

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

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.
REAVIS 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
Mr. Russell McKinley, Vice President
Ms. Linda O'Dowd

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2017.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

B. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 19, 2017.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: J. Brodinski
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no *Audience Participation* at this meeting.

4. COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

There were no requests for *Community Use of Facilities* at this meeting.

5. FISCAL MANAGEMENT

A. Approve the 2017 tentative tax levy consisting of the following funds:

Education	\$ 19,750,000
Building	\$ 3,500,000
Transportation	\$ 1,300,000
Working Cash	\$ 500,000
Municipal Retirement	\$ 340,000
Social Security	\$ 340,000
Special Education	\$ 375,000
Liability Insurance	\$ 475,000
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	\$ 26,580,000

Motion: M. Cook
Second: G. Ayala

Dr. Riordan noted that this is an annual requirement and these figures are tentative at this time.

Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

B. Financial Statements dated September 30, 2017.

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

C. Payment of Bills for October, 2017.

Motion: J. Brodinski
Second: M. Cook
Aye: R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

6. EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

There were no requests for *Educational Travel* at this meeting.

7. PERSONNEL

- A. Approve the retirement request of Mr. William Smiles, Teacher, effective at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Approve leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Ms. Allison Florez-Koepke, Support Staff, beginning November 14, 2017.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- C. Approve the hire of Mr. Robert Morack, Athletic Director, effective January 1, 2018.

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- D. Approve the hire of Mr. Matt Pashakarnis, Title I Numeracy Coach, effective for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: A. Creger
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- E. Approve the hire of Mr. Bill Breheny, Bass Fishing Sponsor, effective for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: L. O'Dowd

Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

F. Approve the following volunteer coaches, effective for the 2017-2018 school year:

Mr. Colin Altenburg	Boys' Basketball
Ms. Bridget O'Dowd	Girls' Basketball
Mr. Brandon Faust	Boys' Bowling
Mr. David Supanich	Boys' Bowling
Ms. Alexandra Stryszak	Girls' Bowling
Mr. Wally Forsythe	Boys' Swim
Mr. Matt Cusick	Wrestling
Mr. Matt Pashakarnis	Wrestling

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: M. Cook
Aye: A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no *Old Business* at this meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve request by the Food Service/Culinary Arts Department to travel to Orlando, Florida from April 26-30, 2018 to participate in the Culinary Improv competition.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

B. Approve request by Mr. Dennis Anastasopoulos and the Reavis High School Drama Department, to travel to New York City, New York, from June 4-9, 2018.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: M. Cook
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

10. CATEGORICAL REPORTS

- A. Student Reports – no reports
- B. Administration

Mr. Negrete, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance, thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the *ASBO (Association of School Business Officials)* Annual Meeting and Expo in Denver last month. He attended a number of great sessions, but two in particular stood out to him. The first one was the general session, with keynote speaker Aron Ralston, who spoke about his extraordinary human drama of surviving in the wilderness, and who is the subject of the movie, *127 Hours*. He continued that the second session of value was one on educational leadership and the components of teacher quality. He shared this information with Dr. Heather McCurdy, to be reviewed and discussed here at our District. He ended by again thanking the Board for their years of support to him and to Reavis High School.

Mr. Tim Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities & Operations, spoke that the Auditorium wall project is still on schedule and Friday, October 27th should be the final day, if not a day or two earlier. *Oosterbaan and Sons* has done a great job and this project has not interrupted Mr. A or our Drama students as they prepare for their upcoming performances. *SPM Architects* are convinced that basically starting over and drywalling and repainting these walls was the correct way to fix this flaking and peeling problem and well worth the expense. Mr. Smith continued that yesterday a staff member noted a problem with a heating unit above Furnace Room 9. It was discovered that a piece of the machine broke off and the heating unit chewed itself up. *SPM, Trane* and *Precision* met today to see how to proceed and get this fixed as soon as possible.

Dr. Beth Hart, Educational Consultant, noted that she is in her third year here at Reavis and her primary responsibility is evaluating our certified staff. She reiterated that there are deep academic conversations being held here with staff members, both from the teacher to evaluator, with a sincere desire to improve instruction, and also from the administrative team. Between the administrative team and our teachers, the evaluation process here at Reavis is very positive and robust.

Dr. Beth Hart next reported in Mr. Mike LaMantia's, Division Chair, Math and Science, absence. On October 13th, the Scientific Research and Application students took a field trip to the *Jardine Water Treatment Plant* in Chicago and *Stickney's Water Reclamation Plant*. This trip allowed students an opportunity to see, first hand, how the scientific concepts studied in class are utilized on a large scale to provide drinking water to over five million people and to effectively manage the sanitation, sewage, and flood risks in a large municipal area. Students were amazed that the world's largest drinking water plant and wastewater processing plant are right in their backyard. Mr. LaMantia thanked Mr. Tony DelAlcazar for organizing this experience for his students. On October 25th, the Anatomy and Physiology students will be observing an open heart surgery at *Christ Hospital*. Students will observe the surgery via a live feed to the operating room, where they will be able to have dialogue with members of the operating team, including the surgeon. Mr. LaMantia thanked Ms. Therese Schoder and Ms. Kirsten Hock for continuing to provide this extraordinary opportunity to our students. Mr. LaMantia's report ended by noting that 2017-18 marks the third year of our Eighth Grade Honors Algebra program and, this year, 21 students are enrolled. Overall, students are performing well and have adjusted to the high school environment. By participating in this program, students will be in position to take multiple advanced math classes in high school and, potentially, earn college credit through AP

