



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Kendall, Kane and Will Counties
May 8, 2023**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District 308, Kendall, Kane and Will Counties, Illinois, met in a regular session in the Community Room at Oswego East High School.

Note for file: *All roll call votes are shown in alphabetical order in these minutes; however, during the Board Meeting votes are called out in accordance with Board Policy 2:220*

1. Call to Order – Executive Session (6:15 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m. by President LaTonya Simelton

1.1 Roll Call:

Upon Roll Call the following members answered present:

Dominick Cirone, Lauri Doyle, Eugene Gatewood,
LaTonya Simelton, Alison Swanson

Members Absent (at roll call):

Jennifer Johnson, Jared Ploger

2. Closed Session

2.1 Enter Closed Session under statute(s): 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of certain employees and individuals; 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Ms. Alison Swanson, to enter Closed Session under statute(s); 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of certain employees and individuals; 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 5-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood,
Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Alison Swanson

The Board of Education entered closed session at 6:18 p.m.

2.2 Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to return to Open session

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 5-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood,
Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Alison Swanson

The Board of Education returned to open session at 6:23 p.m.

3. Call to Order – Public Session (7:15 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 p.m. by President LaTonya Simelton

3.1 Roll Call:

Upon Roll Call the following members answered present:

Dominick Cirone, Lauri Doyle, Eugene Gatewood, Jennifer Johnson,
LaTonya Simelton, Alison Swanson

Members Absent (at roll call):

Jared Ploger

Administration Present:

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John Sparlin
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Faith Dahlquist
Assistant Superintendent for Student & Staff Services, Dr. Heather Kincaid
Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Dr. John Petzke
Director of Communications, Theresa Komitas

Others Present:

Attorney Maureen Lemon, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg and Castaldo, as well as employees of the District and members of the community.

Recording Secretary:

Ursula Studer

3.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President LaTonya Simelton

4. Presentations

4.1 Superintendent Candidate Profile

The firm conducting the search for the next Superintendent presented on data received from online surveys and focus groups. This data is used to develop the candidate profile for screening and questioning potential candidates. There was feedback from respondents summarized, outlining numerous strengths and weaknesses, priorities for the first year, desired skills and characteristics in the individual. The candidate profile, along with the full presentation shared at the meeting, are both being added to the district webpage for the Superintendent Search. The consultants will conduct interviews and reference checks amongst candidates and bring the Semi-Finalist Slate to the Board, who will identify their selections for the next round of interviews. The timeline includes a meeting May 22 during a closed session where candidates are presented and the interview process is discussed. At least five recommended candidates will be presented to the board by the consultants. More information about how the community, staff, and administrators can be involved will be discussed at the meeting and then shared publicly. The first round of interviews (5-7 candidates) will be conducted May 30-June 1, the second round (3 candidates) will be held June 5-7.

Mr. Ploger arrived at 8:05 p.m.

5. Public Comment

5.1 Opportunity for the Public to address the Board of Education

Sheila Lostumbo – a bilingual Reading Specialist at Hunt Club, commented on her position being split between Hunt Club and Boulder Hill for the 2023-24 school year. A letter was submitted to Dr. Sparlin, Ms. Dahlquist and the Board of Education. This decision will have a negative impact on the students. Boulder Hill will have a 1.5 position on Hunt Club a .5 only. We recognize that Boulder Hill needs additional support, but not by reducing it for other students.

Grace Rihel – a student at Oswego High School, commented regarding the problem of items being stolen out of locker rooms. At times lockers are not locked or a lock is cut off.

6. Comments/Reports

6.1 Superintendent Report

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week- thanks for all you do every day. National School Nurse Day is also this week. This is the last meeting prior to Graduation to be held on May 20th. Thank you to Mrs. Doyle and Mrs. Swanson for serving two terms here on the board. Thank you to the Student Ambassadors for serving over the past year- congratulations on your graduation!

