



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Oswego Community Unit School District 308  
Kendall, Kane and Will Counties  
June 6, 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,  
Jennifer Johnson, LaTonya Simelton,

Members Absent (at roll call):

Jared Ploger, Alison Swanson

**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)(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. Eugene Gatewood, 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)(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 5-0**

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

*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 Ms. Alison Swanson, to return to Open Session.*

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

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

*The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:04 p.m.*

- 2.3 Enter Closed Session under statute(s): 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 Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to enter closed session under statutes 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 6-0***

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

*The Board of Education entered closed session at 7:05 p.m.*

- 2.4 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 6-0***

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

*The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:19 p.m.*

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 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  
Chief Financial Officer, Dr. John Petzke  
Director of Communications, Theresa Komitas

*Others Present:*

Board 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. Recognitions

4.1 Recognition of Student Ambassadors for their Time of Service

Board of Education Vice President Mr. Gatewood recognized our two student ambassadors, Aanya Roy and Colton Sannito for serving in this role and representing the student body. A keepsake item was presented to each student on behalf of the Board.

#### 5. Public Comment

5.1 Opportunity for the Public to address the Board of Education

**John Kellogg** – a sophomore at OHS, thanked the Board for their ongoing support of the Chinese Foreign Language program. It is an important language in the world and it allows me to communicate with the 1.1M people that speak Mandarin. Being in this program has helped me be a better student, because it forces me to study for long periods of time every night. John hopes this remains a foreign language options for many future students in the years to come.

#### 6. Comments/Reports

6.1 Board Member Comments

Mrs. Johnson shared remarks on what an honor it was to be at Graduation and celebrating student accomplishments.

President Simelton shared about the pride and amazement she felt at participating in the ceremony of Graduation, presenting the class, honoring the student's accomplishments.

Mr. Gatewood shared comments about the additional small graduation ceremony provided to athletes who were competing on the date of the large commencement, he was honored to participate and offer that great opportunity to those students and their families.

6.2 Board Committee Reports

**Finance and Facilities** - Broad topics regarding finance in the district, review of past financial decisions, opportunities in forecasting for the budget. Dr. Petzke shared additional information with members about school finance and preparations for the upcoming budget presentation.

**Policy and Legislative** – The last meeting of the year covered many policies, including discussion on several topics. Some highlights include:

- The pandemic; lessons learned and reflections.
- Transparency with the community regarding budget and sharing of information in a timely manner.
- Homework discussion- inconsistency between classes, teachers, grades, buildings, and levels, which creates difficulty for students in expectations. Difference between homework and busy work- what is really the best for students? This policy is being sent back to the Teaching and Learning Committee for continued discussion.

Student ambassadors shared input on the topic and challenges of inconsistency within their classes and teachers, not only homework, but also in assessment.

### 6.3 Superintendent's Report

A moment of silence was shared in memory of Oswego High School senior Joshua Meares. The district joins together in sending our condolences to the family and friends of Josh, and to the entire OHS community.

Following the tragic school shooting event in Texas, Dr. Sparlin shared details on the training and practices in place across the district to protect the safety of our students and staff.

Dr. Sparlin reminded everyone that the deadline for students to apply to be a Student Ambassador for next year has been extended until June 29. Information can be found on the district website or interested students can contact his office for more information.

### 6.4 Student Ambassador Reports

Research on different models to address sexual harassment in district. Student-friendly language in policy to address the issue. How students better understand the policy.

Colton shared his gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the board in this role as ambassador.

## 7. Presentation

### 7.1 Equity Presentation

Within Support for Student Learning: Choice, Challenge and Success for all students.

- The goal of responsive and engaging instruction. Observations and training on how to bring this to classrooms was discussed. Student voice was utilized for assessing progress. The curriculum review cycle was reestablished, using a lens of equity, and striving for choice and differentiation.
- Discussion on the established equity statements - what do they mean and how they are used.
- Student survey to provide input. First Amplify event was held, the next is being planned.
- Microaggressions were added to the bullying policy.
- Nearly 50 professional development opportunities were offered to staff on several topics related to Diversity and Equity.
- Many efforts are underway for the recruitment and retention of a high quality and diverse staff.
- Photos and a short video clip from the Amplify student event were also shared.
- Student DEI Committee and Student Ambassador Committee are working with DEI Director to create paths for communication and information on topics identified as important by the student body.

### *Administrative Recommendation for Equity Updates: Making Progress*

The Board members thanked Dr. Waller for creating an inclusive environment with her work and for making students and staff feel like they are seen and heard. We continue to focus on climate and culture as it is the foundation to anything we talk about accomplishing in the future.