Calculus and AP Statistics. He thanked the Liberty Junior High administrators; Reavis Maintenance Staff; Mr. Tim Smith; Mr. John Larocca and Dr. McCurdy, who have all worked together to ensure that transportation, scheduling, and communication are efficiently addressed.

Dr. Heather McCurdy, Director of Curriculum, reported on the recent Parent Teacher Conferences. She wanted to take a moment to reference the numbers related to these conferences and noted that there were over 1700 parent-teacher contacts that took place on Tuesday, October 10th. Dr. McCurdy looked at the numbers for the past several years and found that our numbers were sometimes higher and sometimes lower, but overall consistent. She also noted that these numbers are affected by something as simple as the weather that evening or a family conflict. Another layer to the increased parent contacts is that our counselors are now available to have serious conversations with our parents, where in the past, they were at the front door handing out the report cards and not accessible for our families. She stated that any time you have 1000+ parent contacts and more than one third of progress reports being picked up, it is a successful evening. Dr. McCurdy continued that Parent University was an integral part of this evening. A new group of Title coaches and staff have been transitioned and one of their responsibilities is to host Parent Universities over the year in order to further develop parent-school relationships. She was pleased to have over sixty people sign in to the *Success at Reavis and Beyond* presentation. The feedback was positive, and the team is working on their follow up report based on community feedback. Next, Dr. McCurdy stated that our Juniors completed their PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test last week. These results will now be used to guide our SAT Prep program. Lastly, she noted that this is the time where the Curriculum Department begins making their Curriculum Guide proposals which will impact 2018-2019 student registrations.

Ms. Julie Schultz, Director of Student Services, began by reporting that the Guidance Department is busy this Fall utilizing a new personalized platform for students called *Naviance*; in addition to hosting college visits; planning field trips; and many other events and workshops to enhance student graduation and post-secondary plans. *Naviance* allows students to create a personalized plan that helps them make the right decisions throughout their academic journey. *Naviance* is a college and career preparatory platform that is web-based and built for students, schools, parents, and universities. Several colleges have been on campus visiting our students already this school year, including; Benedictine University; Illinois Wesleyan University; Luther College; Michigan Technological University; Quincy University; Roosevelt University; University of Chicago; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Illinois at Springfield; and University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. The Department will continue to host colleges and universities in October. Field trips, homeroom meetings, sharing guidance curriculum, and working with the literacy coach have brought many great opportunities to our students from the Guidance Department and she is proud of the work being done throughout the Student Services Division. Ms. Schultz continued that out of the Deans' Department, they are recognizing that October is Anti-Bullying Awareness Month. Dean Donovitch is bringing awareness to Reavis by highlighting a Culture of Care in support of Anti-Bullying Month or Bullying Awareness Month. Students wrote post it notes to the theme "Spread Kindness like Confetti" and created a showcase to share the positive messages. Students each day are also sharing a positive message through our student announcements. Ms. Schultz thanked our Tier I and II team under Ms. Donovitch's leadership - they bring great things to our Responsible Rams. Ms. Schultz continued that Special Education Teacher Nicki Ficaro, School Psychologist Vicki Schwarz and she presented at the University of Minnesota at the *Second Annual Check and Connect Conference*. The University of Minnesota is the home of Check and Connect and they presented on *Implementing Check and Connect at the High School Level: The Reavis High School Model*. She is very proud of the team for sharing Reavis's story and why Check and

Connect is successful here for both our students and faculty. Ms. Schultz also thanked the Communications Club sponsors, Mr. Joe Illichman and Mr. Brandon Faust, for assisting them in creating a video (which was then shown to the Board and members of the audience). The sponsors and their students did an incredible job of capturing the stories of our mentors and mentees in a very inspiring manner while also highlighting our beautiful facilities and campus. It was a hit!

Mr. Eric Novak, Athletic Director, began by reporting that the Varsity Boys' Soccer team just won their game 1-0 and now advance to the Regional Championship on Saturday. He congratulated Coach Morack and his team on capturing the SSC Red Championship for the program's first outright conference championship with an undefeated record of 11-0. He continued by also congratulating Coach Juracka and the Varsity Boys' Cross Country team on capturing the SSC Red Championship as well. This is that program's first conference championship since 2010 and the boys clinched the title by placing all five of its' scored runners in the top 11 at the Conference meet. Mr. Novak continued by noting that this Friday, October 20th, is the last home football game; therefore, our senior Football, Cheerleading, Dance, and Marching Band students will be celebrated. Fall Sports Awards take place on Wednesday, November 8th and Mr. Novak invited the Board members to attend. Winter sports begin next week: competitive Cheer, competitive Dance and Boys' Bowling. Finally, next week Reavis will host IHSA Regionals for Girls' Volleyball and IHSA Sectionals for Boys' Soccer.

