OFFICIAL MINUTES

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**LA GRANGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 105**

**COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

# CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the District 105 Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Sherman at 6:31 PM on Monday, July 26, 2021.

# ROLL CALL

Present: Sheila Bryck, Amy Flaherty Hartman, Candice Mares, Robert Sherman, Kelly Young

Late: None

Absent: Elias Lopez

Due to the absence of the Board President Elias Lopez, Bob Sherman filled in as President at this meeting.

# ACTION ITEM

***Approval of Appointment of New School Board Member***

Motion by Mrs. Young, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education appoint Bryan White to the Board of Education of School District 105 to serve the remaining term of the vacancy until April 2023.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Hartman, Mares, Sherman, Young, Bryck; Late: None; Absent: Lopez; NAY: None.

Mr. Bryan White moved to the center of the room and read the oath of office with Mr. Sherman. He then took a seat at the Board table.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education adjourn and reconvene in closed session at 6:38 PM.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Bryck, Hartman, Mares, Sherman, Young, White; Late: None; Absent: Lopez; NAY: None.

The Board met in closed session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, performance, and/or dismissal/resignation of personnel and collective negotiating matters.

**RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION**

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Young, to return to general session at 7:34 PM. The motion carried with a voice vote. After a brief recess, the meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

Present: Sheila Bryck, Amy Flaherty Hartman, Candice Mares, Robert Sherman, Kelly Young, Bryan White; Late: None; Absent: Lopez.

**BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Sherman started the meeting reminding us of the heartbreaking news that a student from the District, Perla Jimenez, had passed away suddenly. Perla was a student at Hodgkins and Seventh Avenue Schools, and was set to attend Gurrie Middle School in the fall. Mr. Sherman asked the Board and audience to join with him in a moment of silence to mourn her loss and to honor those we lost over the past year.

Dr. Ganan shared positive feedback from a D105 teacher’s university supervisor with regard to the District’s Achievers Summer School program. The District implemented this program as a result of the pandemic.

Dr. Ganan also shared that a decision on face masking will be made in early to mid-August, with new guidance just arriving and additional guidance expected to be coming over the next couple of weeks. A final plan, including a Health and Safety Handbook, will be shared at that time.

Dr. Ganan welcomed Bryan White as the new school board member that was appointed at the meeting earlier and took the oath of office. Dr. Ganan thanked the other candidates that showed interest in filling the vacancy. There were a lot of qualified candidates from the entire community, which made the decision a difficult one.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

Muneer Radi, a parent in the District, attended the meeting and showed the current summer reading book, *Look Both Ways*, by Jason Reynolds, that has the Coretta Scott King Book Award Seal on it. He had some questions for the Board on the book. He also stated the he concerned about the book because it was discovered the seal is depicted with inverted religious symbols and appears on a wide array of books on the school library shelves.

Kendra Van Kempen, a District parent, was not able to attend the meeting, but she submitted her comment. Mr. Sherman read her comment below:

“I would like to voice my support for the American Academy of Pediatrics and Cook County Health Department’s recent guidance that recommends mask wearing for all unvaccinated individuals over two years old while indoors, and I ask the Board to commit to requiring masks for unvaccinated people, as well as the other recommended layered mitigation strategies, as the new school year begins. As the parent of an incoming kindergartner who has a younger, higher risk child at home, I appreciate the concern and care that the Board has shown towards keeping our District safe, and appreciate your willingness to consider.”

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Full In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

Dr. Ganan presented the Board with the plan for In-Person Learning 5 days a week learning module. He stated this is the plan as of today, and that things may change. The plan will again be for students to be dismissed at 2:15 pm on Wednesdays to provide time for staff professional development.

The District will not have a remote school next year which meets the guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health. If a student has a medical contraindication to in-person learning despite mitigation measures in place, the parents should contact Shelby Raney, the District Lead Nurse.

