to call the open meeting to order at 6:32pm. Motion by Pat Clower, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

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

President Pope entertained a motion to call the executive session to order at 6:33pm. Motion by Pat Clower, seconded by Brandt Compton. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

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

Also Present: Dr. Nicholas Henkle and Mr. Jeff Grosso
Attorney Scott Nemanich (via phone conference)

President Pope entertained a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:05pm. Motion by Brandt Compton, seconded by Nichole Nyalka. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

President Pope reminded the Board that they were still in Open Session at 7:15pm.

President Pope led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Pope asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion made by Brandt Compton, seconded by Nichole Nyalka. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

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

Consent Agenda

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve January 22, 2024 Regular Board and Executive Minutes
- Approve Treasurer's Report
- Approve Treasurer's Financial Report
- Authorize Treasurer to Pay Board Bills Listed
- Authorize Destruction of August 22, 2022, 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 was pleased to announce that for the second year in a row, Channahon 17 has been selected as the 'Top Workplace' in the category of School Districts in Will and Grundy Counties (Shaw Media/Herald News). Dr. Henkle thanked our staff, Board of Education, and community for making Channahon 17 a positive environment and a great place to work and serve. Our school district will once again be recognized in the Herald-News and the Morris Herald-News on February 21, 2024.

Dr. Henkle recognized Renee Bogacz who was awarded the Illinois Digital Educators Alliance Instructional Coach/Administrator of the Year on February 21, 2024 at the IDEA Conference. Dr. Henkle thanked her for her many years of wonderful service as she has faithfully served since 1991.

Dr. Henkle introduced two new early learning outreach initiatives at Galloway School. This spring we will be delivering a 'Future Student Welcome Bag' to every baby/young child we can identify in our community who will one day be a District 17 student. This program is led by Susan Byers, our Family Educator Liaison, and N. B. Galloway Principal, Dacia Cobarrubias. In addition, our Little Learners preschool program has created a Learning Lending Library. These educational bags will help our families work with their children while engaging in interactive learning.

Proposed FY25 registration fees:

- Early Childhood \$0
- Kindergarten-Grade 4 Tech Fee \$75 (\$100 if registered after July 1)
- Grades 5-8 Tech Fee \$100 (\$125 if registered after July 1)
- Grade 8 Graduation Fee \$35
- Band \$15
- Interscholastic Sports \$15
- Lunch \$2.60
- Adult Lunch \$2.85

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the FY25 fees. Motion by Derek Breen, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes nays none motion passes.

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

Press Plus 113 and local policy updates:

- 2:20 Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification, 2:120 Board Member Development, 2:200 Types of School Board Meetings, 2:220 School Board Meeting Procedure, 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management, 4:30 Revenue and Investments, 4:60 Purchases and Contracts, 4:110 Transportation, 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds, 4:170 Safety, 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria, 5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting, 5:190 Teacher Qualifications, 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal, 5:210 Resignations and Retirement, 5:220 Substitute Teachers, 5:250 Leaves of Absence, 5:285 Drug & Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers, 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves, 6:15 School Accountability, 6:30 Organization of Instruction, 6:50 School Wellness, 6:60 Curriculum Content, 6:230 Library Media Program, 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools, 7:60 Residence, 7:70 Attendance and Truancy, 7:160 Student

Appearance, 7:190 Student Behavior, 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students, 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program, 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention, 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property, # Artificial Intelligence

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the second read of Press Plus Policy 113 and Local Policy updates. Motion by Joe Pope, seconded by Nichole Nyalka. All ayes nays none motion passes.

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

President Pope entertained a motion to increase the Board Secretary stipend to \$180. Motion by Pat Clower, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes nays none motion passes.

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

President Pope entertained a motion to increase the certified interventionist base rate to \$25/hour beginning July 1, 2024. Motion by Brandt Compton, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes nays none motion passes.

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

President Pope entertained a motion to approve a 4% increase for existing CSD17 non-certified, non-union employees for FY25 to begin July 1, 2024. Motion by Joe Pope, seconded by Brandt Compton. All ayes nays none motion passes.

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

President Pope entertained a motion to approve an increase of 2% to the posted base wages for new, non-certified, non-union employees in FY25 to begin July 1, 2024. Motion by Derek Breen, seconded by Nichole Nyalka. All ayes nays none motion passes.

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

President Pope entertained a motion to amend the position title from 'Early Learning Instructional Coach' to the title 'Early Learning Administrator'. Motion by Pat Clower, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes nays none motion passes.

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

Dr. Henkle brought to the Board's attention the need for an additional MTSS Reading Specialist at Channahon Jr High School. Due to the expected needs of the upcoming 7th grade students, a hybrid of push-in and pull-out services in both reading and math will be needed as additional support for these students. This will be brought back for action at the March meeting.

