

**REAVIS HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 220
6034 WEST 77th STREET, BURBANK, ILLINOIS 60459
COOK COUNTY**

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.
LIBRARY**

MINUTES

1. OPEN MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Time: 6:30 p.m.

The following Board Members were physically present at the meeting:

Ted Arnold
Gerardo Ayala
James Brodinski
Andrea Creger, Vice President
Russell McKinley, President
Ruben Moreno
Linda O'Dowd, Secretary

Also Present: Daniel J. Riordan, Ed.D., Superintendent
Eric Novak, Chief School Business Official
Julie A. Schultz, Principal
Donald P. Erickson, NBCT, Information & Educational Technology Director
Eileen M. Jastrzebowski, Student Services Director
Heather M. McCurdy, Ed.D., NBCT, Curriculum Director
Thomas Witting, Activities Director
Ms. Kelly O'Malley, Math & Science Division Chair
Students & Community Members

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2019.

Motion: R. Moreno
Second: J. Brodinski
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Abstain: A. Creger
Vote: 6-0-1

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no *Audience Participation* at this meeting.

4. COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

- A. Approved request by *Oak Lawn Park District* to use the Auditorium and Multipurpose Room for the purpose of Spring Recital from April 3-5, 2020.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: A. Creger
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Approved request by *Burbank National Little League* to use the North Gym on March 12, 2020 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of player evaluations and to use the Auditorium on April 7, 2020 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of a parent meeting.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: A. Creger
Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

5. FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- A. Financial Statements dated December 31, 2019.

Motion: J. Brodinski
Second: L. O'Dowd
Aye: A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Payment of Bills for January, 2020.

Motion: R. Moreno
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

6. TRAVEL

- A. Approved request by Ms. Eileen Jastrzebowski to attend with 5 additional faculty/staff members the *School Discipline Conference* in Las Vegas, Nevada from July 8-10, 2020.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: A. Creger

Dr. Riordan stated the five additional staff will be the four Deans and the School Resource Officer. Ms. Jastrzebowski added that this conference is in line with what the Deans and School Resource Officer specifically does in the building on a daily basis. Innovative alternatives to interventions for students.

Aye: R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Approved request by Mr. Tom Witting to attend the *American Educational Research Association National Conference* in San Francisco, California from April 17-20, 2020.

Motion: R. McKinley
Second: R. Moreno
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- C. Approved request by Mr. Joseph Illichman to attend the *2020 USA Ultimate Frisbee Coach & Organizer Convention* in Colorado Springs, Colorado from January 24-26, 2020.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: J. Brodinski

Dr. Riordan added that this item and the following 2 are CBA approved for the head coaches. There is a cap on amount that will be reimbursed.

Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- D. Approved request by Ms. Laurie Schoenfeld to attend the *IATCCC Track & Field Clinic* in Indianapolis, Indiana from February 6-9, 2020.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- E. Approved request by Mr. Tim Zasada to attend the *National Nike Coach of the Year Football Clinic* in Orlando, Florida from February 28, 2020 – March 1, 2020.

Motion: L. O’Dowd
Second: R. Moreno
Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- F. Approved request by Reavis Girls Soccer team to attend the *Parkway College Showcase* in St. Louis, Missouri from April 2 – 4, 2020.

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

7. **PERSONNEL**

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- Approved destruction of verbatim record of the following Closed Session Meetings, per 5 ILCS 120.2.06 (from Ch. 102, Par. 42.06):

December 12, 2017	April 17, 2018
January 16, 2018	May 15, 2018
February 12, 2018	June 19, 2018
March 6, 2018	

Motion: G. Ayala
Second: R. McKinley

Dr. Riordan explained that this is done twice a year. There is a written record and a verbatim record which is the recordings of the executive session. The verbatim record must be kept for 18 months after which time they may be destroyed with Board approval.