Dr. Ganan provided more details on the following:

* Close Contact Definition (CDC/IDPH)
* Removal of Mitigation Measures – The District will no longer require daily self- certification (MyMedBot) or desk shields in most locations
* The Latest Quarantine Guidance
* Masking Guidance at the time of the meeting
* ESSER III Funding

COVID Screening/Testing – SHIELD Illinois (state approved) RT-PCR saliva test to screen unvaccinated individuals, with parent consent, once per week and the BinaxNOW (state approved) diagnostic test for symptomatic individuals. There is no cost to the District for participants of either test.

Dr. Ganan stated that because information and guidance are often changing, the District’s next steps will be to:

* + Await additional guidance
  + Continue to meet/communicate with the District Medical Advisory Team
  + Continue to monitor the local COVID metrics
  + Continue to consult with public health authorities
  + Keep current with legal guidance

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Face Mask Discussion*

This was discussed in more detail in the presentation by Dr. Ganan.

*First Reading of Press Policy Issue 107*

There were 20 policies and 7 exhibits presented to the School Board for review from the Illinois Association of School Boards (PRESS Plus Issue 107, June 2021). There were no questions, and, therefore these policies will be presented to the Board for adoption at the August 2021 meeting.

1:10 Scholl District Legal Status

1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements – **SEE CHANGES ON POLICY – UPDATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

1:30 School District Philosphy – **UPDATED DISTRICT MISSION TO MATCH THE STRATEGIC PLAN MISSION – *Empower student to make a difference in our world by assisting them to be self-directed, passionate, lifelong learners*.**

2:10 School District Governance

2:30 School District Elections

2:120E1 Guidelines for Serving as a Mentor to a New Board of Education Member

2:120E2 Website Listing of Development and Training Completed by Board Members

2:125E3 Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursement

2:130 Board- Superintendent Relationship

2:220E4 Open Meeting Minutes

2:220E7 Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings

2:240 Board Policy Development

2:240E1 PRESS Issue Updates

2:240E2 Developing Local Policy

3:30 Chain of Command

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program

6:145 Migrant Students

6:160 English Learners

6:170 Title I Programs

6:235 Access to Electronic Networks

6:255 Assemblies and Ceremonies

6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

7:220 Bus Conduct

7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities

7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs

*Summer Programming Update*

Coleen Winterfield provided an update on the Summer School program for 2021, which is currently in session during the weeks of July 12 - August 5. The four-week program is operating Monday – Thursday, 8:30 – 12:00. The program has 132 incoming PreK-6th grade students and 30 incoming 7th-8th grade students. Attendance for summer school has been high. The teachers and paraprofessionals have been working diligently to support students in grade-level instruction to help prepare them for the upcoming school year.

To promote attendance, each day a student who attends summer school gets his/her name placed in a raffle to win an attendance gift card to a local business. Coleen thanked these local businesses for their generous donations: Corner Bakery, Honey Fluff Donuts, Cold Stone Creamery, Casciani’s Pizza, Café Salsa, Chick Fil A, Salerno’s Pizza, and Highland Queen Drive-In.

Kathryn Heeke reported that the first two weeks of Achievers have been a great success. A total of 115 students participated from the District’s 5 schools. Students are attending two- hour long sessions which are offered in the morning or afternoon for reading or math. Thirteen teachers and five paraprofessionals have assisted students in their reading and math journies. Teachers commented that the essential standards the grade level teams chose have been “spot on,” so teachers are really able to focus students’ learning on the most essential skill. They are using various applications to engage student learning such as MyMath, Newsela an IXL as resources and sending students home with an Individualized Learning Path to continue their educational journey for the remainder of the summer. The Summer Achievers program will end August 6th.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Sherman, that the Board of Education of School District 105 approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. - Approval of Minutes, Regular, General, and Special –June 28, 2021; July 19, 2021

B. - Approval of Payment of Bills/Payroll

C. - Administrative Reports

1.) Curriculum/Instruction/Professional Development

2.) Business and Finance

3.) Technology

4.) FOIA

D.- Approval of Substitute List

On roll call, members voting AYE: Mares, Sherman, Young, Bryck, Hartman, White; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

