

**REAVIS HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 220
6034 WEST 77th STREET, BURBANK, ILLINOIS 60459
COOK COUNTY**

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M.
LIBRARY**

MINUTES

1. OPEN MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Time: 7:00 p.m.

The following Board Members were physically present at the meeting:

Mr. Ted Arnold
Mr. Gerardo Ayala
Mr. James Brodinski
Ms. Mary Ann Cook, President
Ms. Andrea Creger, Secretary
Ms. Linda O'Dowd

Absent: Mr. Russell McKinley, Vice President

Also Present: Dr. Daniel J. Riordan, Superintendent
Administrators
Students and Community Members

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2018.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

B. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 20, 2018.

Motion: J. Brodinski
Second: L. O'Dowd

Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Students Desiree Buentello and Abigail Delgado spoke on their support for teacher Mr. Contreras and the non-renewal of his contract for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Contreras works in the World Languages Department and is the only teacher who teaches ELL English and AP Spanish. The majority of the students enrolled in AP Spanish were influenced by Mr. Contreras’ engaging teaching style and his compassionate personality. During his two years here at Reavis, Mr. Contreras has also created a club called Safe With Me. The purpose of this Club is to guarantee safety in a non-judgmental environment for the students. The Club has participated in a Need for Aid Drive for the people in Puerto Rico and Mexico as well as a Christmas toy drive. The Club consists of 50 students and grows each year. Without Mr. Contreras being in charge of the Club, there wouldn’t be a safe place to meet for students and the Club would be inactive. Reavis is a diverse school, yet Mr. Contreras is the only Hispanic Spanish teacher. He is a role model that many students of the same ethnic background look up to. Lastly, Mr. Contreras has helped them with recent personal issues through his positive attitude and encouragement. A petition signed by many students was passed around and this petition was given to Ms. Cook and Dr. Riordan.

Ms. Cook thanked the students for speaking; and Dr. Riordan promised that he or Ms. Schultz would reach out and meet with them in the near future.

4. COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

A. Approve request by *Tri-Builders, NFP*, to use the outdoor track facility for the use of training athletes in the sport of Triathlon from April 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018, Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m..

Motion: A. Creger
Second: M. Cook
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

B. Approve request by *Burbank Bulldogs FC* to use the soccer fields and soccer goals, for the purpose of community youth soccer club practices from April 9, 2018 to June 11, 2018, Mondays through Fridays, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

C. Approve request by *Burbank Bulldogs FC* to use the soccer fields, soccer goals and corner flags for the purpose of community youth soccer club league games from April 14, 2018 to June 9, 2018 on the days and times specified in the Agreement.

- D. Approve request by *Burbank American and Burbank National Senior Baseball Leagues (15 and 16 year olds)* to use the varsity baseball field for the purpose of youth baseball district level tournament games from June 29, 2018 through July 4, 2018, dates and times pending.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve *Items B, C, and D* under *Community Use of Facilities* with one motion:

Motion: M. Cook
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

5. FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- A. Financial Statements dated March 31, 2018.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- B. Payment of Bills for the month of April, 2018.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: J. Brodinski
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

6. EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

- A. Approve request to send Ms. Eileen Donovitch and no more than eleven faculty members to the *Solution-Tree: RTI and MTSS at Work Institute* in Des Moines, Iowa from May 2-4, 2018.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: M. Cook
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- B. Approve request by Mr. Robert Morack to attend the *Illinois Athletic Directors Association Conference* in East Peoria, Illinois from May 4-7, 2018.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: A. Creger
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- C. Approve request to send Ms. Julie Jooste and no more than ten faculty members to the *Solution-Tree: Professional Learning Communities at Work Institute* in Madison, Wisconsin from July 18-20, 2018.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

7. PERSONNEL

- A. Approve the hire of Ms. Eileen Donovitch, Director of Student Services, effective for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion: T. Arnold
Second: M. Cook
Aye: A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- B. Approve the hire of Mr. Charles Homerding, Teacher, effective for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: A. Creger
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- C. Approve the hire of Ms. Alexandria Mil, Teacher, effective for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion: M. Cook
Second: J. Brodinski
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- D. Approve the hire of Mr. Wally Forsythe, Girls' Swim Head Coach, effective for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: M. Cook
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- E. Approve the hire of Ms. Samantha Ippolito, Cheerleading Head Coach and IHSA Cheer Coach, effective for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: T. Arnold
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- F. Approve the hire of Mr. Michael Jebens, Girls' Volleyball Assistant Coach, effective for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: M. Cook
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- G. Approve leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Mr. R. Joseph Madsen, Teacher, effective April 9, 2018 with an anticipated return date of April 17, 2018.