Aye: R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

10. CATEGORICAL REPORTS

A. Student Reports – No Report

B. Administration –

Mr. Novak provided an update on the financial position of Reavis. Revenues as of year-end are 47% collected of the expected budgeted revenues. The tax collection from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 is at 94% for this portion. Until we get into February/March, Mr. Novak expects the deficit to grow until monies collected begin to come in.

Dr. Riordan added that the tax appeals collection through March and April when those appeals begin to be paid keeps the fund in the deficit until that time.

Principal Schultz reported on grading and assessment. Solution Tree Presenter Anthony Reibel was the guest speaker at the January back to school institute day. He discussed grading and assessment: central tendency, the importance of the scrimmage, percentage scales, the effects of zeroes, illusions of fluency, failure deprivation, gradebooks that tell stories. According to Reibel's presentation, "all moments are viable moments for learning" and that is the key point when it comes to pathways to proficiency. Monthly conversations will continue this semester with the January topic of averaging. In addition, teams are working towards consensus. Finally, again a survey at the end of the semester will be administered to determine what "loose/tight" decisions will be for the future. Those decisions are fueled by team input. It will be crystal clear to see where we stand as a school once all teams build consensus, share their process with their department, and as a school, find what is best for Reavis.

Principal Schultz also reported on Student Voices. The next Principal's Voice meeting will be this Thursday, January 23. Over 25 new students signed up to be on the committee--now increasing the voluntary membership to around 50. Students set the second semester agenda in December. In addition, Principal Schultz met with the Twitter Interns to discuss how to continue to increase a positive presence on social media. This February, the Rams are Responsible monthly theme is respect. It will run in conjunction with the Principal's Voice a campaign on Twitter highlighting respect, love, and friendship. Students will create the plan at the meeting. This supports the School Culture and Climate goals that include student voice.

Ms. Jastrzebowski reported this Saturday, close to 500 of our newest RAMS will be registering. Stating that the team is ready and well prepared to meet the needs of students and parents, from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The scene was set last week through step-up days as well as Freshman parent night. In conjunction with this date, counselors have been actively registering Juniors and will continue registering all Sophomores and Freshman to finalize the registration process by February 14th.

The final State Mandated Lockdown drill for this school year will be conducted on Thursday, January 30th. Emails will be sent to faculty, staff and students, as well as K-Swift phone calls to parents this Thursday to inform them of the drill.

Ms. Jastrzebowski also report that this semester's Elyssa's Mission, a suicide screener, is scheduled for February 11th. This screener is provided to our Freshman students once a semester ensuring that **ALL** freshman are screened within their Health class.

Mr. Erickson reported the I.T. Department completed a number of tasks over winter break. Virtualized/migrated staff and student NPS (Network Policy Server), ADCS (Active Directory Certificate Service), and Radius services Virtualization project is now 100% complete with all

legacy infrastructure servers now decommissioned. Also, general re-organization and cleanup of the server room. I.T. also completed the staff password reset on January 2, 2020. Mr. Erickson added that the incoming phone line (SIP Line) to the building was upgraded by digitalizing the line. This will allow the upgrade to the phone system and telecommunications infrastructure in the future.

Ms. O'Malley reported that preparations are underway for the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). This exam was traditionally administered to freshman Biology students, but to comply with federal mandate, the test will now be administered to every junior student, regardless if they are currently enrolled in a science course. The ISA is aligned with Illinois Science Standards (NGSS), and will consist of three separate exams; Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth & Space Science—each with an estimated completion time of about one hour. Tentative dates for this 3-part exam are March 5, 6, and 9. Because majority of the junior class is in a science class, they will be taking the exam during class over this 3-day window. The current plan for those not taking a science course would be to field trip students out for a 3-hour timeframe on one of the selected dates.

Planning for Reavis's annual STEM Day has begun. This year's event will be held on Thursday, April 30th and will include all students in Physics courses. During this event, professionals from the STEM field are invited to interact with students as they formally present their projects. STEM Day has proven to be a beneficial experience for students for the last 8 years and look forward to another successful event.

