



**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Oswego Community Unit School District 308
Kendall, Kane and Will Counties
October 11, 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 6:17 p.m. by President LaTonya Simelton

1.1 Roll Call:

Upon Roll Call the following members answered present:

Lauri Doyle, Eugene Gatewood, Jared Ploger, LaTonya Simelton

Members Absent (at roll call):

Dominick Cirone, Jennifer Johnson, 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

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Jared Ploger, 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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 4-0

Aye: Ms. Lauri Doyle, Mr. Eugene Gatewood, Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton

The Board of Education entered closed session at 6:19 p.m.

2.2 Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Mr. Jared Ploger, 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 7:24 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
Assistant Superintendent for Student & Staff Services, Dr. Heather Kincaid
Assistant Superintendent for Operations/CSBO, Dr. John Petzke
Director of Communications, Theresa Komitas

Others Present:

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

There was no public comment this evening

5. Presentation

5.1 Special Education Annual Presentation

Dr. Hildebrand shared updates on existing program services and accomplishments over the past year as outlined in the Envision 308 plan, and shared the 2022-23 goals. A few goals and highlights:

- The district serves 2409 Students (14%) with Individual Education Programs (Early Childhood – Transition), and 680 Students with 504 Plans (EC – Grade 12).
- Develop and strengthen the continuum of services for Special Education
- Implemented the Cross-Categorical Matrix for at early childhood and elementary students
- Continue the pilot of the REACH (Resiliency, Expression, Awareness, Connection, Hope) program and enhance programming at East View Academy (EVA) and Pathways
- (Spring, 2022) Supported decision-making regarding student placement at both REACH and East View Academy- Exit/Entrance Criteria (Ongoing)
- Piloted the REACH program in the Winter of 2022 with full implementation for the 22-23 school year including daily therapeutic supports and small classroom environment
- Conducted LEA (Local Education Agency) Boot Camp for all new assistant principals and speech/language pathologists in August and September, 2021. Provided ongoing

mentoring/coaching support for new assistant principals and SLPs in the LEA role during the school year

- Administrative recommendation on annual report progress “making progress”

Indicators of success for 2022-23 include:

- Develop a decision-making process for programming for secondary students.
- Train and implement the process (utilizing a Cross-Categorical matrix) for early childhood and elementary students.
- Continue the pilot of the REACH program and enhance programming at East View Academy (EVA) and Pathways
- Continue implementation of the Special Education professional development plan for all Special Education staff.
- Continue implementation of LEA trainings for new K-8 Assistant Principals and new Speech/Language Pathologists with onsite coaching support provided by program administrators. Continue to have K-8 Assistant Principals and all SLPs serve as LEAs for targeted IEP meetings

Indicators of success for October 2023:

- IEP teams at all levels will apply “best practice” principles when writing IEP plans and conducting IEP meetings as supported by the LEAs
- All certified staff will implement research-based core and supplemental instruction strategies and programs
- Programming at all levels will apply the Cross-categorical Matrix to support decision-making

Ms. Swanson would like to see the IRLLEN testing expanded.

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

Jennifer Johnson left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

6. Comments/Reports

6.1 Board Member Comments

Mrs. Swanson shared the schools at which reading screeners are trained for the color overlay (IRLLEN).

Mr. Cirone attended the cross country meeting held today in the rain. Congratulations to all the athletes for persevering.

Mr. Ploger shared that he met with some community members recently and wanted to acknowledge their voice and thanked them for watching and for sharing. He noted that it's not always what you hear but sometimes what you don't hear. He expressed appreciation to those who are staying engaged.

6.2 Board Committee Reports

Equity Committee – The topics revolved around serving students with IEPs and 504s, which totals over 3,000 students in our district across all schools. Meeting discussion included topics around how to keep that population of parents and students engaged and informed. Needs will likely continue to increase following the pandemic. Districts don't always receive IDEA, federal funding for the education of children with disabilities as anticipated. Attendance issues were discussed, especially in cases of school refusal. MTSS and early intervention was discussed, as well as over and under representation based on race and other economic factors.

