



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Oswego Community Unit School District 308  
Kendall, Kane and Will Counties  
May 9, 2022**

**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 6:15 p.m. by President LaTonya Simelton

1.1 Roll Call:

Upon Roll Call the following members answered present:

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

Members Absent (at roll call):

Jennifer Johnson

**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)(10) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

*A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Ms. LaTonya Simelton, to enter closed session under statutes: 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of certain employees and individuals; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.*

***Final Resolution: Motion Carried 6-0***

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

*The Board of Education entered closed session at 6:17 p.m.*

2.2 Return to Open Session

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to return to Open Session.*

***Final Resolution: Motion Carried 7-0***

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

*The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:25 p.m.*

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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,  
Jared Ploger, LaTonya Simelton, Alison Swanson

*Members Absent (at roll call):*

*None*

*Administration Present:*

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John Sparlin  
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Faith Dahlquist  
Chief Financial Officer, Dr. John Petzke

*Others Present:*

Board Attorney Maureen Lemon, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg and Castaldo participated remotely,  
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. Public Comment**

4.1 Opportunity for the Public to address the Board of Education

*Ms. Johnson read an email comment from a student*

***Laniyah Robinson*** – I am here today to ask that the school board integrate the learning about different heritages into our academic curriculum during their respective months. In my 11 years of public schooling we have never formally learned about different heritages such as Asian and Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and Native American. As the world continues to advance, globalization increases like never before and

more of today's jobs require students to be culturally aware. Being culturally well rounded will not only help students get jobs in the future but also help students with problem solving, social skills, and building compassion. Throughout most of the school year each month celebrates a certain heritage, I understand that our school curriculum is already very packed but even if in the first of every month 1st period teachers took the first 10mins of class to quickly discuss what that month is and some important people, traditions, and holidays. Oswego is not only my home but also a town preparing children for success, let's work to keep it that way.

**Jessica Peterson** – thanked the district for their contributions on behalf of the American Heart Association. The donations go towards advancements in cardiovascular research and it teaches students how to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Donations are not required to participate in this program, but the school district still raised a total of \$75,688. We passed a big milestone this year, with over \$1M total raised.

**Daniela Ramirez** – student at OHS, commented regarding the changes for the Summa Cum Laude recognition. They students recently learned that they would be getting recognized at the Senior Awards night and not receive a medal as in previous years, but a pin instead. Why is this changing for the class of 2022?

**Margaret Leger** – a senior at OHS that is graduating Summa Cum Laude. Margaret shared how hard she worked the last four years and part of what our group was looking forward to, was collecting our medals. There used to be a Top 10 banquet, with both, students and teachers attending, and that has already been taken away. The school is so worried about making everyone feel equal, that they are willing to push aside our academic achievement.

**Victoria Trevino** – part of the senior class at OHS, graduating Summa Cum Laude. There are over 100 seniors graduating with a GPA that is 4.0 or higher, which is insanely impressive. As a freshman, I found out that there would no longer be a Top 10 dinner. The Summa Cum Laude group no longer gets to sit in the front at graduation and now, the medal is for this great academic achievement is taken away also. Victoria shared that she is all for the inclusion of everyone, but when did academic excellence become a participation award.

**Valeria Ramirez** – commented on behalf of her sister and her classmates that worked exceptionally hard to receive this honor. The medals are simply a symbol for the hard work that the students put in. It is completely unfair to revoke this special distinction. What is biased is to chose this class to revoke this honor. The students worked for this and they should be rewarded.

**Nwadam Tendong** – shared her disappointment that her class will no longer receive the medals. Nwadam shared that as a first generation black student that is part of this two black student average per AP class, this achievement is more for her family than it is for her. Nwadam has worked countless hours to keep her high GPA and participated in Track, sacrificing her mental health, social life and most of all her sleep. We deserve to be respected and recognized for all of our hard work.