Mr. Witting reported that Reavis hosted the South Suburban Conference (SSC) Chess meet and ended the season with a win against Oak Lawn. Commenting that the team had a challenging season. On Wednesday evening the SSC Musicians performed the "Best of the Best" concert at Argo. Adding it was is great concert and our best students performed in this Honor Band. On Saturday the Speech Team attended SSC Speech tournament. The team took second with numerous All-Conference students and tournament Champions. Talent Show is next week Wednesday, January 29 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Witting also reminded seniors that there is a last change to take their photo to be shown in the yearbook.

Dr. McCurdy reported three items the Curriculum Office would like to highlight. First, parents, teacher, and students have been notified regarding e-learning policies that were approved in November. Thanks were given to Principal Schultz, Mrs. Nelligan, Mr. Erickson, and Ms. Jastrzebowski for their help in getting the website updated and training teachers.

Progress is also being made regarding state mandated 5Essentials Survey. The numbers needed are close on teachers and students. At this point, we really need parents to step up and help us meet the 20% participation rate. Keep in mind the results of this survey appear on the Illinois School Report Card for Reavis.

Finally, Dr. McCurdy stated that she participated in Ms. Jastrzebowski and Guidance's Junior Parent Night last week. At the program, parents were informed that there will be SAT Practice Tests on 3 consecutive Late Start Wednesdays in February and the 3 consecutive practice tests in March. The students will earn SAT Prep program points toward their 12 million point incentive, and we are hosting these as a result of recommendations made by student in our focus groups at the end of the SAT Prep program last year. Good luck to our students as we approach testing season.

- C. Teachers Union – No Report
- D. Support Staff Union – No Report
- E. Maintenance Union – No Report
- F. Board Reports – Dr. Riordan reported that a Building & Grounds Committee meeting took place last week. The committee met to discuss and decide on images to be used in literature for the proposed projects. This would give the public some images of what is being proposed. Dr. Riordan adding that clearly success is needed on March 17 at the Primary Election before details are decided.
- G. Superintendent - State of the District Address

Dr. Riordan began by stating that having strong academic programs is the foundation of any school. To be able to keep strong academic programs finances must be in order. Over the last 10 years there have been ups and downs. The economy has been tough and tax money has been stagnant but Dr. Riordan is happy to report that we are finding stability in the finances. Besides having strong academics, great facilities are needed for a learning environment. Staff and students need to feel safe and secure in the environment they are in. So, having great facilities help our academic programs. Having been at Reavis for 27 years, Dr. Riordan confidently states that the academics are as strong as they have ever been. The Professional Learning Community (PLC) is imbedded into the teacher culture. Over 70% of faculty have attended a national or regional conference to learn about PLC. Discussions happening today will transform how the school functions in future years. Examples include, no longer will there be the traditional grading points earned.

Dr. Riordan shared that for the 2nd year Illinois State Board of Education has recognized Reavis High School academics as Commendable. Reavis has 24 National Board Certified Teachers. Teachers elect to complete a very rigorous program to achieve this distinction. The district supports teachers by financially assisting them while working towards this goal and a stipend is awarded while they are National Board Certified. Reavis has the distinction of being the only school in Illinois and 1 of 81 across the nation to have 20% or more of teachers that are National Board Certified. Also, Reavis has been named to the AP Honor Roll. This is achieved based on the number of AP classes offered and how students perform on those AP exams. Dr. Riordan added that these are things to be very proud of.

Last year Reavis operated with a balanced budget. The Education Fund which is the largest fund of the budget is still a concern. Tax rebates that are given out mainly to corporations have a negative effect of the budget. Also, there have been more tax appeals than previous years. Changes in State of Illinois funding also brings concern every year. This November there will be a referendum on the ballot about Fair Tax. Currently, Illinois has a flat income tax rate. If the referendum passes it would change Illinois Income Tax to a graduated rate. Another concern is that the state is considering a freeze to property taxes. The Illinois Construction Capital Development Task Force has been created. The State of Illinois has allocated \$3.5 Billion dollars towards capital improvements for schools. This spring begins the application process for Illinois schools to apply. Reavis would like to apply for some of these funds.

