

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

**PUBLIC HEARING
AND
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.
REAVIS LIBRARY**

MINUTES

1. OPEN MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Time: 7:02 p.m.

The following Board Members were physically present at the meeting:

Mr. Ted Arnold
Mr. Gerardo Ayala
Ms. Mary Ann Cook, President
Ms. Andrea Creger
Mr. J.R. Higgins, Vice President
Mr. Russell McKinley, Secretary
Ms. Linda O'Dowd

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

2. CONVENE PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Cook opened the Public Hearing to receive comments or questions on the proposed request to conduct a regular day of school on Abraham Lincoln's Birthday and Veterans' Day, per Public Act 96-640 of the School Code. Holding school on these days adds continuity to instruction in all areas and permits special emphasis to these events, providing a more effective educational environment. Further, per Public Act 96-0084, Veterans' Day will include a moment of silence.

Dr. Riordan advised that no written comments or questions were received prior to this evening. In addition, no public comments or questions were received at this Hearing.

3. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: G. Ayala, M. Cook, J. Higgins, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: A. Creger
Vote: 6-1

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2016.

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

B. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 15, 2016.

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

5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no *Audience Participation* at this meeting.

6. COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

- Approve request by the *Illinois Chargers* to use the Varsity Baseball Field for the purpose of a Charger Challenge Baseball Tournament from June 20 to June 25, 2017.

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

7. FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- A. Approve *Resolution* to regulate expense reimbursements per Section 10 of the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act (50 ILCS 150/, added by P.A. 99-604, effective January 1, 2017).

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

- B. Approve adoption of the 2016 Levy pursuant to, and in all respects in compliance with, the provisions of Section 18-60 through 18-85 of the *Truth in Taxation Law*, found at Exhibit A.

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

- C. Approve adoption of the *Resolution* known as the "*Special Education Building Tax*" Levy, found at Exhibit B.

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

- D. Approve adoption of the *Resolution* known as the "*Working Cash Fund Tax*" Levy, found at Exhibit C.

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

- E. Approve *Resolution Abating Working Cash Fund* in the amount of \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) and transfer said amount to the *Education Fund* effective December 13, 2016, in accordance with Section 17-2A and Article 20 of the Illinois School Code.

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

F. Financial Statements dated November 30, 2016.

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

G. Payment of Bills for the month of December, 2016.

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

8. EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

- Approve request by Mr. Tom Witting and Ms. Erika Banick to attend the *2017 NAEA (National Art Education Association) Convention: The Challenge of Change* in New York, New York, from March 1-4, 2017.

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

9. PERSONNEL

- A. Approve the hire of Ms. Theresa Shepherd, Student Assessment Specialist, effective January 9, 2017.

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

- B. Approve leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Ms. Patricia Saunders, Support Staff, from January 9, 2017 until approximately the second week in February, 2017.

Motion: J. Higgins
Second: R. McKinley

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

- C. Approve leave of absence according to the provisions of the *Family Medical Leave Act* for Ms. Kate Szczudlo, Teacher, beginning April 24, 2017 through the end of the school year.

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

- D. Approve request by Ms. Jamie Johnson, to resign her position as Head Boys' Cross Country Coach, effective immediately.

Motion: M. Cook
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: M. Cook, A. Creger, R. McKinley, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: J. Higgins
Vote: 6-1

10. OLD BUSINESS

- Approve second and final reading of updated and new School Board Policies, as presented.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

- Approve calendar for 2017-2018 school year, including Board of Education Regular Meetings.

Motion: M. Cook
Second: R. McKinley

Dr. Riordan reported that this calendar closely mirrors the 2016-2017 calendar. First days of school for students will be August 14th and 15th. Both semesters are very balanced as far as student attendance days, which is optimal. Late Start Wednesdays will continue for the next

school year and three days of finals will take place at the end of each semester. Pending any emergency days, the last day of school will be Thursday, May 24, 2018. Dr. Riordan acknowledged that starting school in mid-August can be tough, but Fall sports begin on Monday, August 7th, and having our students back in school improves our sports participation numbers.

