



**Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2023  
Powell 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy – Media Center**

**Called to Order** 6:00 p.m. Called to order by President, Anita Banach. 7 members present. 0 members absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance** Led by the Board

**Approved** Agenda for November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. Young moved. Demas supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried. Agenda Approved.

**Celebrations** Dr. Robinson shared district celebrations.

**Presentations** None

**Approved** **Consent Action Items.** Young moved. Conner supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- General Fund Bills (check register)
- Financial Reports (summary, revenue & expense reports)
- Wire Transfer report
- Purchasing Card Expenditures
- Minutes from Workshop Meeting held on November 6, 2023

**Informational Updates/New Business** **Communications** – None

**Committee Reports** –

*Finance* – Ms. Banach gave an update on the topics from the Finance Committee of the Whole meeting where discussions took place regarding the upcoming ballot proposals and bond issues.

*Facilities* – Mr. Antoine gave an update on the facilities meeting. 2021 Group 1 projects were discussed. Ham-Par is waiting for final inspection and pending the occupancy permit, teachers can move in to the classrooms after Thanksgiving break. The roofing project at Croswell is complete and they will be starting on interior work. There were two items which are on tonight's agenda (Resolutions 89 & 90) which are Group 2 projects. The first was the building additions for STEM projects. They reviewed the bid tabs and how things were awarded which the committee spent some time discussing because not all categories were awarded to one vendor. Barton Malow's recommendation was going with the lowest bidder as long as they were qualified. The second item was moving the baseball diamonds to the new campus which exceeded the budget limits that were predetermined. There was discussion about the contractor performing the work because they don't have as much experience as the next lowest bidder but they decided, along with Barton Malow's expertise, to go with the lowest bidder. They heard from Mr. Storm

on his Director's report – he's reviewing the lawn maintenance contract and considering the custodians contract to be bid out. Ms. Banach mentioned that the stem/robotics center will be moved to the area where the baseball fields are currently.

Ms. Eichhorst asked about the timeline for the baseball fields and Dr. Robinson stated that they are on schedule with the timeline and they should be done by next fall. The fields will be playable for the 2025 season.

**31aa Grant** – Ms. McFarlane shared some updates regarding the consolidation of state grants funds. She explained that we received funds under the 31aa grant which was to be used for mental health & school safety. The other 3 grants (Section 31o, Section 97 and Section 97c and 97d). that we received also touch upon what the current 31aa allows. She explained what the funds for each grant was intended for and how it was spent. The 31o fund were used to increase mental health personnel. Section 97 was used for door hardware, the Raptor System, and 2-way radio equipment. 97C & D was used for risk assessments and critical incident mapping. The funds from the 97C & D must be expended this fiscal year. With this year's 31aa at least 50% of funds must be allocated on improving student mental health. She shared the current thoughts for the grant application and mentioned that they are presenting the information to provide the opportunity for community feedback on how to use the funds.

Mrs. Rice asked how much the grant will be if we are awarded the full amount. Ms. McFarlane responded that the Legislature advised to budget \$220 per pupil depending on how many applications they receive.

Ms. Rice stated she would like to know the success rate of all the mental health support that we've added and whether we've seen changes in the students.

Ms. Eichhorst asked how the SRO is currently funded. Dr. Robinson responded that they are paid out of the general fund.

Ms. Rice asked if there is a list of things these new positions are providing for mental health and what they are responsible for. Dr. Robinson explained that these salaries were in a specific fund prior and the legislature has consolidated them and are allowing allowable expenses from these various funds to fall under one.

Mr. Young stated that he feels school safety is a big concern and mentioned that our SRO's have been phenomenal. He would like to see an expansion with our SRO's.

Ms. Banach clarified that salaries can't be paid for out of sinking fund.

### **Superintendent's Report –**

*Academic Services Update* – Mr. Murray shared elementary academic services updates. The first trimester is over and conferences are being held this week. A new report card is in progress and will be used in the fall of 2024. Progress is being seen with CKLA. They have consulted with the REA to get feedback from teachers. He gave a PD Day recap & mentioned that the collaboration time was very well received. Round 2 of gen ed furniture is in progress. Ms. McFarlane gave updates at the secondary level. RMS transformation Master Planning sessions have taken place with approximately 50 people in attendance at each of the four sessions. The district tech team met and made a decision on interactive classroom boards. Installation will take place beginning at the elementary buildings. Some teachers are being sent to the MACUL & MVU artificial intelligence Conference. A PD day was held and the high school visited community partners. The middle school had a guest presenter who spoke on effective teaming practices. The Advisory Board meeting took place and there was great feedback from the teachers.

Mrs. Eichhorst thanked them for putting together successful PD days.