## 5. Comments/Reports

### 5.1 Board Member Comments

*Ms. Doyle* commented that she would be happy to share her thoughts with the students, as far as what went into the decision the Board made a few years ago regarding the recognition of academic achievements. She shared the idea of limiting cell phone use during school hours with the function in iphones for family sharing. This would allow students to focus in school without cell use, but retain the ability to communicate with parents in urgent situations.

*Mr. Ploger* shared that he was part of the Board when the decision regarding academic recognition was made and a big part of the discussion was, to preserve tradition. He also attended the 20-year Bednarcik celebration – it was a very well attended event.

*Mr. Cirone* attended the retirement and recognition event, and also volunteered with the building of outdoor learning space at Brokaw- which is a student's Eagle Scout project, with contributions from the Brokaw HSA.

*Ms. Johnson* shared that May is Mental Health Awareness Month; self-reflection to determine if use of cell phones is impacting mental health. Also attended the production of Chicago!

*Mr. Gatewood* attended retirement and recognition event and was impressed by over 700 hours of combined service! Attended Newsies production- phenomenal performance!

*President Simelton* attended the retirement and recognition event- very grateful to those at 25 years and above- it's a hard time to be in education. Retirees, we're better because of each of you, thank you!

A short culture and climate survey will be given May 16-20 to all staff. Anonymity is a top priority, which is why a third party is being used. It's a safe place to express concerns to help inform improvement efforts.

## 5.2 Superintendent's Report

National School Nurses Day this week- Thank you for all they do!

This is the last regular board meeting before graduation. It's a time of reflection. On May 21, the success of over 1,500 students will be celebrated as they graduate.

We are entering the 2nd year of our strategic plan, a lot of work has been done this year!

Dr. Sparlin shared that he is meeting with union reps to discuss ideas and develop a coordinated effort to recruit and hire for the start of next school year.

*Ms. Swanson left the meeting from 7:58 p.m. to 8:02 p.m.*

## 5.3 Student Ambassador Reports

Student advisory committee met to discuss the policy, code of conduct from example schools to help address and identify potential solutions to the primary issue of sexual harassment identified by students on a survey. Title 9 was discussed. The threats that students ranked as top priorities are being evaluated. Committee discussed roadblocks to reporting, and how to potentially combat the root causes of the issue.

## 6. Information

### 6.1 Financial Statements

*The Board members had no questions on the Financial Statements.*

### 6.2 Cooling Towers at The Wheatland's Elementary and Thompson Junior High School and Structural Work on Supports at Bednarcik Junior High School

This project was presented to the board in 2021 and, due to costs exceeding the estimate, the bid was rejected and the project was tabled. Circumstances are now favorable for this project to be reconsidered. The work will include the base bid: Thompson, removal and replacement of the existing cooling tower, Alternate #1; Bednarcik, refurbishing the existing cooling tower support framing, and Alternate #2; The Wheatlands, removal and replacement of the existing cooling tower and structural support framing work. The Thompson tower is 24 years old and was refurbished in 2009. The Wheatlands tower is 20 years old and had the interior re-coated in 2015. The average life expectancy of a cooling tower is 20 years. On Monday, May 2, 2022 bids were publicly opened and read aloud for the above referenced project.

A bid qualification and scope review has been conducted with C. Acitelli Heating and it is believed that they have adequately covered the required work scope for the base bid and the 2 alternates.

The recommendation is to accept the base bid and Alternates #1 and #2 from C. Acitelli Heating in the amount of \$447,960.00. The original budget estimate for this project was \$531,000.00.

### 6.3 RSP 5-Year Enrollment Projections

Variables were discussed that led to changes in numbers. Downward trend anticipated to turn upward at elementary with growth over the next several years. Junior high will see decrease and stabilization, high schools will show decline over the next five years. Factors that impact numbers include birth rates, students aging out of current housing, and new building of houses attracting families. School capacity and anticipated flow of students is evaluated for consideration of space needs. This report is completed each year.