6.2 Student Ambassador Report

The mental health survey went out 2 weeks ago. The SSAC will be meeting four times over the next two weeks to desegregate the data, create research questions and work towards their goals. The application for next year's student ambassador roles at each high school just opened, they note more interest amongst the student body.

6.3 Board Committee Reports

Equity and Finance & Facilities Committee – there were no questions on the committee reports.

6.4 Board Member Comments

Mr. Gatewood spoke highly of the fine arts programs in the district, Mama Mia was a fantastic production! He also thanked both Mrs. Swanson and Mrs. Doyle for their time on the board and the experiences they have shared, helping him to grow.

Mr. Cirone attended Amplify! Which was great, with many opportunities to engage.

Mrs. Simelton expressed that the value of teachers is so much higher than what society places upon them, as they teach our most valuable assets. Acknowledging our teachers this week. Also acknowledging our nurses for stepping up in hard times and for their resiliency.

Mrs. Johnson thanked both teachers and nurses. She attended a performance of both OHS and OEHS Symphonic bands who performed at the Chicago Orchestra. She also attended and raved about Mama Mia, so impressed by the production. She joined Mr. Gatewood at an invited visit with the Long Beach staff and students, and played some impressive games with students at Boulder Hill. Thank you to the two outgoing board members, the hundreds of hours of meetings, training, calls and engagement- such an incredible commitment! Gratitude to the two student ambassadors graduating, they were actively engaged in the decision making process, which inspired peers across the state.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

7.1 Approval of Minutes from previous Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve all items under consent, including Minutes from the Board of Education meeting on April 24, 2023, open and closed session and to acknowledge the FOIA requests received by the district

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 7-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Alison Swanson

8. Information

8.1 Financial Statements

There were no questions on the Financial Statements.

8.2 Resolution and Request for Release of Kendall County Land Cash Funds

There were no questions on this information item.

8.3 Intergovernmental Agreement with Plano Area Special Education Cooperative (PASEC)

Ms. Johnson asked for criteria that is used to allow students into this program. Ms. Dahlquist will provide that to the Board.

8.4 New Mass Communication Tool

Ms. Komitas, Director of Communications and Mr. Mike Frieders, Coordinator of School Safety and Security, presented on the new Mass Communication Tool.

They previously presented to the Board the desire to move from Blackboard to Catapult for Mass Communications (and later website content management). However, while evaluating potential solutions to an identified need in emergency communications, Mr. Frieders found Catapult to be his first choice. Catapult's EMS module allows for easy, two-way communications during an emergency. This type of communication will help staff to easily report an emergency and for staff to stay informed during a situation. This also eases communication between the district's leadership team and building leaders during an incident.

The module also maintains communications and accountability during and after an emergency, including attendance and location of students based on their schedule in the Student Information System. Staff will be able to report, ask questions, provide a list of who is with them, drop a pin of their location, receive updates from the district and more with the use of the app or website portal.

If needed, reunification can be conducted with the app, which will notify parents of locations and directions, produce a check-out procedure for staff and track when and to whom each student was released.

The app maintains a log of all incidents, both real and drills for reporting needs. Staff assigned to more than one building, or those who visit multiple sites will be included in emergency notifications and conversations.

The fully customizable product will retain the same safety vocabulary we use now. If approved in June, it will take roughly 4-6 weeks to build, and train, allowing for use to begin at the start of the upcoming school year.

By choosing the same vendor for both mass communications and emergency management reporting, tracking and communications, we will experience further integrations, lessen issues between providers, and provide a more reliable source for staff information in an emergency.

When comparing products three large vendors were considered. Catapult was the top choice due to ease of use, integration with communications, and also the lowest cost.