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

12. CATEGORICAL REPORTS

A. Student Reports – no reports

B. Administration

Mr. Tim Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities & Operations, reported that he and Mr. Negrete met with *SPM Architects* recently to list and discuss 2017 summer projects. The work will be based on priority and cost considerations. These projects will be reviewed at the *Board Buildings and Grounds Committee* meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 11th. Any and all recommendations by the *B&G Committee* will then be presented to the School Board at the January 17, 2017 Board of Education meeting. Pending Board approval, *SPM* and Administration will then contact companies to secure proposals and/or bids necessary to complete the projects. Mr. Smith continued that, as a matter of fact, bids have already been received and opened for the elevator modernization project and will be on the January agenda for consideration. Mr. Smith noted that he and Mr. Negrete are still working with our insurance company to see if a claim can be filed for the damaged floors in the Student Commons, Auditorium and FCS kitchen as it was felt this damage is due to the flood of 2014. He continued that the Auditorium north and east (back wall with all the sound boards) walls are peeling and need to be painted. He noted that this is an ongoing problem and he is investigating solutions which will be presented at a future meeting.

It was answered to a question that the District is almost due for a Life Safety building inspection after which a ten-year plan would be formulated. The Board will be advised of specifics when available.

Dr. Heather McCurdy, Director of Curriculum, reported that this month, we are focused on the State mandated 5Essentials Survey. Reavis has currently met the requirement for teachers and students, but we continue to work on securing 20% parent participation. It was suggested that Dr. McCurdy push this survey out to our parents via social media. Dr. McCurdy continued that on December 7th, Reavis honored the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor with our students along with other activities including junior testing, the Academic Course Fair, and professional development for teachers on the SAT. Final exams and Exam Cram are on the slate for next week.

Ms. Julie Schultz, Director of Student Services, reported that on December 7th and 8th, the Guidance Department provided two exceptional opportunities to the student body in preparation for course registration. Freshmen and Sophomore students experienced the Academic Course Fair on the institute day. Students were prepped in homeroom meetings and the event was then held in the student cafeteria and organized by class. Freshmen attended in two time slots and then the sophomores attended in the same format. Each

department participated, providing a table for individual conversations and time to show students the opportunities their department provides to enhance student college and career plans. The Fair also had tables designated for hot jobs, college at a glance, MVCC, our fire cadet program, and a cosmetology school. Students also completed a guidance assignment that identified their preferred elective choices, related careers, and career clusters which they turned in for future conversations with counselors. Ms. Schultz continued that on December 8th, the Junior Class participated in the first ever “Your Future Is Now” Press Conference held in the Auditorium. The Press Conference, emceed by guidance counselor Mr. Tim Zasada, provided students an opportunity to hear from an expert panel on the many facets of post-secondary plans; including trades, financial aid, four year universities, MVCC, and scholarship information by our counselor, Ms. Rachael Pearson. Members of the Press were comprised of faculty, administrators, as well as board member Ms. O’Dowd. They asked the most frequently asked questions juniors reported and those typically covered in campus visits. This event was streamed live on periscope via twitter; the Communications Club came and took pictures; and all juniors received a press pass with pertinent information from their homeroom meetings that serves as a checklist for the most important websites and resources. Ms. Schultz thanked the entire Guidance Department for their collaborative effort to make this two-day event meaningful for our students. She also thanked our teachers for supporting the guidance efforts.

Mr. Ayala remarked that several years ago a roundtable discussion group was held where recent graduates enrolled in college came and spoke to our junior and senior students as well as their parents, and answered questions about their experiences and provided assistance as to how to make college searches easier and more financially productive.

Ms. Schultz replied that a very successful Junior Parent Night was implemented last year for just these types of questions. Our second Junior Parent Night will be held on Thursday, January 12, 2017 where we will again reach out to parents with students going to college and for those considering other pathways as well.