Finance & Facilities Committee - Quorum was not met, meeting was not held.

Mr. Ploger asked for the 5-year projection scenarios as well as the variance report to be presented at the next Board of Education meeting.

6.3 Superintendent Report

Dr. Sparlin shared that OHS Homecoming was last week, many activities were held for students. This is the final two days of the annual district-wide Food Drive. This serves as the largest donation to the pantry, keeping their shelves stocked for 3-4 months. The schools use this time to teach about food insecurity and hunger. This year we are tracking at less than 50% of previous record collection totals- hoping the final day is strong.

District leaders, board members, and administrators met last week with an IASB advisor, regarding the presentation on Student Voice at the Triple I (IASBO, IASB, IASA) conference in Chicago on Nov. 19 at 10:30am.

October 19th from 6-7:30pm will be the first Community Advisory Meeting at Oswego East.

6.4 Student Ambassador Reports

Finalizing the form, slides and flyers for students to apply for the committee. This application process includes optional information that students can share about themselves. Several students, ambassadors and members of the student advisory committee, will be included in the presentation at the large Triple I Conference in Chicago in November. We are looking forward to sharing our journey of becoming part of Student Voice on the Board of Education.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

7.1 Approval of Minutes from previous Meetings

7.2 Acknowledgement of Freedom of Information (FOIA) Requests

A motion was made by Ms. Jennifer Johnson, second by Ms. Alison Swanson, to approve all items under consent, including 7.1 Minutes from the Board of Education meeting on September 26, 2022 open and closed session; and 7.2 to acknowledge the FOIA requests received by the District

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

Mr. Ploger commented on the change of FOIA's being posted on our website. Each FOIA request can still be seen on the website, but the FOIA response is no longer easily accessible. Although we are not required by law to post them, Mr. Ploger feels that we reduced our transparency.

8. Information

8.1 Financial Statements

Ms. Swanson asked to look into a more cost effective way to purchase paper as a district opposed to each school buying it on their own.

8.2 New High School Courses – 2023-24 School Year

Executive Director of High School Education Mr. Dan Arntzen presented eight new courses being proposed for the 2023-24 school year.

- Career Seminar Course Sequence (CTE Programs of Study)
- Introduction to Digital Photography Course Sequence
- Sports Officiating
- Lifeguarding Sequence
- AP Precalculus Sequence
- Contemporary Human Geography Sequence
- Introduction to Piano Sequence
- Music Production Sequence

Mr. Gatewood suggested that there be a detailed description of the courses that students can see when they register.

Ms. Swanson asked for Mr. Arntzen to check with the department chair regarding the prerequisite of an “A” in Algebra 2 in order to register for AP Precalculus.

Ms. Swanson asked for an update on Dual Credit and Articulated Credit in the near future.

The complete presentation on the new High School Courses, including audio, can be found at the following link: <https://go.boarddocs.com/il/oswego308/Board.nsf/Public>

8.3 School Maintenance Projects Grant

The School Maintenance Project Grant is a dollar-for-dollar state matching grant program. This grant provides awards up to \$50,000 to grantees exclusively for the maintenance of buildings or structures used for educational purposes. We have begun the application process, citing the OE and OH boiler/chiller project. We will be using DSEB funds to pay for this project along with this grant. The application must be submitted to ISBE by November 15, 2022.

8.4 Discussion of Student Fees

A brief presentation was provided by Dr. John Petzke to guide Board discussion of student fees, specifically addressing student academic fees and student participation fees. The Board does have a policy, Board Policy 4:140 which guides fee collection.