*2024 Millage Renewals* – Dr. Robinson mentioned that there is a resolution for an election to renew 2 millages on the agenda. These will be on the Presidential Primary

Ballot Proposal on February 27, 2024. The first is renewing a 1.25 mills millage last approved in 2019. It will be a 5-year renewal. The current millage expires December of 2024. The sinking fund generates 3.4 million per year. This levy is assessed on all properties & subject to Headlee Rollback. The second is a non-homestead millage renewal of a previous voter approved 19.5 millage from November 2021. This is levied on businesses, second homes & vacant properties and subject to Headlee rollback. The non-homestead millage will generate 9.8 million (12% of General Fund). This is referred to as operating millage because funding is used for operational costs. The maximum annual levy is 18 mills.

*Bond Projects Update* – We are currently in the Group 2 projects phase and have the approval of the Amanda Moore & Washington additions & Hevel STEM room renovation on the agenda as well as the new Varsity Baseball fields. December approvals will include the STEM & Robotics Facility (RMS campus), RMS Outdoor Athletic Facilities (site redesign) and Croswell Sitework (new playground). January approvals will include bottle filler drinking fountains (health & safety) and the administration building renovations.

Construction Project costs – we are dealing with cost escalation (30-40% increases) so they are prioritizing financial commitment to projects. They may need to make decisions on partial/modified funding or place projects on hold. Group 3 & 4 project analysis will take place between December & February.

Facilities Assessment Realignment - Auditing has been completed on bond projects and completed sinking fund projects. Urgent needs will be considered and they will be recalibrating priority timeframes and aligning available funds with our needs.

*Strategic Plans Update* – We are coming to the end of year one with our strategic plan. Work will take place with the district leadership team to finalize year 1 progress reports and go to work on developing year 2 action plans.

District School Climate Survey – It has been almost 2 years since the survey was conducted. They are in the process of reauthorizing the survey to administer and collect data in December (staff, parents & students). Elementary open-ended questions will be completed in focus groups.

Ms. Rice mentioned that they want to be sure they collect data from different representative groups and not the same group of students.

Dr. Demas asked if this was the same survey. Dr. Robinson confirmed that it was with the change of a couple of questions. They will study the data to see growth since the last time it was administered.

Ms. Rice asked if perhaps they could include questions on mental health resources and gauge if the interventions are helping.

Ms. Banach mentioned that it's important to be consistent in this type of survey.

**Public  
Comment**

None

**Approved**

**Resolutions**

- **Employee Services Resolution #86 – Personnel Update**  
Demas moved. Conner supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Business Services Resolution #87 – Non-Homestead and Sinking Fund Renewal**  
Young moved. Eichhorst supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- **Technology Resolution #88 – District Laptop Replacement**

Conner moved. Antoine supported. 6 Ayes. 0 Nays. Banach abstained. Motion Carried.

Ms. Rice asked what they do with the old laptops and whether they would use them as loaners for students. Dr. Robinson responded that the laptops are only used by staff. Mr. Nelson mentioned that the laptops get reused until they can't be and then are recycled.

- **Facilities Resolution #89 – Elementary Additions and Renovation Project**  
Eichhorst moved. Conner supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Facilities Resolution #90 – RHS Baseball and Softball Fields Project**  
Antoine moved. Demas supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Ms. Rice asked about the ground work for this project. Ms. Banach explained that the lowest bidder doesn't have extensive experience in this area but they discussed it at length with the facilities subcommittee and had conversations with Barton Malow to be sure they were comfortable with this bidder.

- **Business Services #91 – Termination of RFP (297 Prospect)**  
Demas moved. Conner supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Ms. Banach read the resolution out loud for the public.

**Board  
Discussion/  
For the Good  
of the District**

Mr. Young attended the WA Twp. Veterans Day Ceremony. Commissioner Don Brown & Congresswoman Lisa McLain were present. Vocalist Audrey Brown sang 'America' and the Pledge of Allegiance and did a great job.

Mr. Young stated he was very appreciative of the work of our administration and Barton Malow and how we are mitigating the higher cost of our projects but feels if we continue to ask voters for money, we should be posting photos that show the progress of our buildings. Residents may not have the opportunity to go into the buildings so posting some pictures weekly would showcase our projects.

Mrs. Rice gave a shout-out to Indian Hills because they have their first Lego League challenge qualifier for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade this Saturday.

Mr. Conner thanked the board for sending him to the Leadership Conference. He stated it was very informative and he learned many important things.

Ms. Banach asked the board members to look at their calendars so that they can set the evaluation meeting.

**Public  
Comment**

Mr. Cory thanked the board for their efforts regarding the Prospect St. property.

**Adjournment**

7:21 p.m. Young moved. Conner supported. 7 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Approved by: Mike Antoine, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_