Mr. Bob Morack, Division Chair, PE & CTE, reported on the Rams Are Responsible initiative. This month’s Rams Are Responsible Theme is Giving. He noted that there are many opportunities to give, but he highlighted two specific causes undertaken here at Reavis. Our student ambassadors have updated the Main Hallway Showcase as they organized the Adopt a Family toy drive and our Inspire and World Language Clubs are working together to help the homeless. These Clubs are doing such great things to give back to our community and he invited all in attendance to reach out to their respective sponsors for details. Mr. Morack continued that weekly incentives are being given for students and staff who are nominated for being Responsible Rams. This month, *Doughs Guys Bakery*, Palos Heights, donuts were handed out to 466 (61%) of our students who had perfect attendance in the month of November. He thanked Ms. Megan Prendergast and Ms. Sarah Schultz as well as members of the Tier I team for all their assistance in this initiative.

Mr. Don Erickson, Director of Information and Educational Technology, reported that tomorrow, they will host their third round of tech training sessions for the faculty and staff. Once again, teachers can choose from one of seven different workshops. Mr. Erickson continued that final set-up and configuring of the new wireless infrastructure will occur over the holiday break. During this time of work, the wireless network will be down, but after the set-up is complete, all classroom areas will be running on the new Aerohive system.

Mr. Eric Novak, Athletic Director, reported that he visited Nashville, Tennessee this past weekend to attend the *National Athletic Directors Conference*. The *Conference* allowed him the opportunity to hear new ideas through the many different sessions available. It was a great learning experience and he thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Mike LaMantia, Division Chair, Math and Science, provided two updates on topics that he presented last month. The Physics field trip to IIT took place on November 21st. 180 of our students attended three presentations where IIT professors described their field of study, discussed their own research projects and highlighted keys to success when conducting scientific research. Teacher and student feedback from the trip was very positive, and he looks forward to continuing to build experiences that expose students to career paths in STEM fields. He thanked IIT's Office of Community Affairs for orchestrating the field trip as well as our chaperones, Mr. Tom Gadomski, Mr. Brian Hurley, Mr. Tony del Alcazar, Ms. Angel Martin, Ms. Sarah Schultz, and Ms. Nesreen Sadi. Mr. LaMantia continued that last Wednesday during our half day in-service, Reavis hosted an SAT workshop right here in our Library. All Reavis Math teachers, as well as teachers from Evergreen Park and Oak Lawn High Schools, were in attendance. The presenter did an outstanding job of breaking down the Math portion of the test, highlighting the differences between the ACT and the SAT and illustrating how Science and Social Studies are incorporated in the Math test. We will utilize the information presented as we prepare our students for the transition from ACT to SAT. He thanked Dr. McCurdy for organizing this invaluable workshop.

Ms. Erika Banick, Division Chair, Humanities, reported that last week the Literacy Coaches held their third and final literacy liaison lunch for the first semester. The liaisons were able to dialogue with one another about some of the practices, challenges and success stories occurring in their classrooms. The January lunch will invite the liaisons to present some of their students' work, where so much of it has been student centered; very active; asking questions; solving problems, etc. She remarked that there has been a lot of great stuff going on and it has been a very successful first semester.

Mr. Tom Witting, Activities Director and Division Chair, Fine Arts, reported that the annual Student Council Snowman Shindig takes place tomorrow right here in the Library. He thanked Student Council sponsors, Ms. Abby Montes and Ms. Rosa Jutzi, for organizing this great event. He then invited everyone to attend the Music Department's Winter Concert orchestrated by Mr. Andy Davis and Mr. Brandon Faust, tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. in our Grossman Auditorium. Mr. Witting continued that *Imagination Theatre* visited our campus last week. This group brings 75 years of experience teaching kids through social interaction about relevant topics and last week brought their "Take a Stand" program to our freshmen and sophomore students. Lastly, Mr. Witting spoke that our Marching Band will perform at the Outback Bowl Halftime Show along with many other high school bands, in Tampa, Florida on January 2nd. The Band will also march in the Outback Bowl Parade on December 31st and participate in the Music Festival as well. The band members are looking forward to this trip and Mr. Witting thanked the Board for supporting their efforts.