Teacher Negotiations are coming up to settle their new contract. There will be a number of retirees in the next few years. This is significant because veteran teachers with high salaries will be replaced with new teachers that will be paid a much lower starting salary.

Dr. Riordan shared that a piece of land in Bedford Park is owned by Bedford Park with Reavis High School. There is an agreement that when something is built on the land that Reavis will receive revenue. Also, Midway hotels that are operating in the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district currently do not pay taxes to the school district. Those hotels will be coming off the TIF in approximately 3 years. After which, Reavis will begin to receive tax revenue from those hotels.

The City of Burbank has a number of economic developments currently going on. A new hotel is being built and the McDonald's was completely rebuilt. Also, there are three restaurants interested in the property surrounding the hotel. The City is also close to new development in the vacant land that was the Old Barn. Dr. Riordan also stated that the City of Burbank has been issued two cannabis dispensary licenses though no location has been determined for those.

Dr. Riordan then provided a facilities update. Stating that 70-80% of the facilities at Reavis are state of the art. Giving the example of the library update that was done years ago. But there are always improvements to be made. The North Wing has not been updated in decades so it needs some attention. Also, the communication system throughout the building needs updating. The Little Theater, locker rooms and bathrooms need major updating. The Tech Wing which also includes the pool needs a facelift, repairs and renovations. This is all part of the Life Safety project.

The new AERO building will be built on the previous Queen of Peace property. In the next two months the old building will be completely razed and the land will be ready for building. However, the funding for the new facility is not available at this time. Dr. Riordan also shared with the audience that Reavis plans to build a Fieldhouse, possibly on the current AERO property.

Dr. Riordan then introduced Dr. James Gunnell to speak regarding the new AERO facility. Dr. James Gunnell began by stating since 1963 AERO has provided a full continuum of special education programs and related services to students from 11 member districts (4 high schools and 7 elementary feeder schools). The mission is achieved through cooperative planning and effort with member districts.

AERO has a long history and is known for the high-quality programs that we provide. As a result, the current facilities have been outgrown. AERO has two school buildings and two ancillary offices and 25 classrooms are rented amongst member districts. Dr. Gunnell then thanked the Reavis Board for steadfast support (5 Classrooms). Classroom space is even rented from the Stickney Public Health Department.

Dr. Gunnell added the number 1 priority of the AERO School Improvement Plan was to provide stable and state of the art facilities for all AERO Programs. Also, the plan called for a financial commitment from all member districts to support this goal.

AERO purchased the Queen of Peace School Property in August of 2018 for \$3.25 million. Once the building is completely demolished there will be 13.4 acres available. Dr. Riordan added that a study was done before the demolition began to determine if the current building could meet the needs. The study revealed the cost to bring the building up to code and make ADA accessible for the needs of the students would far outweigh the cost of a new facility.

Dr. Gunnell responded that it is an investment in the future. The future of AERO is dependent on the ability to expand upon programs to better serve our current students and districts. Expansion of Programs and Services to meet the future needs of serving students with

emotional and mental health needs. Trauma impacts a student's ability to learn and grow emotionally. Programs are needed that are designed to build resilience in students.

Current facilities limit class sizes and do not allow the flexibility to design new programs. A new facility will allow for the centralization of AERO operations. Consolidation of programs and services will create efficiencies. There is the uncertainty of lease agreements (PRIDE and ancillary offices) with rent expenditures more than \$284,000, constant search for classrooms with rent expenditures more than \$240,000.