The complete Equity Presentation, including audio, can be found at the following link:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/il/oswego308/Board.nsf/Public>

## 8. Approval of Consent Agenda

8.1 Approval of Minutes from previous Meetings

8.2 Acknowledgement of Freedom of Information (FOIA) Requests

- 8.3 Gifts and/or Donations
- 8.4 Illinois High School Association Membership Renewal for 2022-23 for Oswego and Oswego East High School
- 8.5 Board Policy References and Legal Updates; Section 3: General School Administration (3:70) Section 4: Operational Services (4:70, 4:180) Section 5: General Personnel (5:40, 5:70, 5:110, 5:140) Section 6: Instruction (6:70, 6:80)

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Ms. Alison Swanson, to approve all items under consent, including 8.1 Minutes from the Board of Education meeting on May 9, 2022 open and closed session and the public forum on May 16, 2022; 8.2 to acknowledge the FOIA requests received by the District; 8.3 the acceptance of gifts and/or donations received in FY22; 8.4 to approve the Illinois High School Association Membership Renewal for 2022-23 for both, Oswego East and Oswego High School and 8.5 to approve the following Board Policy References and Legal Updates; Section 3: (3:70) Section 4: Operational Services: (4:70, 4:180) Section 5: General Personnel (5:40, 5:70, 5:110, 5:140) Section 6: Instruction (6:70, 6:80)*

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

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

**9. Information**

- 9.1 Financial Statements

*There were no questions on the Financial Statements*

- 9.2 Board Policy First Reading – Section 2: School Board (2:230) Section 4: Operational Services (4:10, 4:150) Section 5: General Personnel (5:240) Section 6: Instruction (6:140) Section 7: Students (7:15, 7:215, 7:285)

*There were no questions on the Board Policies for First Read*

- 9.3 Intergovernmental Agreement Between Yorkville 115 and CUSD 308 for access to Special Education Programs and Services

In July 2019, Oswego SD308 entered a three-year Intergovernmental Agreement with Yorkville Community Unit School District 115. This agreement allowed their students to access our Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH), East View Academy (EVA), STARS, and Extended School Year (ESY) programs. Recently, Administration met with Yorkville School District and agreed to the terms in the attached draft agreement. The calculation method for tuition will be billed by using individual student cost sheets. In addition, it includes a 3% administrative fee. These changes ensure that SD308 receives full reimbursement for services offered to Yorkville students.

[This is a three-year agreement](#) and has been reviewed by District 308’s legal counsel and will be reviewed by District 115’s legal counsel.

- 9.4 Kindergarten Orientation Pilot Program

Current screening process is done in May, but isn’t always accurate by August- some parents are unable to bring children during dates offered. The pilot program will be offered at Boulder Hill and Lakewood Creek Elementary School.

Pilot includes placement of students within the first few days of interaction with students at school- “soft placement”. Together learning expectations through orientation. Should provide more equity

in the screening process, more balanced classrooms, cooperative assessments and work with teaching teams at the school.

The pilot was brought forth by the teaching staff and details are outlined at the schools hosting the pilot program this coming school year. After assessment of the pilot, it will be determined if the process will be more broadly used in the future, altered, or not utilized. All students will have experiences with all Kindergarten teachers. Some Board members voiced a concern that this process might cause anxiety among students and parents if there is no clarity for a few days as to who their classroom teacher will be.

This idea was brought forward by Kindergarten teachers and principals, feeling that the classrooms would be more balanced with this process.

Ms. Dahlquist stated that this would be implemented in two school this year and assessed afterwards.

#### 9.5 Prescott Mills

On May 11, Dr Sparlin, Mrs. Simelton and Ms. Johnson joined representatives from the Village, the three Homeowners Associations of Prescott Mill and police officials to discuss the issue of student parking in the subdivision.

When asked at the meeting about the addition of even more parking spaces, Dr. Sparlin indicated that while it would help, there will still be more students 16 ages and up driving to school than parking will accommodate. Dr. Sparlin shared that since the school was built, an additional 500 parking spots have already been added to the facility.

The Board discussion included signage within the subdivision. The students parking in the subdivision are doing so legally as there are no restrictions on days/times of the public street parking.

The Board indicated that we already greatly exceed the required number of parking spaces. The same concerns occur around schools in many neighborhoods. Bussing is provided to students by the district, driving/parking is not required. The district does and will continue to remind students about safety reminders and parking.

#### 9.6 Resolution for Board Elections – November Ballot

*A motion was made by Ms. LaTonya Simelton, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to postpone discussion on the Resolution for Board Member Elections indefinitely.*

#### ***Final Resolution: Motion Carried 4-2***

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

Nay: Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Ms. Alison Swanson

### **10. Action Items**

#### 10.1 Approval of Bills for Payment

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Ms. Alison Swanson, to authorize the payment of bills in the amount of three million, eight hundred ninety-two thousand, three hundred eighty-two dollars and forty-eight cents (\$3,892,382.48) as presented.*

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

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

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

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to approve a contract with C. Acitelli Heating for the base bid and the 2 alternates for \$447,960.00 as presented*

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

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

10.3 Approval of Resolution and Request of Kendall County Land Cash Funds  
*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Ms. Alison Swanson, to approve a Resolution and Request for the release of Kendall County Land Cash Funds to Oswego Community Unit School District #308 in the amount of \$24,318.29*

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

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

10.4 Potential Action Arising out of Closed Session

*A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to affirm Dr. Sparlin's April 21, 2022 Uniform Grievance decision*

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

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

10.5 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 5-1***

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

10.6 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 5-1***

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

**11. Adjournment**

11.1 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 6-0***

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

*Meeting Adjourned at 9:43 p.m.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

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