Motion: M. Cook
Second: A. Creger
Aye: A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- H. Approve leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Ms. Therese Schoder, Teacher, effective April 9, 2018 with an anticipated return date of April 18, 2018.

Motion: M. Cook
Second: J. Brodinski
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

- I. Approve flex-time leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Ms. Mary LaBay, Maintenance Staff, effective March 29, 2018.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: M. Cook
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no *Old Business* at this meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

There was no *New Business* at this meeting.

10. CATEGORICAL REPORTS

A. Student Reports - no reports

B. Administration

Mr. Tim Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities & Operations, stated that everything is moving along very well in the Buildings and Grounds/Transportation Departments, which is positive, especially considering this tough Spring weather.

Mr. Eric Novak, Chief School Business Official, reported that he and Mr. Raymond Negrete, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance, have started the 2018-2019 budget process. The department chairs have already submitted their preliminary budgets and individual meetings will take place next week. Mr. Novak further reported on the progress of the new eFinance software conversion. Representatives from the company will come out for a site visit the week of May 7 and another week in June. They will meet with the Treasurer's Office as well as all three school Districts (110, 111, and Reavis).

Dr. Riordan noted that a couple of parallel payrolls have been done. The first one had minor errors, which have since been fixed; and the next one was successful. The goal is still to "go live" on July 1st.

Dr. Heather McCurdy, Director of Curriculum, stated that they are very excited to finish another round of State testing. The juniors completed their SAT testing, which is part of the State accountability measures. 900 freshmen and sophomores were also tested, which is partially a preparation for the SAT, and as a school, we use their results as part of our student growth component of teacher and administrative evaluations. Therefore, the SAT Prep Homerooms are now finished. Dr. McCurdy loves to see the flurry of practice activities by

the students in the weeks leading up to testing. As an example, for the Test-Prep-A-Palooza sessions we hosted before Spring Break, over 50 students worked daily on test prep with their friends. She is also proud to announce that Reavis' SAT Homeroom Prep program won one of eight awards internationally from College Board for the work we do to prepare students based on their PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) results and homeroom program activities. Dr. McCurdy continued that upcoming tests include the Illinois Science Assessment, in addition to preparing to test eligible seniors to be the first group of students to earn Seals of Biliteracy and Commendations Toward Biliteracy for their proficiency in Arabic, Polish, or Spanish. This is a new program the State is offering, and the students need to meet proficiency levels in both English and another language. Dr. McCurdy ended her report by congratulating Ms. Mary Claire Ahern who won an award from the Office of the Secretary of State and Illinois State Library. The grant award was for almost \$3,000 which will be used to purchase books for both the Title I Summer Bridge Program and the World Languages Department to purchase children's books to develop literacy in Spanish and German.

Ms. Julie Schultz, Director of Student Services, began by welcoming Ms. Eileen Donovitch to the administrative team. She has great trust and faith in her leading the faculty and staff in the areas of behavioral interventions which includes our Tier II team and our Attendance Matters Program. Ms. Schultz is also very excited to have Ms. Mil and Mr. Homerding join our Reavis teaching family. She looks forward to working with all of our new teachers and the positive impact they can contribute to our school culture. She continued that recently the Illinois State Board of Education offered school districts a chance to submit proposals to receive the Healthy Community Investment Grant for after-school programming, as well as other programming outside of the normal school day. This grant is new this year and was released just a few months ago. Ms. Schultz proudly reported that confirmation was received today that Reavis will be awarded the Healthy Community Grant which amounts to \$37,134. We will implement programs and activities that will address the following three objectives:

- Improve academic outcomes for students
- Provide opportunities for enrichment activities in a safe and healthy environment
- Provide opportunities to strengthen public, private, and philanthropic partnerships so that quality support services are more durable for students facing the greatest challenges

Ms. Julie Jooste, Division Chair, Fine Arts, PE & CTE, spoke that at the end of March, she attended the ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) Leadership Conference in Boston. She gained a lot of valuable knowledge; heard very impactful speakers and she thanked the Board for making that opportunity possible. She will continue to reflect and grow in this role because of the sessions and experience and she is grateful. Ms. Jooste continued that there were two great learning opportunities provided by our teachers just today that she wanted to share. In PE, Mr. Tony Pape worked to bring an organization called Freedom Golf to Reavis. Freedom Golf volunteers to visit schools to teach adaptive golf lessons. They were here working with our Adaptive PE class, and it was really awesome to see the students learning a new skill and having a new experience. Freedom Golf will be here four more times this semester and it's great to see the students' continued excitement at this unique opportunity. She continued that, led by Lit. Coach Jackie Hanik, Bill Lauer's Sociology Students and Art students in the Glass and Wood Design classes met to begin a collaborative Social Activism project. The groundwork was laid today, with the Sociology students presenting information on a social issue. The groups will