Mr. Eric Novak continued by reporting on behalf of Mr. Tom Witting, Activities Director and Division Chair, Fine Arts, and stated that on Wednesday, October 11th, Reavis welcomed members of the Illinois State University Debate Team to present an *NPR Intelligence Squared* style debate for our Freshmen and Sophomore students. The topic – “Reavis High School Board of Education should formally change the name of the day off on the school calendar from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.” The debate featured two collegiate students on the affirmative and two on the negative, as well as a moderator. Reavis students not only listened to arguments for both sides of this topic, they also got to watch college debaters demonstrating their craft. It was a great educational moment for our young students. English classes surveyed students after the debate to see their stance on the debated issue at hand. The results are as follows:

61.3%	- agreed with the resolution to change the name
17.5%	- disagreed with the resolution and want the name to stay the same
21.2 %	- still undecided or indifferent on this resolution

Dr. Riordan is proud that the Board and staff are encouraging our students to think, question, and take the necessary steps to make informed decisions and promised that the conversation on this topic will continue.

Mr. Don Erickson, Director of Information and Educational Technology, reported that the *Technology Committee* met two weeks ago to begin initial plans for the November 15th Late Start. On this day, they will be offering our teachers a variety of workshops all related to our new learning management system, *Schoology*. There are currently ten *Technology Committee* members who have volunteered to help lead these workshop sessions. Mr. Erickson continued that last month he reported on teacher laptop issues. *PCM* has agreed to take back the laptops and IT is working to make the return of these and the issuance of new *Dell* laptops as seamless as possible for our faculty.

Dr. Riordan reported that the administration is working in conjunction with the Township Office on changing over our financial software in an effort to become more efficient and modernize our payroll and financial programs. There is much behind the scenes work to

accomplish this changeover and he thanked Mr. Novak, Dr. McCurdy, Mr. Negrete, Ms. Erin Nelligan and Ms. Kathy Fortt for their involvement and expertise. They are sitting through hours of webinars to learn this new system, as the goal is to go “live” on January 1, 2018. Dr. Riordan continued that he and the administrative team are also working on streamlining and cutting costs in regards to all the copiers and printers in the District. Our IT Department completed an audit of all equipment and they are now working with two companies to get quotes and proposals. He will keep the Board posted.

C. Teachers Union

Mr. Craig Hickey, President of the Teachers Union, reported on behalf of Mr. Andy Davis, Band Director, who wanted to congratulate three students selected to the *Illinois Music Educators All District Band*: Anthony Garcia, Angelika Rzepka and Jasmine Monarrez. Mr. Hickey also reported that the University of Houston thanked the Reavis Varsity Club and High School for their donation of athletic apparel from the Hurricane Harvey relief drive. They specifically thanked *Stars and Stripes*, Ms. Alice Balandis and support staff members, Mr. Tim Smith and *Maine Freight*.

D. Support Staff Union – no report

E. Maintenance Union – no report

F. Board Reports

Mr. Brodinski reported that a *Finance Board Committee* meeting was held on Thursday, October 12th, with Ray Negrete, Eric Novak and himself in attendance. Members reviewed the September 2017 financial status for the working funds of the District. The funds show an overall decrease from the previous year. Mr. Negrete received notice that the District will receive less in Corporate Replacement Tax money, which directly impacts revenue. Mr. Negrete and Mr. Novak will continue to monitor these balances over the next few months. The meeting continued by reviewing both the 2015 and 2016 tax levy collections. As of September 30, 2016, the 2015 levy was at 99.65% and the 2016 levy was at 95.93%. Unfortunately, 3.14% of the gross collections were refunded by PTABs (Property Tax Appeal Board) and other miscellaneous refunds for 2015, for a total of \$813,048.17. For 2016, the amount is 2.34% (\$594,531.20). These refunds also directly impact the loss of significant revenue. The year to date collection for the 2016 levy is down about 3% compared to the amount received last year from the 2015 levy. The next item discussed was the proposed 2017 tax levy. The *Committee* reviewed the process of formulating the basis of arriving at the levy figure by taking into consideration factors of potential property additions/loss and the effect of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and how our EAV (Equalized Assessed Value) increases/decreases. The consensus was to recommend an increase of 9.18% for the 2017 levy. Mr. Negrete is hopeful that this amount will capture all of the tax revenue once the final figures are calculated by the County Clerk. The final item discussed was the new State funding formula passed this summer. At this point, the initial data shows that the District will possibly receive a small increase in State aid. The formula is complex with a number of variables. As additional detailed information is given, Mr. Negrete will share with the Board.

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: 8:07 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Time: 9:28 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

13. NEW BUSINESS

There were no motions brought up after Closed Session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 9:28 p.m.
Motion: A. Creger
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: J. Brodinski, M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

Signed and approved this 14th day of November, 2017.

President

Secretary