

**REAVIS HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 220  
6034 WEST 77<sup>TH</sup> STREET, BURBANK, ILLINOIS 60459  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.  
REAVIS LIBRARY**

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**MINUTES**

**1. OPEN MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

The following Board Members were physically present at the meeting:

Ted Arnold  
James Brodinski  
Andrea Creger, Vice President  
Steve Ficker  
Ruben Moreno  
Linda O'Dowd, Secretary

Absent: Russell McKinley, President

Also Present: Daniel J. Riordan, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Eric Novak, Chief School Business Official  
Eileen M. Jastrzebowski, Student Services Director  
Donald Erickson,  
Students & Community Members

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2021.

Motion: R. Moreno  
Second: S. Ficker  
Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

B. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 16, 2021.

Motion: L. O'Dowd  
Second: J. Brodinski

Aye: A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

**3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no *Audience Participation* at this meeting.

**4. COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES**

There were no *Use of Facilities* at this meeting.

**5. FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

A. Approved adoption of the *Resolution* to Levy 2021 Taxes pursuant to, and in all respects in compliance with, the provisions of Section 18-60 through 18-85 of the *Truth in Taxation Law*.

Motion: S. Ficker  
Second: R. Moreno

Dr. Riordan explained that item A, B, C, and D are all related to the tax levy. Mr. Novak has prepared the necessary paperwork to file with the Cook County Treasurer to levy for the following school year. The levy is the “ask”.

Mr. Novak added that what is being presented tonight is the same as he presented in November. The total levy is \$28,123,000.00 not including the outstanding debt service. Adding that item D tells the county how to distribute funds if the levy is decreased.

Aye: S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

B. Approved adoption of the *Resolution* to Levy “*Special Education Building Tax*”.

Motion: L. O’Dowd  
Second: A. Creger  
Aye: R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

C. Approved adoption of the *Resolution* to Levy “*Working Cash Fund Tax*”.

Motion: J. Brodinski  
Second: R. Moreno

Aye: L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- D. Approved *Resolution* to instruct County Clerk how to apportion 2021 Tax Levy Extension Reduction, pursuant to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law.

Motion: S. Ficker  
Second: A. Creger  
Aye: T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

Mr. Novak updated the Board on the TIF review meeting he attended in Bedford Park last week. As it has been reported in the past months, it is of great interest to Reavis because the TIF is expiring in December 2022. Reavis obtained the clarification in terms of the path forward. The TIF will expire in December and Reavis will levy for that this time next year. It is important to note that because that will cause a balloon levy which is greater than 5% which it is the limitation law. That will capture \$50-60 million of frozen EVA. Next year’s levy will be much different. The funds would begin to come in August 2023.

Mr. Novak added that the property at 65<sup>th</sup> & Central Avenue where the new Wintrust Sportsplex was also discussed at that meeting. Reavis has an agreement with Bedford Park to split any sort of tax related to a hotel built on that property. Bedford Park stated they are in the final stages of negotiations with the developer for that land. They are hopeful a hotel will be built on that land in the near future. Mr. Arnold asked would there be a TIF on that property. Dr. Riordan responded that this would be the hotel tax collected not the property tax.

- E. Financial Statements dated November 30, 2021.

Motion: A. Creger  
Second: S. Ficker  
Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- F. Payment of Bills for the month of December, 2021.

Motion: R. Moreno  
Second: J. Brodinski  
Aye: A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

## 6. TRAVEL

There were no *Travel Requests* at this meeting.

## 7. PERSONNEL

- A. Approved the resignation of Ms. Kristin Thirion. Teacher, effective December 31, 2021.

Motion: A. Creger  
Second: S. Ficker

Dr. Riordan explained that Ms. Thirion stated she was exploring other career opportunities and asked to be released from her contract at the end of the semester. Dr. Riordan thanked Ms. Thirion for her over 15 years of service to Reavis. Adding that she began teaching German but the last few years has been a full-time English teacher. Never met a student that did not like or love Ms. Thirion. She was always professional. She also was the sponsor for a number of clubs. One being the World Languages Club where she took students to Europe. Dr. Riordan said he wishes Ms. Thirion well.