Cost Comparison:

- Catapult: Year 1: \$34,598.50 Ongoing Annual: \$29,352.50
- Crisis Go: Year 1: \$34,745 Ongoing Annual: \$30,495
- Raptor: Year 1: \$51,744 Ongoing Annual: \$45,144

9. Action Items

9.1 Approval of Bills for Payment

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to authorize the payment of bills in the amount of three million, nine hundred forty-two thousand, six hundred sixty-seven dollars and forty cents (\$3,942,667.40) as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 7-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Alison Swanson

9.2 Approval of PRESS Policy Manual – Section 7

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to approve the PRESS Policies for Section 7 as discussed and presented

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 7-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Alison Swanson

9.3 Approval of Building Administrator Contract

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve the Building Administrator contract as presented

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 6-1

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Alison Swanson

Nay: Ms. Jennifer Johnson

9.4 Approval of District Administrator Contracts

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve the District Administrator contracts as presented

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 4-3

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. LaTonya Simelton,

Nay: Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. Alison Swanson

9.5 Approval of Personnel Report

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve the Personnel report as presented

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 6-1

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton

Nay: Ms. Alison Swanson

10. Recognition of Board Service

10.1 Recognition of Board Members Leaving Office

Board Members: Thank you for your service, sacrifices, time away from families, for the travel, the commitment. The Board offers a heartfelt thank you.

Student Ambassadors: Thank you for your service to your peers, for providing the Board with a student perspective, you have grown in your style as a transformational leader, a representative of the voice of our students. Thank you for your commitment and your courage. You've blazed a path, a legacy that will live on here and across the state.

Lauri Doyle, Alison Swanson, Kaitlyn Jobes and Aanya Roye left the meeting at this time.

11. New Board Member Oath

11.1 Administration of Board Members Oath of Office

President Simelton administered the Oath of Office to Dominick Cirone, Dr. Amy Murillo, Mr. Jared Ploger and Ms. Mary Jo Wenmouth.

12. Adjourn Sine Die

12.1 Motion to Adjourn Sine Die

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to adjourn Sine Die

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 5-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson,
Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton

13. Seating of New Board Members and Roll Call of Newly Established Board

13.1 Seating of New Board Members and Roll Call

The newly sworn in Board members took their seats at this time and a roll call was conducted.

*Mr. Dominick Cirone
Mr. Eugene Gatewood
Ms. Jennifer Johnson
Dr. Amy Murillo
Mr. Jared Ploger
Ms. LaTonya Simelton
Ms. Mary Jo Wenmouth*

14. Appoint President Pro Tem

14.1 Appoint Superintendent as President Pro Tempore to preside over the Election of the Board of Education President

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to appoint the Superintendent as President Pro Tempore

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 7-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Dr. Amy Murillo,
Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Mary Jo Wenmouth

15. Board of Education Reorganization

15.1 The Board of Education will elect an officer for the position of President

Nominations: Ms. LaTonya Simelton
Declared as President, Ms. LaTonya Simelton

15.2 The Board of Education will elect an officer for the position of Vice President

Nominations: Mr. Eugene Gatewood
Declared as Vice President, Mr. Eugene Gatewood

15.3 The Board of Education will elect an officer for the position of Secretary

Nominations: Mr. Jared Ploger
Declared as Secretary, Mr. Jared Ploger

15.4 The Board of Education will establish Regular Board Meeting Dates, Time and Place
Mondays beginning at 6pm- Closed Session, 7pm- Open Session - *New schedule begins in July*

A motion was made by Ms. LaTonya Simelton, second by Mr. Jared Ploger, to adopt Option 1 (Monday's) with a start time of 6:00 pm for closed session and 7:00 pm for open session

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 7-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Dr. Amy Murillo,
Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Mary Jo Wenmouth

16. Public Comment

16.1 Opportunity for the Public to address the Board of Education

There was no public comment

17. Adjournment

17.1 Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Jared Ploger, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to adjourn.

All were in favor unanimously to adjourn.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 7-0

Aye: Mr. Dominick Cirone, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Dr. Amy Murillo,
Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Mary Jo Wenmouth

Meeting Adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

President

Attest: _____
Secretary