The Board asked for the report to show which Elementary school the students from the new developments would attend. Mr. Ploger stressed the importance of both high schools being close to equal in numbers. The Senior classes graduating are larger than the projected Kindergartners coming in and the birth rates are down. We have fewer students coming from the single and multi-family units then we have in the past.

The Board asked for financial projections with no increase in EBF as well as projections with no levying for the next 5 years.

The complete presentation for the RSP Enrollment projections, including audio, can be found at the following link: <https://go.boarddocs.com/il/oswego308/Board.nsf/Public>

### 6.4 Resolution and Request of Kendall County Land Cash Funds

Kendall County is holding the balance of Land Cash in the amount of \$24,318.29. In order for SD 308 to receive these funds, the district must submit a request to the Regional Superintendent of Schools along with a [Resolution](#) stating the purpose for the use of the funds.

*The Board members had no questions on the Resolution to Request the Kendall County Land Cash Funds.*

## 7. Presentation

### 7.1 English Learners Presentation

Presented by Director of English Learners (EL), Renee Sartore. The EL department oversees curriculum and instruction for students, professional development on EL, Title III grants and budget, federal and state reporting, written translations and oral interpretations, and oversight of the BPAC parent group. While overall district enrollment is decreasing, the number of students in EL is increasing. Students exit the program when reaching fluency through testing and evaluation. The population of EL students is ever changing as new students move in, and others exit. Interruptions to learning and changes in the testing for students impacts their recent performance and length of time in the program. 70 languages are spoken in the district, Spanish is by far the largest native language of program participants.

SD 308 provides the highest level of service to students for which they qualify. Parents, by law, can choose to accept the level of service offered, or refuse some or all services. The use of Dual Language programs achieve sustained academic success in students over time, where alternate programs may show quick success in early grades, but loss over time as compared to peers. Goals for EL include strengthening the continuum of services, including a core team with Sheltered English staff to identify strengths/needs of the program. Development of assessment that aligns with the goals of the program to more closely monitor progression.

Strategic Plan Administrative Recommendation for EL Program: Making Progress

The complete presentation for the English Learner Presentation, including audio, can be found at the following link: <https://go.boarddocs.com/il/oswego308/Board.nsf/Public>

Ms. Sartore added that they will begin a cohort that is grant funded, to allow current teachers to get an EL endorsement.

Ms. Swanson asked to receive more actual data for this program that has been expanded, to show that this program is working for our students.

## 8. Action Items

### 8.1 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, eight hundred twenty-eight thousand, four hundred seventy-five dollars and fifty-nine cents (\$3,828,475.59) 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

### 8.2 Minutes from previous Meeting

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to approve the Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on April 25, 2022, open and closed session*

#### ***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

### 8.3 Approval of the 2022-23 Board of Education Meeting Dates

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Jared Ploger, to approve the 2022-23 Board of Education Meeting Dates and Times*

#### ***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

### 8.4 Approval of the Superintendent Evaluation Tool

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Tool as discussed and presented*

#### ***Final Resolution: Motion Carried 5-2***

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

Nay: Ms. Lauri Doyle, Ms. Alison Swanson

### 8.5 Approval of Building Administrator Contract

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Jared Ploger, to approve the Building Administrator contract 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

### 8.6 Approval of District Administrator Contracts

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to approve the District Administrator contracts 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

8.7 Approval of Personnel Report

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, 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

**9. Closed Session**

9.1 Enter Closed Session under statute(s) ILCS 120/2(c)(10) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Jared Ploger, to enter closed session under statutes; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.*

***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

*The Board of Education entered closed session at 10:01 p.m.*

2.2 Return to Open Session

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to return to Open Session.*

***Final Resolution: Motion Carried 7-0***

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

*The Board of Education returned to open session at 10:28 p.m.*

**10. Adjournment**

10.1 Adjourn

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to adjourn.*

*All were in favor unanimously to adjourn.*

***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

*Meeting Adjourned at 10:29 p.m.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary