

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
CHANNAHON SCHOOL DISTRICT 17  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**PIONEER PATH SCHOOL  
Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 pm  
Monday, February 27, 2023**

President Pope entertained a motion to call the open meeting to order at 6:05pm. Motion by Pat Clower, seconded by Julie Bankes. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Kevin Murphy, Julie Bankes, Christine Bucciarelli, Pat Clower, and Derek Breen

President Pope entertained a motion to call the executive session to order at 6:07pm. Motion by Pat Clower, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

ES Roll Call: Joe Pope, Kevin Murphy, Julie Bankes, Christine Bucciarelli, Pat Clower, and Derek Breen

Also Present: Dr. Nicholas Henkle and Mr. Jeff Grosso  
Absent: Brandt Compton

President Pope entertained a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:10pm. Motion by Derek Breen, seconded by Julie Bankes. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

President Pope reminded the Board that they were still in Open Session at 7:13pm. President Pope led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pope asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

President Pope entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion made by Chris Bucciarelli, seconded by Julie Bankes. All ayes, nays, none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Julie Bankes, Pat Clower, and Kevin Murphy

**Consent Agenda**

- Approve Personnel Report
- Approve January 23, 2023 Regular Board Minutes
- Approve Treasurer's Report
- Approve Treasurer's Financial Report
- Authorize Treasurer to Pay Board Bills Listed
- Authorize Destruction of August 9, 2021 and August 23, 2021 Recorded Executive Minutes

President Pope asked if there were any union comments. There were none.

President Pope turned the meeting over to Dr. Henkle.

Dr. Henkle congratulated Breanna Dosek, Janine Milles, Emmie Geijer, and Shea Pierce who were selected by the Joliet Chamber Education Committee to receive the 'Great Teacher Award'.

Dr. Henkle also congratulated Erin Bettenhausen who was selected as the 'Illinois Digital Educators Alliance Classroom Teacher of the Year'.

The Board congratulated the award winners and the principals and Mrs. Bogacz shared their respective accomplishments.

Dr. Henkle discussed the concerns that administration and staff have about the significant negative impact of social media on our students' mental health and safety. Recently the US Surgeon General came forward to definitively state that 13 years old, the age when access is typically offered by tech companies, is too young for children to be on social media.

Channahon 17 is planning to hold a special parent evening this spring dedicated to educating our parents about these risks and providing practical tools, resources, and strategies to help parents keep their children safe in this new world. We will look to bring experts, including the State's Attorney's office, who will address students in the afternoon. Features of the evening include tech safety guides, parent technology course on safe and effective use of social media, a panel of CSD17 experts discussing social media and mental health, and a presentation from Megan Brooks from the State's Attorney's office.

To encourage parents to attend, administration suggested we offer parents who attend the entire event a discount of \$40 on the annual technology fee. The technology fee discount incentive will be brought for action at the March Board meeting.

Dr. Henkle presented some recommended changes to the Summer Learning Program for students in K-4. The current program which is conducted remotely through the use of Chromebooks works well for our older students, but can be difficult for our younger students. Starting with the summer of 2023, an in-person program for K-4 students was proposed. A revised plan will be brought forth at the March meeting.

Dr. Henkle discussed administration's look into the highest-performing school districts that have had a measurable positive impact on student performance. One common variable is a sophisticated evidence-based data research and analytics tool from ECRA Group.

Based in Schaumburg, ECRA Group provides several unique products including:

- Academic Return on Investment
- Illinois Report Card Analysis
- Strategic Dashboard
- School Improvement
- Personalized Learner Profiles

This data would provide our team with the ability to triangulate data, including historical data, to identify the strengths and areas of needed growth for individual students, teachers, grade levels, departments, and schools. It would also provide us with a data scientist who would be able to meet with us on demand. The first year of partnership (FY24) would be \$43,984 and includes four days of professional development for staff. Subsequent years would cost approximately \$33,984, plus the cost of any requested district professional development. This item will be brought forth for action in March.

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve the addition of a second English Language Learner (ELL) teacher position due to our increase in ELL students. President Pope entertained a motion to approve a second ELL teacher position. Motion by Derek Breen, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes nays none motion passes.