continue working collaboratively to create a visual art piece that makes a statement or raises awareness about the social issue. In a few weeks, when completed, their Social Activist Art will be displayed in the student cafeteria. Ms. Jooste ended by reminding the Board, that if they are free tomorrow night, Reavis' Jazz Band will be performing at Chuck's BBQ here in Burbank from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Mr. Mike LaMantia, Division Chair, Math and Science, also welcomed Mr. Charlie Homerding to the Science Department. He stated that Mr. Homerding was an outstanding Science student at Reavis and came highly recommended by members of the Homewood Flossmoor Science Department, where he is currently completing his student teaching. Mr. Homerding will be a great addition to the staff and will make a positive impact on students both in the classroom and through extra-curricular activities. Mr. LaMantia continued that next week, Biology students will be taking the ISBE Science Exam as mandated by the State. The test will be completed by students during their Biology classes and should have a minimal effect on their regular schedule. As this is a digital test, the IT Department has developed a process which allows students to use their Chromebooks to take the test. Students will not be able to utilize their Chromebooks an hour before and after the test; however, teachers have been notified of this issue and have been instructed to prepare to use other forms of technology if necessary. Thanks to Dr. McCurdy, Mr. Erickson, and their staffs for their work in ensuring that the test is conducted in a manner that limits the impact on student and teacher schedules. Thanks also to our Biology teachers for their help in proctoring the exam. Mr. LaMantia ended by reporting that on April 27th, Ms. Jooste, Ms. O'Malley and he will be participating in Moraine Valley's STEM Expo. This event is intended to expose middle school students to STEM related career paths and students from Liberty and Sahs will be attending the event. Reavis will showcase our STEM classes and activities and engage students in several hands-on challenges. He thanked Ms. O'Malley and Ms. Jooste for partnering with him to provide this opportunity to our future Rams.

Dr. Riordan began by emphasizing some of the behind the scenes work and planning that goes on day in and day out to successfully organize an event like the SAT testing and he thanked Dr. McCurdy, Ms. Theresa Shepherd and a number of Support Staff members, all of whom have been preparing for these testing days all the way back in the Fall. He continued by providing background on the grant award Ms. Schultz spoke of. He received an email from the ROE (Regional Office of Education) that the State notified them that certain schools might qualify for a grant, but the application turnaround was short. He then emailed Ms. Schultz, Ms. Donovitch and Ms. Maureen Carey, our school nurse, and they immediately said *yes, let's go for it*. Thanks to their hard work and immediate action, we were awarded the grant. Lastly, Dr. Riordan thanked Ms. Erika Banick, Division Chair, Humanities, who pulled off another fantastic Lit Fest last week. That work also began in the Fall, securing speakers, working with our faculty and staff, as well as encouraging our students to put in the effort necessary for a successful day. It was another great day here at Reavis! These are the extra things that our administrators, faculty and staff continue to do to go above and beyond for our students. Dr. Riordan continued that a lockdown drill was held right before Spring Break. This drill was motivated by conversations with students who attended last month's Board Meeting and spoke to him and Board members about the fact that a lockdown drill has not been held *with students*. Therefore, Dr. Riordan met with administration and our SRO Officer and came up with a plan. Dr. Riordan also noted that this Friday, April 20th, is the anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting. Several of our student leaders have met

with members of the administration for the past six/seven weeks to come up with a student-led positive activity or event. The students have worked very hard to respect the anniversary and the Administration and Board are excited that they are standing up for what they believe in. Dr. Riordan ended his report by stating that he has begun attending all the Maintenance Staff Monday meetings and Thursday overtime meetings in order to make the transition as smooth as possible when Mr. Smith and Mr. Negrete retire in a few short weeks.

Mr. Ayala ended the meeting by complimenting the two students who spoke earlier this evening. The Board enjoys hearing from our students and are welcomed to always come forward and advocate for themselves.

- C. Teachers Union - no report
- D. Support Staff Union - no report
- E. Maintenance Union - no report
- F. Board Reports - no reports

11. CLOSED SESSION

Enter into Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2, to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, dismissal or evaluation of personnel, contract negotiations, possible or imminent litigation, resident delegate concern, student disciplinary issues, and held recommendations with any required action taken in open session.

Time: 7:46 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: A. Creger
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Time: 9:57 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

13. NEW BUSINESS

- Approve thirty day suspension of employee #20180329.

Motion: T. Arnold
Second: M. Cook
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

14. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 9:58 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: A. Creger, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 6-0

Signed and approved this 15th day of May, 2018.

President

Secretary