**ACTION ITEMS**

***Approval of Employment***

Motion by Mrs. Young, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of

School District 105 approve the employment of the following:

1. Anne Gallicho, 5th Grade Teacher at Seventh Avenue School, at a salary of $45,084.00, effective August 23, 2021;
2. Jennifer Milligan, Math Teacher at Gurrie Middle School, at a salary of $47,120.00, effective August 23, 2021;
3. Colleen O’Connell, 2nd Grade Teacher at Seventh Avenue, at a salary of $45,084.00, effective August 23, 2021;
4. Rosa Hernandez, Part-Time HR Administrative Assistant for the District, at a rate of $20.00 per hour, effective August 9, 2021;
5. Valerie Smetana, ELA/Social Studies Teacher at Gurrie Middle School, at a salary of $49,680.00, effective August 23, 2021;

and the following change of positions:

1. Anna Duran Cid del Prado, from a .80 Music Teacher to a 1.0 Music Teacher at Hodgkins, Ideal and Spring Avenue Schools, at a salary of $54,794.97, effective August 23, 2021;
2. Amy Kerrigan, from a .60 Reading Teacher to 1.0 Reading Teacher , at a salary of $65,550.00, effective August 23, 2021;
3. Dawn Wiegel, from a Summer Paraprofessional for the District to a Permanent Paraprofessional for the District, at a rate of $15.50 per hour, effective August 23, 2021;
4. Jennifer Pigman, from a Paraprofessional, to the Seventh Avenue Clerical Assistant, effective August 23, 2021.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Mares, Sherman, Young, Bryck, Hartman, White ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

***Approval of Resignation***

Motion by Ms. Mares, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of

School District 105 approve the resignation of the following:

1. Cindy Fern, Clerical Aide at Seventh Avenue School, effective May 28, 2021;
2. Laura Ghera, .50 Music Teacher at Seventh Avenue School, effective June 1, 2021;
3. Guadalupe Gracia, Paraprofessional at Hodgkins School, effective May 28, 2021;
4. Maribel Medina, Paraprofessional at Seventh Avenue School, effective May 28, 2021;
5. Reyna Nunez, Paraprofessional at Ideal, effective August 5, 2021;
6. Charity (Paige) Rambeaux, Paraprofessional at Hodgkins School, effective May 28, 2021;
7. Amy Synowiec Morales, Social Studies Teacher at Gurrie Middle, effective June 1, 2021;

AND CHANGE OF DATE OF RETIREMENT FOR:

1. Wendy Daly, 2nd Grade Teacher at Spring Avenue School, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 School Year.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Mares, Sherman, Young, Bryck, Hartman, White; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

***Approval of Voluntary COVID-Testing***

Motion by Mrs. Hartman, seconded by Mrs. Bryck, that the Board of Education of

School District 105 approve the voluntary COVID-Testing and utilize the SHIELD (State Approved) saliva screener to voluntary test unvaccinated individuals and offer the Binaxnow (State Approved) diagnostic test for symptomatic individuals. Both tests are free of charge.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Sherman, Young, Bryck, Hartman, Mares, White; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

***Declaration of Closed Session Minutes***

Motion by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Mrs. Young, that the Board of Education of

School District 105, having reviewed minutes of closed sessions from January 2021 through June 2021, declare the minutes available for public inspection.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Young, Bryck, Hartman, Mares, Sherman; ABSENT: Lopez; ABSTAIN: White; NAY: None.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

* Second Reading and Adoption of Press Policy Issue 107
* Update on Full In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan
* Strategic Plan Update

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. White moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Bryck The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM on Monday, July 26, 2021.

On roll call, members voting AYE: Bryck, Hartman, Mares, Sherman, Young, White; ABSENT: Lopez; NAY: None.

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Board President Board Secretary