Dr. Riordan then stated as he has reported to the Board that there are currently 3 certified English teachers in the building working in other roles who will interview for the position.

Aye: S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- B. Approved request for a leave of absence according to the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act for Mr. Mark Buckle, teacher, beginning November 4, 2021 through December 6, 2021.

Motion: R. Moreno  
Second: S. Ficker

Dr. Riordan explained that this item and item D are backdated leaves that were not on earlier agenda due to paperwork being completed.

Aye: R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- C. Approved request for a leave of absence according to the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act for Ms. Sarah Ventrella, teacher, beginning March 14, 2022 through April 25, 2022.

Motion: L. O'Dowd  
Second: J. Brodinski  
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- D. Approved request for a leave of absence according to the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act for Ms. Erika Banick, Director of Curriculum & Assessment, beginning November 12, 2021 through November 18, 2021.

Motion: A. Creger  
Second: S. Ficker

Aye: T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- E. Approved Mr. Michael Jerkovich, Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: S. Ficker  
Second: R. Moreno

Dr. Riordan explained that this Mr. Jerkovich and Mr. Ibrahim in the next item are Reavis graduates.

Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- F. Approved Mr. Jamal Ibrahim, Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: S. Ficker  
Second: L. O'Dowd  
Aye: A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- G. Approved Hall Monitor and Cafeteria Staff hourly rate increases.

Motion: R. Moreno  
Second: A. Creger

Dr. Riordan commented that as discussed at previous meetings there has been difficulty hiring and retaining people at the current hourly rate. Beginning January, the state minimum wage will be at \$12.00 which Reavis had increased to at the beginning of the school year. This increase would bring the hourly rate to \$15.00 beginning in January. This new increase will continue through the next school. This will reward the people that have been consistently showing up to work as well as hopefully attract new hires. The staff will also be surveyed in January to determine the interest in receiving health benefits. If the Board feels it is something that should be offered, it can be worked into the budget over the summer to become effective for next school year.

Aye: S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no *Old Business* at this meeting.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approved contract agreement with SPM Architects Project #21.25.02 – Pool & Locker Room Renovation Phase II & Project #21.25.03 – Industrial Arts Wing/Main Gym Locker Room Renovation Phase II.

Motion: R. Moreno  
Second: S. Ficker

Dr. Riordan stated that SPM Architects have been the architects for Reavis for 14-15 years. This new contract allows them to act as the Construction Manager for Phase II of the Capital Project. Most likely for the Phase III a Construction Management firm will be hired.

Aye: R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- B. Approved contract agreement with SPM Architects as Construction Manager as Adviser Project #21.25.02 – Pool & Locker Room Renovation Phase II & Project #21.25.03 – Industrial Arts Wing/Main Gym Locker Room Renovation Phase II.

Motion: J. Brodinski  
Second: L. O'Dowd  
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- C. Approved calendar for 2022-2023 school year, including Board of Education Regular Meetings.

Motion: R. Moreno  
Second: S. Ficker

Dr. Riordan highlighted a few dates for the 2022-2023 school year. Namely, the holiday on November 8, 2022 is state elections. The Illinois Legislature and the Governor passed it as a state holiday. So, every two years that day will have to be worked into the calendar. School will begin on August 15<sup>th</sup> with a teacher institute day. Freshman will begin on August 16<sup>th</sup> and the remaining classes will begin on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Graduation will be May 20<sup>th</sup> and school will finish on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Aye: T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

- D. Scheduled a Special Board Meeting Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss Phase II Capital Project.

Motion: R. Moreno  
Second: S. Ficker

Dr. Riordan explained that this meeting is needed to approve bids for the dehumidification unit for the pool. The other items will be to approve bids for 6 boilers and 2 rooftop units.

Dr. Riordan also stated that the new hire for the English position will also most likely be on the agenda.

Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

## **10. CATEGORICAL REPORTS**

A. Student Reports – No Report

B. Administration –

Mr. Novak shared that audit is still ongoing. Another extension has been filed but he anticipates the audit will be presented to the Board in January. He also updated the Board on the ESSR III grant. Himself and Principal Schultz are in the final stages of planning on how to utilize the \$3.5 million. Mr. Novak also provided an update on the eight (8) school busses that will come out of lease on June 30, 2022. Initial conversations have begun with Midwest Transit as well as looking for any other viable vendors. The goal is to provide a recommendation to the board in January.