Roll Call: Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Julie Bankes, Pat Clower, Kevin Murphy, and Joe Pope

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve a wage increase of the greater of a \$1.00/hour increase or 5% for FY24 for non-certified, non-union employees. In addition, it was recommended that starting wages for new, non-certified, non-union employees increase by \$1.00. President Pope recommended a motion to approve the greater of \$1.00/hour increase or 5% for existing CSD17 non-certified, non-union employees for FY24. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Kevin Murphy. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Christine Bucciarelli, Julie Bankes, Pat Clower, Kevin Murphy, Joe Pope, and Derek Breen

President Pope recommended a motion to approve the greater of \$1.00/hour increase to starting wages for new, non-certified, non-union employees for FY24. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Julie Bankes. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Julie Bankes, Pat Clower, Kevin Murphy, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, and Christine Bucciarelli

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve an increase in the daily sub rate for FY24 from \$120/day to \$130/day. President Pope recommended a motion to increase the daily substitute teacher rate to \$130/day. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Julie Bankes. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Pat Clower, Kevin Murphy, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, and Julie Bankes

Dr. Henkle recommended the Board approve an increase in FY24 administrative salaries by 4% over FY23. This increase applies to the following employees: Tim Hanson, Dan Nyalka, Dacia Cobarrubias, Erin Dooley, Laura DuBois, Chad Uphoff, Kevin Gutzman, and David Bergstrom. President Pope recommended a motion to approve a 4% increase to administrative salaries. Motion by: Christine Bucciarelli, seconded by Pat Clower. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Kevin Murphy, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Julie Bankes, and Pat Clower

President Pope turned the meeting over to Mr. Grosso for the Business Office Report.

Mr. Grosso discussed the PTAB recapture extension (PA 102-0519/SB508) which implements an automatic levy increase to be applied by county tax extension officials each year in the amount of the aggregate property tax refunds paid by a taxing district in the prior year for certain types of refunds. The Will County Clerk has determined that a recapture amount of \$20,290 will be extended to CSD17 in addition to the extension resulting from Levy 2022. This amount is not subject to the tax cap law (PTELL); therefore, not making it a permanent future gain or loss in tax revenue. Taxing bodies have the authority to accept the recapture extension or to partially or fully abate it. Administration will prepare a resolution action item for the March Board meeting to abate the recapture extension.

Mr. Grosso discussed the 5-year financial forecast and the 2022 levy considerations. The Board discussed Mr. Grosso's presentation and requested administration bring back Option 2 (50% ExxonMobil Offset Levy Reduction and a potential \$10M Distribution) for action at the March meeting.

Mr. Grosso and VP Trinh discussed ARCON Associates' recommendation that the District become a member of Sourcewell, a governmental purchasing cooperative that meets all legal requirements of the Illinois Governmental Joint Purchasing Act. In addition, Administration and ARCON Assoc. recommend utilizing the Sourcewell purchasing cooperative as the means to procure flooring material, supply, and commercial labor for the Pioneer Path and Three Rivers flooring projects in order to maximize cost savings. The Three Rivers School abatement project will not use Sourcewell, but will receive bids. The final project proposal, in the form of a resolution, will be brought for Board approval in March.

President Pope recommended a motion to approve District membership in the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program. Motion by: Joe Pope, seconded by Kevin Murphy. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Joe Pope, Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Julie Bankes, Pat Clower, and Kevin Murphy

President Pope recommended a motion to direct District administration and ARCON Assoc. to utilize Sourcewell for the purpose of procuring flooring material and installation labor for the Pioneer Path and Three Rivers flooring project in accordance with the Illinois Governmental Joint Purchasing Act and subject to final Board approval in the form of a proposed resolution at the March 21, 2023 Board of Education meeting. Motion by: Julie Bankes, seconded by Christine Bucciarelli. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Derek Breen, Christine Bucciarelli, Julie Bankes, Pat Clower, Kevin Murphy, and Joe Pope

Mr. Grosso updated the Board on the Technology Refresh Plan (2023-2028). The last technology replacement plan was approved by the Board in May of 2020 to purchase additional devices in order to perform remote instruction effectively during the pandemic. These purchases have caused the replacement plan to be off schedule. This revised plan incorporates instructional and clerical-based technology replacements along with necessary core infrastructure replacements/upgrades. This revised plan will be brought forth for action in the March Board meeting.