To understand why there has been a significant decrease in regular daily and long-term substitute teachers, Dr. Henkle presented a survey showing substitute teacher rates for the surrounding area. The average rate is currently \$146/\$224 (daily/long-term) per day and expected to increase for FY25. The District currently pays \$130/\$200 per day. To be competitive, it was recommended that the District increase our substitute pay to \$175/\$230 per day. This item will be brought back for action at the March meeting.

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

Mr. Grosso presented ARCON's project design to convert the Tryon Street District Office entrance at Pioneer Path to a modern ADA accessible entrance. ARCON received a proposal from Bear Construction (\$41,000) and FH Paschen Construction (\$46,000), both under the \$50,000 bidding threshold. Both ARCON and administration recommended the Board approve the proposal from Bear Construction for \$41,000. The Board suggested that the District create a preferred vendor list for smaller projects going forward.

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the proposal from Bear Construction to reconstruct the concrete entrance ramp to ADA specifications at the District office entrance for the amount of \$41,000. Motion by Joe Pope, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes nays none motion passes.

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

Mr. Grosso and the Board discussed the language additions to the Fiscal Responsibility Act that were authored by Board Member Clower and approved by the Board at the January 24, 2022 board meeting. At that time, the Board directed the Administration to seek legislative sponsorship through the Illinois General Assembly. The language addition would not allow surplus distributions to any tax-incentivized properties established by an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in perpetuity. Senator Rachel Ventura of the 43rd Illinois Senate District has sponsored the legislation which is known as Senate Bill 2911 (SB2911).

The Senator's office asked the district to provide a representative of the district should we be called to testify before the committee. If requested, the Board recommended that the Business Manager should represent the District before the Senate Revenue Committee.

Mr. Grosso asked for the Board's direction on whether to accept or abate the recapture extension of the PTAB Recapture Extension (PA 102-0519/SB508) which will be brought forth for action at the March Board meeting. The Will County Clerk has determined that a recapture amount of \$31,889 will be extended to CSD17 in addition to the extension resulting from Levy 2023. This amount is not subject to the tax cap law (PTELL). Therefore, it will not be a permanent future gain or loss in tax revenue. The Board recommended abating the recapture. This item will be brought back for action at the March meeting.

Mr. Grosso presented to the Board a 5-Year Financial Forecast which examined projections that involve three scenarios: No Levy Reduction, 50% ExxonMobil EAV Offset Levy Reduction, and a 100% ExxonMobil EAV Offset Levy Reduction. In December 2023 the Board adopted the 2023 Levy in the amount of \$23,324,659 with an estimated rate limit of 3.1810. The Board recommended no levy reduction which will be brought back for action at the March meeting.

Mr. Grosso reminded the Board of their approval in March 2023 of a 5-year technology refresh plan that included device and network hardware replacements each fiscal year through FY28. For summer 2024 (FY25), network switches and wireless access points are due for replacement. In September 2023 David Bergstrom and Jeff Grosso began an evaluation of four network equipment manufacturers to find the hardware that best suits the District's immediate and future needs (Cisco, Cisco-Meraki, Juniper Mist, and Aruba). Both Mr. Grosso and Mr. Bergstrom recommended the District's Cisco network switches and wireless access points be replaced with Cisco-Meraki equipment.

Sentinel Technologies is the recommended vendor based on the lowest bid (\$296,440.73) for Project Part 1 (Cisco-Meraki Switch Replacement and Ancillary Cable Hookups with 8-10 year hardware life). Sentinel Technologies is also recommended for Project Part 2 (Cisco-Meraki Switch Licensing, Cisco-Meraki Wireless Access Point Hardware and Licensing, and Removal/Installation with 8-10 year hardware life) since Sentinel was the only vendor that submitted a complete and accurate Request for Proposal.

The District would like to utilize \$67,597 in FCC eRate Category 2 dollars that is available to offset eligible costs. Only Part 2 of the project is eligible for eRate reimbursement. Administration will bring forth an action item at the March meeting to approve this project.

Mr. Grosso reminded the Board of the discussion last August to replace the existing 6x10 wood track equipment storage shed at Three Rivers School. Mr. Grosso asked the Board if they were interested in replacing the existing 6x10 wood shed with a larger 12x24 building to accommodate larger track equipment which is currently stored outside under cover. Administration recommended replacing the old storage shed with an enclosed steel garage with a concrete pad. An initial building kit and installation cost quote was \$7,965 (not including the concrete pad). Before making a decision, the Board asked the Administration to look into other options such as shipping containers.

New Business - None

Other Board Matters - None

Upcoming Events

- Monday, March 18, 2024 – 7:00pm School Board Meeting
- Wednesday, April 22, 2024 – 6:00pm 8th Grade Graduation

Adjournment - President Pope entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00pm. Motion made by: Christine Bucciarelli, seconded by Nichole Nyalka. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Submitted by: Susan Sprouse

Joe Pope, President

Christine Bucciarelli, Secretary