Mr. Novak also provided an update on the budget in relation to the Capital Project. It started with \$48 million and \$13 million has been spent but have recouped \$831,000 in ESSR II funds. In Fall of 2020 when Phase 1A began with roofing, tuckpointing, 3 chillers, and rooftop units. In addition to those improvements, the AERO Project payment was made, field lighting on the football and soccer fields were installed, the Little Theater (now known as R3) was renovated, the softball field fence was replaced and the telecom/intercom system were done also as part of Phase 1A of the Capital Project. In total, with those projects came approximately \$200,000 under budget. The Phase 1B consisted of the North Gym, toilet rooms, IT mechanical room, F7 boiler room and the paving project. As we prepare for Phase II the Capital Project budget is at \$35.6 million.

Principal Schultz provided the following updates -

### Final Exams

We are providing an Exam Cram for all students in the library on Thursday, December 16, from 2:40-6:00pm. Students can study with friends, receive help from teachers, and grab a slice of pizza at the end of the session. We are also providing students with a Wellness Room on Friday, December 17 during homeroom periods. Students who would like the chance to decompress, practice mindfulness, and be in a quiet space can sign up through their email. These opportunities support our whole student approach, and the focus of finals week should remain there.

Winter Intersession will be held in January.

### Institute Day: January 6

Our faculty and staff will receive professional development on opening day with a presentation by Hector Montenegro, Solution Tree Speaker, that aligns with our school wide goals to support EL learners. His main focus and our expectation include:

- Share strategies for best meeting the needs of EL students including culture and language supports
- emphasize the importance of culturally responsive teaching
- strategies/attitudes for best meeting the needs of ELL students

### Sincere Thanks

I would like to extend a warm and sincere thank you to all faculty and staff for their commitment to student learning. I wish the faculty and staff, administration, and Board of Education a safe and joyous holiday season.

Mr. Erickson reported The IT Department will be working over the holiday break to complete the following tasks: run cable lines in various portions of the building, install intercom boxes, clocks and cameras, and perform network firewall updates. These tasks need to be done as this time so as to not disrupt students or staff during school hours.

Dr. Riordan reported that the School Resource Officer Victor Villanueva has returned to the building. This definitely gives everyone a sense of calmness.

Dr. Riordan shared that besides the English teacher position being posted that he mentioned earlier there is a posting for a School Nurse. The current school nurse is resigning at the end of the school year. The current nurse had dedicated 15+ years to Reavis. Since there is a limited amount of people with the certification, posting for the position now will hopefully give us a head start on the search for a candidate. Also, as already discussed with the Board, there will be two other postings. The Division Chair position opened with Mr. LaMantia's resignation and decision to return to the classroom will be posted. Also, the new position of Director of Support Services will be posted. This individual will be responsible for everything Special Education. Ms. Jastrzebowski is currently responsible for the Special Ed Department. Her new title beginning July 1, 2022 will be Director of Guidance, Deans and Security. The plan is to complete the interview process by February 1<sup>st</sup> and have the candidates approved at the February Board meeting.

Dr. Riordan ended by thanking the students, families and parents for fighting through every day to finish this semester. Hoping that eventually things will get better.

- C. Teachers Union – No Report
- D. Support Staff Union – No Report
- E. Maintenance Union – No Report
- F. Board Reports – No Report

## **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: 6:57 p.m.



Motion: T. Arnold  
Second: S. Ficker  
Aye: A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski  
Nay: Non  
Vote: 6-0

**12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Time: 7:38 p.m.  
Motion: T. Arnold  
Second: A. Creger  
Aye: S. Ficker, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

There were no motions brought up after *Closed Session*.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Time: 8:02 p.m.  
Motion: T. Arnold  
Second: J. Brodinski  
Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. Moreno  
Nay: None  
Vote: 6-0

Signed and approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

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President

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Secretary