Mr. Grosso brought to the Board's attention the District's need to upgrade our two-way radio communications. Currently the District uses two-way radios for all bus communications as well as instant communications with students and staff throughout all of the buildings. Our current analog-based VHF (lower quality, low coverage) two-way radios are insecure, coverage is limited, frequent sound interference, short supply of analog hardware parts which are becoming obsolete, and current frequencies and hardware do not meet FCC standards. The Board agreed that the District should upgrade the two-way radios. Administration will research digital upgrade options to bring forth for consideration at the March meeting.

At the January Board meeting, Mr. Grosso brought to the Board's attention a liability that exists in the CJHS Network Room which houses the main distribution facility (MDF) for the entire computer and communication networks for all District buildings as well as all file servers, on-site backups, and connected infrastructure (wiring/cables). Two firms specializing in data infrastructure systems have completed a site-survey of our current situation to provide relocation proposals. District administration is seeking out a cost for the electrical extension, as well as the cost for a single-room climate control system (mini-split HVAC). This project would need to take place in July as all internet, file server, and communications access would be down for approximately a full week. A recommended proposal inclusive of data infrastructure relocation, electrical extension, and climate control work will be brought to the Board for consideration in March.

Mr. Grosso updated the Board with a presentation on the security camera project being developed with our expert partners at TDSi. The District consulted with Channahon police and Channahon Park District during the development phase. The Park District would like to install cameras to cover the Park District side of the Fieldhouse track. CSD would host and maintain these cameras with the Park District having the ability to view the cameras. Park District would be invoiced for their portion of the project with payment spread over multiple years. It is estimated that bids will go out in March with proposals being recommended to the Board in April. It is anticipated the infrastructure in all four buildings (cabling and infrastructure components) will begin in May or June.

Mr. Grosso recommended the Board declare the District's 2016 Suzuki MDG-400 electric piano as surplus for recycling. The keyboard no longer functions due to an unrepairable electrical problem. President Pope recommended a motion to declare the District's 2016 Suzuki MDG-400 electric piano as surplus. Motion by: Derek Breen, seconded by Joe Pope. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Christine Bucciarelli, Julie Bankes, Pat Clower, Kevin Murphy, Joe Pope, and Derek Breen

Mr. Grosso brought three proposals to the Board from lawn care contractors for the upcoming growing season. The proposals are for mowing, trimming, and edging of all district properties for 28 visits (April-October) for both 2023 and 2024. It was recommended that the Board approve the 2-year proposal from Edgebrook Services, Channahon, IL, for the average cost of \$1,810 per visit. President Pope recommended a motion to accept and approve the proposal of Edgebrook Services for the average cost of \$1,810 per visit (with a reduction for the months of June, July, and August when the Chanooka Braves mow the inside of the TRS track), not to exceed \$48,990/year, for mowing, trimming, and edging for all District 17 properties for the 2023 and 2024 mowing seasons. Motion by: Kevin Murphy, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Roll Call: Julie Bankes, Pat Clower, Kevin Murphy, Joe Pope, Derek Breen, and Christine Bucciarelli

**New Business** - Due to the recent security issue on the Channahon Park District track, the Board inquired as to what the Park District had done to make the track above the Jr High gym more secure. Dr. Henkle explained that the Park District no longer allows one day passes, residents must scan a fob to enter the track, and the Park District ensured that the redundant locking system is secure. The Park District said the individual was suspended from the track and the incident is still under investigation by the Channahon Police.

The Board asked for additional information on release time requests. Dr. Henkle explained that the release time for students is required in Illinois school code and Board Policy (7:80), however this release time must take place at the request of the parent, off of school grounds, and without the use of district transportation.

**Other Board Matters** - None

**Upcoming Events**

- Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – 7:00pm School Board Meeting

**Adjournment** - President Pope entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05pm. Motion made by: Pat Clower, seconded by Derek Breen. All ayes, nays none, motion passes.

Submitted by: Susan Sprouse

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Joe Pope, President

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Christine Bucciarelli, Secretary