The Public Funding Campaign consists of seeking money from the state as well as the member districts. The member districts have all passed the Board Resolution committing to the project. Half of the funds will come from the member districts and half of the funds to come from the State. Dr. Michael Riordan, OLCBS SD 229, sits on the School Construction Task Force. Dr. Gunnell will be contacting Dr. M. Riordan to get some insights to the application/grants process. Also, the possibility to be named in the Capital Bills Project in the Spring Session would provide additional funding.

Dr. Gunnell added that several dignitaries will be touring the AERO Center on Friday. He also asked for the Burbank community as well as the Reavis Board of Education to support the new AERO facility project.

Dr. Riordan reminded that seven districts feed into AERO and services students from age 3 to 22 years old. He added that the goal is to bring all those services under one roof.

Dr. Riordan then introduced Mr. Michael Markham, SPM Architects, to present what the proposed Fieldhouse would look like if funding is secured. Dr. Riordan began by stating if funding is received, Reavis would purchase the current AERO building, demolish it then build the Fieldhouse off our current pool area. The Fieldhouse would have a 6 lane/100-meter track, 4 basketball/volleyball/badminton courts and bleachers. Mr. Markham presented renderings of the proposed Fieldhouse. He discussed the planning and design which consisted of the courtyard, main entrance, lobby, track, courts, 30-yard turf field, dance room, trainer's office, men's/women's locker rooms, fitness room, Athletic Director office, conference room, multipurpose room and storage.

Dr. Riordan thanked Mr. Markham for the detailed presentation. Dr. Riordan then discussed the funding of the project. The Board has approved putting a question on the ballot for the Primary Election on March 17, 2020 asking the Burbank and Stickney communities to approve the sale of a \$45,000,000.00 bond. If successful, the funds will be used for Life Safety improvements, renovate the tech/pool wing, AERO new building funding and the proposed Fieldhouse.

Dr. Riordan gave the example that a typical home worth \$100,000.00 would see a property tax increase of \$5.00 per month or \$63.00 annually. Adding that it is not a permanent increase, but rather it is a 20-year loan and that the amount would stay consistent for the life of the loan. Dr. Riordan then introduced Mr. Andrew Arndt, Baird Financial, to discuss the financial part of it and how large the impact.

Mr. Arndt thanked the Board for allowing him to come to speak. He began by explaining the question on the ballot is basically asking the taxpayers if a tax levy can be added to the tax bill. He reminded the audience that the home value is what is listed on the Cook County property tax bill. That is the number that should be used for calculations. Also making note that exemptions will make a difference in the new payment amount. For example, two identical homes may have a drastically different price evaluation if one home has an exemption that allows an

increase freeze. The most common exemption that most will have is the Homeowner Exemption. Mr. Arndt explained tools will be made available to taxpayers to calculate their new amount. A calculator will be made available on the Reavis website. He explained where on the tax bill exemptions would be listed and the current home value. Mr. Arndt also explained that the base line interest rate for school bonds are at a historic low so it is a good time to borrow. Dr. Riordan thanked Mr. Arndt for coming to present.

Dr. Riordan commented that there is no better time to be at Reavis High School. Looking at 2020 and beyond the academic programs, PLC work, financial and academic advances and facility improvements and updates.

Dr. Riordan stated that for the next 7-8 weeks he will be available for any questions. He also will be attending several meetings in the community. He welcomed any phone calls or visits to the school with any questions regarding the referendum.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Enter into Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2, to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, dismissal or evaluation of personnel, contract negotiations, possible or imminent litigation, resident delegate concern, student disciplinary issues, and held recommendations with any required action taken in open session.

Time: 8:03 p.m.
Motion: G. Ayala
Second: T. Arnold
Aye: R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Time: 9:41 p.m.
Motion: R. McKinley
Second: R. Moreno
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

13. NEW BUSINESS

- Approved motion that the Board has reviewed Closed Session Minutes and has determined that the seal remain on said Minutes.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: A. Creger
Aye: T. Arnold, G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

14. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 9:49 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: G. Ayala
Aye: G. Ayala, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

Signed and approved this 18th day of February, 2020.

President

Secretary