



# Burbank School District 111

## Board Briefs

March 24, 2021

### Board of Education Meeting Summary

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- Dr. Abousweilem introduced Sahar Tahbob, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, who gave an update on plans for graduation. She said that a drive-thru ceremony will be held at Liberty on Saturday, June 5 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. She said a meeting was held with Dr. Abousweilem, Dr. Fleck, Mr. Stefanek, Mr. Abad, Mr. Ficker, and the Burbank Police Department to work out the logistics. She also said that elementary schools will be present to cheer on graduates. Ms. Tahbob said that they are also currently planning additional end of year activities.
- Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Walker-Hood announced that Mary Rein, Principal at Fry School, received the Elementary Principal of the Year Award for 2019-20 from the Illinois Principals Association South Cook Region. They clarified the award was from last school year, but was delayed due to COVID and the shutdown. They commended Ms. Rein for her dedication to children, being a true leader, and for her creativity. Ms. Rein was presented a plaque for her achievement and was congratulated by everyone in attendance.
- President Stefanek said that normally a dedication ceremony for Liberty Junior High School would have been held prior to the school year starting, but was pushed back due to the pandemic. The board and administration discussed including the members who were on the board at that time, which would include Carleen Skowronski, for the ceremony and the plaque. Dr. Fleck said the ceremony would be held on April 22 at 4:00 pm.
- Mr. Martin and Dr. Abousweilem gave a principals report which included a flashback of events and activities that were held the previous month and a flash forward of great things to come.
- Ms. Lindemann said that the update is complete and all new postings will be done through the TalentEd Hire site, which allows the files to be directly connected to the Records platform when applicants are hired. She said that summer school planning is in full swing and staff and families are being surveyed regarding their interest in the program. Ms. Lindemann said IAR testing is almost complete as all in-person and some remote students took the tests this month. She said normally we have at least 95% of students take the test, while this year we are on track for about 65%. She said the second round of vaccines were administered this month, bringing the total of fully vaccinated staff members to approximately 70%. Ms. Lindemann said that COVID cases have steadily declined and information continues to be updated on the COVID dashboard on the website.
- Ms. Flavin said she is currently working on programming and resources for summer school. She reviewed the half-day inservice, which included a variety of training sessions on various educational platforms, best practices, curriculum mapping, and new equipment. She said the K-5 specials teachers met to discuss the primary progress reports. Ms. Flavin reviewed the recent Curriculum Council meeting, which included the following agenda items: K-5 science resource review and junior high parent communication platforms. She said that she met with Liberty administration and staff from Reavis High School regarding the Dual Credit Program

and Articulation. Ms. Flavin said the E-Learning Committee was sent information to review prior to their upcoming meeting on March 29.

- Ms. Welsh said the Early Childhood team met to discuss projections and programming for next school year. Despite the State seeing a decline, she said the district is seeing an increase in students requiring early intervention. Ms. Welsh said the Emergent Bilingual team organized a virtual literacy event for students, which included a customized website. She said the theme is Women's History Month and the event will include stories read in four languages, crafts, activities, reading strategies/resources in multiple languages, and raffle baskets. She said the coaches have been supporting novice teachers and offering support during IAR testing, as many staff have either never done it or need a refresher. Ms. Welsh said that staff members continue to increase their technological abilities and find creative ways to build a blended community with their in-person and remote students.
- Dr. Hock said that staff completed the virtual classroom portion of CPI training on March 17 and the physical management portion was pushed back to April 28 due to IAR and ACCESS testing. She said the Easter Seals coach was working at Byrd this month. She said that professional development on March 17 included training on Read 180/System 44 and time to update quarterly goals/objectives, reports, and assessment spreadsheets. Dr. Hock also collaborated with staff on projected caseloads for special education throughout the district. She toured Alsip District 126 with Ms. Welsh to view their early childhood building and programs. Dr. Hock said that the week of March 8 celebrated school social workers and she thanked them for their dedication to students.
- Dr. Ochoa reviewed the counts of meal distribution and said they are steadily increasing. She gave an update on the Pandemic EBT program offered by the State. She said the district has received \$3,544,017 in ESSERII funds and that allocations were based on Title I and low-income enrollment. She provided a breakdown of how the district plans to spend the funds over a two year period, which includes temporary interventionist and coach positions, technology devices, and supplies. Dr. Ochoa said the Teachers' Retirement System backed down on requiring districts to complete the employer participation agreement and resolution and said she'd continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as they become available. Dr. Ochoa spoke about residency verification and recommended using an electronic verification program called Clear Batch. She said that Reavis High School is currently implementing the program and it would help streamline the process and provide consistency across both districts. She said that the Educational Benefits Cooperative has a self-service benefits management program, which would allow employees and new hires to self manage their benefit selections and access information on the PPO, copays, prescriptions, and their bi-weekly contribution. She said the program would also reduce data entry redundancy and recommended the board approve implementation. Dr. Ochoa recommended that the board approve the upgrade from Meals Plus to Titan. She said that the new program is only slightly more expensive and offers parents more access to their account information and transaction history. Dr. Ochoa also recommended the board adopt Resolutions for Interest Earnings and a Working Cash Fund transfer.
- Mr. Ficker requested approval to post for summer help staff to assist with moving furniture, deep cleaning, grounds maintenance, and other special projects, including sprucing up school entrances to be more inviting. He also spoke about a new full time custodian who was previously in a temporary position and welcomed him to the team at Liberty. Mr. Ficker said master planning continues with Legat and ICI and they are closer to finalizing 5 and 10 year facility plans. He said they are also working on finalizing a furniture catalog to be used district-wide in order to increase simplicity and consistency. He said work with Syserco continues to further increase efficiency through automation. He said they are also working

with Oak Brook Mechanical on preventive maintenance for HVAC systems. He spoke about tree removal and HVAC upgrades at Byrd School. Mr. Ficker reported that the wall pads for Liberty's small gym finally arrived and will be installed soon. Mr. Ficker gave a shout-out to principals for organizing emergency drills with Burbank Fire and Police now that students are back in the buildings.

- Mr. McCartney submitted a written report stating the 471 Form was certified and filed with E-Rate for the 2021-22 school year, which includes cabling projects at Byrd, Kennedy, Fry, Maddock, and McCord as well as an increase in bandwidth. He said the proctor caching servers through-out the district were refreshed in preparation for IAR testing. Mr. McCartney said that he's continuing to work with vendors on agreements for the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA) that goes into effect July 1. He said spring break projects will include tracing & labeling security cameras, social wall screens, and updating access points and switches. Mr. McCartney said the next Technology Committee meeting will be held April 28.
- Employment recommendations were approved.
- Lane changes effective 8/19/21 were approved.
- Coaches/sponsors and after-school activities for 2020-21 were approved.
- The board authorized the administration to post for 25 summer help positions.
- The board approved tenure, second/third/fourth year probationary service, and non-renewals for the 2021-22 school year.
- The board authorized the administration to post for temporary positions to be paid for with ESSERII Funds.
- The board approved the agreement with Thomas Reuters for Clear ID Confirm for student residency verification.
- The board approved the Education Benefits Cooperative Self-Service Benefits Management System.
- The board approved the upgrade from Meals Plus to Titan for the student meal management software program.
- The board adopted the Resolution Designating Interest Earnings for Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- The board approved a permanent Working Cash Fund Transfer and adopted the Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds.