



**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Kendall, Kane and Will Counties
June 18, 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 (9:00 am)

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by President LaTonya Simelton

1.1 Roll Call:

Upon Roll Call the following members answered present:

Dominick Cirone, Eugene Gatewood, Jennifer Johnson,
Jared Ploger, LaTonya Simelton, Alison Swanson

Members Absent (at roll call):

Lauri Doyle

Administration Present:

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John Sparlin
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Faith Dahlquist
Assistant Superintendent of Operations/CSBO, Dr. John Petzke
Asst. Superintendent of Student and Staff Services, Dr. Heather Kincaid

Others Present:

IASB Representative, Lori Grant

Recording Secretary:

Ursula Studer

2. Closed Session

2.1 Enter Closed Session under statute(s): 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16) Self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, to enter Closed Session under statute(s): 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16) Self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 6-0

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

The Board of Education entered closed session at 9:09 a.m.

2.2 IASB – Superintendent/Board Training

2.3 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, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Alison Swanson

The Board of Education returned to open session at 12:34 p.m.

3. Call to Order – Public Session

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by President LaTonya Simelton

3.1 Roll Call:

Upon Roll Call the following members answered present:

Dominick Cirone, Eugene Gatewood, Jennifer Johnson, Jared Ploger, LaTonya Simelton, Alison Swanson

Members Absent (at roll call):

Lauri Doyle

Administration Present:

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John Sparlin
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Faith Dahlquist
Assistant Superintendent of Operations/CSBO, Dr. John Petzke
Asst. Superintendent of Student and Staff Services, Dr. Heather Kincaid

Others Present:

IASB Representative, Lori Grant

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

There were no public comments

5. Work Session

5.1 Vision, Mission and Core Values

Dr. Sparlin shared his presentation, starting out with the Mission, Vision and Core Values, asking the Board members to reflect and see if they are still current and represent their beliefs. One of our priorities is to update this work.

Vision – we need to have an agreed upon vision in order to know where we want to be in 2026.

Mission – supports the vision and should communicate the purpose and direction of our organization to stakeholders. It should be a concise explanation of the organizations reason for existence.

Core Values – a list of core principles that guide the organization and its culture.

Goals – are strategic objectives to outline expected outcomes and guide employee efforts.

Dr. Sparlin stated that the work in 2015 was good work, but since we are in 2022, he would recommend that the Board direct administration to put together a process to revisit and update the Vision, Mission and Core Values and that we make it a priority of ours for this year. The process differs; a third party can be hired to guide the stakeholders through the process or we can come up with our own, with the Board directing the number of stakeholders. It could start at the District level, with the entire leadership team or the Board could create it.

The Board directed the leadership team to put something together, including student voice, and bring that back to the Board of Education to discuss further. The Board members were asked to give their input of some key words they would like to see before the Leadership Team meeting.

Some thoughts of what should be included – other options besides going to college; communication; safe and inclusive schools; student voice, nurturing culture and climate and responsible financial stewardship. Mr. Gatewood added that it's important to have a clear and concise statement that everyone can use.

5.2 Develop District Goals for 2022-23

Dr. Sparlin recommends to develop a Goal Statement for each of the 4 quadrants of Envision 308 as well as one for Climate and Culture. Dr. Sparlin presented a sample of a goal statements for each.

Student Learning – We will prepare our graduates for future success by using data and student choice to improve academic and social emotional instruction.

Suggested by Board members - Identify and address student challenges early using data and student choice to improve academic and social emotional instruction to prepare our graduates for future success.

Support for Student Learning – We will improve the safety and inclusivity of our schools by centering on equity, amplifying student voice, and recruiting/retaining staff from diverse backgrounds.

Finance & Facilities – We will equitably allocate resources for programs and maintenance of buildings that enable every student to success while working toward increasing our fund balance.

Suggested – We recognize that helping students early has a financial benefit to the District, the Community and the Individual (this could be tied to any of the other goals as well).

Mr. Gatewood stated that the goals don't need to encompass the initiatives.

Community Partnerships – We will grow and strengthen the district by partnering, celebrating, and communicating with our stakeholders to maximize our success.

Climate & Culture Statement – We will create a positive culture of trust that empowers staff, students, and families to work together to design and foster learning environments that academically and socially/emotionally prepare students to reach their highest potential.

The Board members agreed that the goal statements are needed. Dr. Sparlin shared that this will be taken to the leadership group to wordsmith and then brought back to the Board. They asked that the diagram shows everything to be connected together.

5.3 Board Advisory Committee Format

Dr. Sparlin shared that we currently have four Board Advisory Committees. The structure has been in place since 2014. Does this structure meet the needs of the Board and if not, is there a better way?

Possible Improvements for Board Committees:

Increase communication and trust between administration and board members; provide more opportunities for in-depth discussion while still involving community members. This would involve two components:

Create environment for board members and district staff to have crucial and complex conversations

- Current Board Committees could move to membership of just two board members and staff.
- It allows for rich discussion and relationship building.
- Agendas would still be posted and the public would still be allowed to attend.

Create spaces for community input that encourages collaboration and understanding, not interest leverage groups

- To encourage community involvement and to honor the people that have been serving on Board committees.
- A community advisory council could be formed, using 30-40 people that have expressed interest. This group would meet several times a year on different topics.
- This group would include people from our current committees. By having people from very different backgrounds and priorities come together, it helps build collaboration and understanding.

The Board discussed the work of the Policy Committee and how it differs from the others. PRESS Plus was brought up as well, where IASB provides this full-service model of updating all policies. This will be presented to the Board at a future meeting to hopefully implement in our District. Ms. Swanson and Ms. Johnson, co-chairs of the Policy Committee, both felt that the committee was still needed, even if the District adopted PRESS Plus. They bring up particular issues that just apply to our district and look at a policy with a different lens.

Mr. Gatewood stated that it's important that the work flows through the community advisory council when appropriate, so that community input is not lost. It needs to be determined beforehand what items are required to go through the community committee. Every committee should have items on the joint agenda, in order for everyone to have the benefit of presenting something every time.

Mr. Ploger shared his concern with losing current committee members if we move to this model, citizen that are spreading the word and educating the community.

Administration will work on a calendar of meetings, and a draft communication and some sample ideas of what would go to the community advisory council.

5.4 Review Board Advisory Committee Meeting Procedures

This item was not discussed since the Board will be changing the format of the committees.

5.5 Board of Education Public Forum Format

As in previous years, we have 2 public forums scheduled for this coming year. The Board agreed that the current format was not productive.

Forum 1 could be student voice forum where the Board members go to one or both high schools to meet with students about their suggestions/concerns in our efforts to amplify student voice.

Forum 2 could be a community input session where we present on a topic like the budget or student learning and then have people work on questions in groups to interact with one another. Board members, administration and students at tables along with community members working collaboratively. This is about building relationships. The Board will decide on a name for the Community Forum.

6. Adjournment

6.1 Adjourn

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Jared Ploger, to adjourn.

All were in favor unanimously to adjourn

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 6-0

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Attest: _____

President

Secretary