- There are several programs which cover partial and full reduction of fees and/or meal programs based on certification of participation in state programs or approval of an income-based district application.
- A fee audit was provided to the Board which outlines each building, the number of students with outstanding fees, the total amount, the amount of families who owe more than \$500, and the number of families on payment plans. In total \$1,227,936 of fees are unpaid on 4,054 students accounts, with 771 families owing more than \$500, currently 551 families are on a payment plan.
- A comparison of current registration fees and activity fees in our district and others in the area was shared.

Board members discussed several concerns with the existing policy/practice. These will be considered when fee changes are presented/recommended by Dr. Petzke.

- The need for a reduced fee be considered for students who qualify for a reduced lunch program.
- Service clubs not to be charged fees as they are doing a service to the district, fees waived for honor societies students qualify for.
- The minimum budget plan is \$50 per student per month, some families are not applying as they can't make the minimum.
- Students are being excluded from participation based on the family not being able to meet the minimum payments, not in line with equity practices.

- Financial collection practices need to match the strategic plan for the district.
- The cost of full-day kindergarten is significantly higher than other area districts; it was raised with budget cutting/fee increases several years ago.
- Need to review the impact of fee reduction scenarios on budget projections.
- Review annual costs by year, not cumulative total.
- Consider household limits for households of multiple children.
- Several proposals for consideration requested from the board.

There will be more discussion on what student fees will look like for the year 2022-23.

The complete presentation on Student Fees, including audio, can be found at the following link: <https://go.boarddocs.com/il/oswego308/Board.nsf/Public>

8.5 Intergovernmental Agreement for Sharing Services between Villages, Counties, Library, Fire Department and Park District

For the past 3 years all the public entities that serve the Oswego community have participated in a shared services IGA. This group meets on a monthly basis to discuss shared interests and resources. As you may recall, the salt storage partnership that the District has entered with the Public Works Department is the first example of the potential that this group has in reducing costs for all taxpayers in Oswego. Future conversations and partnerships include joint bidding/purchasing, borrowing of equipment, and shared services.

To protect each entity and to provide authorization to enter into joint purchasing agreements, including salt, the attached Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is being renewed. This IGA allows the entities to coordinate with each other on an ‘as needed basis’ giving each entity the latitude to participate in a shared project/service at their own discretion. The IGA also offers protections to each of the entities in the way of damages, injuries, losses, etc. and outlines insurance requirements. Each entity is presenting the IGA renewal to their respective Boards.

9. Action Items

9.1 Approval of Bills for Payment

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to authorize the payment of bills in the amount of twelve million, two hundred twenty-four thousand, nine hundred fifteen dollars and eighteen cents (\$12,224,915.18) as presented

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

9.2 Policies for Second Read and Approval: Section 4: Operations (4:65) Section 5: General Personnel (5:80) Section 6: Instruction (6:330) Section 7: Students (7:270)

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve the following Board Policies: Section 4: Operations (4:65) Section 5: General Personnel (5:80) Section 6: Instruction (6:330) Section 7: Students (7:270)

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 5-1

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

Nay: Ms. Lauri Doyle

9.3 Approval of PRESS Plus Service

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve the Policy Manual Customization Agreement with IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards)

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 4-2

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

Nay: Ms. Lauri Doyle, Ms. Alison Swanson

9.4 Approval of Board Member Travel Request

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve the Board Member Travel Request to attend the Triple I annual conference in Chicago

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 4-2

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

Nay: Ms. Lauri Doyle, Ms. Alison Swanson

9.5 Approval of District Administrator Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve the District Administrator contract as presented

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 5-1

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

Nay: Ms. Alison Swanson

9.6 Approval of Personnel Report

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, to approve the Personnel report as presented

Final Resolution: Motion Carried 5-1

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

Nay: Ms. Alison Swanson

10. Adjournment

10.1 Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Eugene Gatewood, second by Mr. Dominick Cirone, 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,
Mr. Jared Ploger, Ms. LaTonya Simelton, Ms. Alison Swanson

Meeting Adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

President

Attest: _____

Secretary