C. Teachers Union

Ms. Trish LoVerde began by stating she has been teaching Math here at Reavis for the past eleven years and is also serving as the Union Secretary. She stated that the Union would like to start having a presence at Board Meetings where members of the Communication Committee will inform the Board of all the positive things happening here and throughout the community. The Union believes we have a great staff here at Reavis and want to share what has been going on in and outside of the classroom.

Mr. Joe Illichman then spoke. He is currently in his fourth year teaching Math at Reavis. He spoke on behalf of Mr. Jim Ward, who invited the Board to attend their first Career/Trades Night on January 12, 2017. This event is designed to give our students, parents and community members firsthand information about careers in the trades and that directly relate to Reavis' Industrial Technology curriculum. Representatives from all trades, community colleges and local businesses and industry have been invited to share their valuable information with the Reavis community. Tables will be set up in the Multi-Purpose Room to display and distribute materials to all in attendance. Mr. Ward hopes to have one or two representatives speak to the entire group about the valuable opportunities available in the trades, colleges, businesses and industries.

Ms. Angel Martin continued by stating she is in her tenth year here at Reavis. She spoke on behalf of Ms. Krystyna Nasinska, ELL Coordinator. She noted that the ELL Department hosted their second meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m. for our Arabic speaking families, which is a part of our bilingual program. Currently, we have fifty Arabic speaking students who are English language learners. Reavis families, who marked on the Home Language Survey that their first language is Arabic, were invited to attend and invitations were sent home in both languages. The agenda of today's meeting was how to help students with homework, the importance of reading, utilization of online resources, and use of technology. Parents were also guided in completing the 5Essentials Survey that Dr. McCurdy spoke about earlier this evening.

Ms. Carol Kraus stated that she is a Special Education teacher here at Reavis for twenty years, but tonight was representing the Ambassadors Club. For more than ten years, Ambassadors, along with her fellow sponsors, Ms. Alicia Romig, and Ms. Rachael Pearson, have teamed up with Our Saviors Lutheran Church here in Burbank to help bring a little Christmas cheer to families in our community through their annual toy drive. Reavis has sponsored the "Adopt A Family" toy drive for the last couple of years through the food pantry that the Church provides for Burbank families in need. This year, 52 families have been "adopted", with the help of 60 clubs, sports teams, classrooms, offices and individuals. Over \$360 in cash has also been collected, including a \$100 donation from the Teachers Union. By this Thursday, the Career Center will look like Santa's Workshop as they prepare to deliver the gifts to the Church. Our students get to experience the true meaning of giving and have a wonderful time doing so. She commended these students and her fellow sponsors and thanked the Administration and Board of Education for their continued help and support.

Ms. Cook stated that on behalf of the entire Board, she is happy to hear that the Union will be attending future meetings as there is always a spot on the agenda for them. She continued that our Administrators do a great job filling them in on what's going on around the building, but it never hurts to have more information, more detail, more perspective and the Board is looking forward to hearing from them.

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

13. 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: 7:55 p.m.
Motion: J. Higgins
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: R. McKinley, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, M. Cook, A. Creger, J. Higgins
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

14. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Time: 9:32 p.m.
Motion: A. Creger
Second: L. O’Dowd
Aye: L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, M. Cook, A. Creger, J. Higgins, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

15. NEW BUSINESS

There were no motions brought up after Closed Session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 9:32 p.m.
Motion: A. Creger
Second: L. O’Dowd
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, M. Cook, A. Creger, J. Higgins, R. McKinley, L. O’Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

Signed and approved this 17th day of January, 2017.

President

Secretary