

Revised Meeting Minutes
Board of Education ♦ Niles Township High Schools ♦
District 219 ♦ Cook County, Illinois
March 16, 2015

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Board President Robert Silverman called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Sheri Doniger, Carlton Evans, Jeffrey Greenspan, Ruth Klint, Robert Silverman, Eileen Valfer.

Absent: David Ko

II. Closed Session

It was moved by DONIGER and seconded by VALFER to recess into Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of employees and collective bargaining.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

The Board recessed into Closed Session at 6:45 p.m.

III. Open Session

It was moved by GREENSPAN and seconded by EVANS to return to Open Session at 7:50 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

IV. Recall to Order

Mr. Silverman recalled the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m. The Pledge was recited.

V. Changes / Additions to the Agenda

The green personnel handout was added to the Consent Agenda.

VI. Audience to Visitors

Eric Poders, a Morton Grove resident, discussed an accident he had a few years ago and requested that a traffic study be completed on the intersection where the accident occurred.

Jesse Sacks, a senior at Niles West, reiterated from the last Board meeting that he feels he has endured negative treatment for the past two years by a teacher at the school and even though certain measures were put in place to protect him, this negative treatment occurred again.

Maureen Thurman, parent of a Niles West student, read a statement she wrote in support of a band teacher at Niles West who had complaints and negative comments directed at him through one family. She thanked the teacher for all of his dedication, hard work, and great work ethic.

Karen Johnson, parent of a Niles West student, thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. She read a statement to the Board members stating that over a period of several years she has observed the obsession of one family trying to destroy a band teacher who is appreciated and respected. She also said that many Niles West students are afraid of possibly losing a very good and dedicated teacher. She asked that the Administration defend and protect their teachers and put a stop to the harassment of this band teacher.

VII. Student Representative Comments

Niles West - Cassie Bergman thanked the Board and Dr. Gatta for attending Breakfast with the Board. Niles West hosted the Board of Education Candidate Forum for incumbent Board members. She thanked Ms Elaina Geraghty, for organizing and coordinating the event, along with the students from Niles West News, Debate and Student Government for moderating the Candidate Forum. This week at Niles West is Spirit Week and the theme is Dr. Seuss Children's Books. Each day has a different book and theme. Friday is the Spring Pep Assembly. Over 30 students are participating in a fundraiser for St. Baldrick's to support kids with cancer. Poetry Slam at Niles West, also known as, A Tribe Called West, participated in the semi-finals this past weekend and has advanced to the final round and will perform live at the Arie Crown Theater on March 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Niles North - Rebecca Rabizadeh wished everyone a happy early St. Patrick's Day. She discussed Breakfast with the Board which allows the students to share what they are working on, show videos, discuss events and also discuss their thoughts. She said this was a great event. She was one of the moderators at Niles North for the Candidate Forum and thanked everyone who attended the Forum.

She stated that Mr. James Behling, a math teacher at Niles North, started a tutoring program where students from Devonshire, Highland and Jane Stenson (the three elementary schools that feed into Niles North) come in and get tutored by students at Niles North. They help them with math, science and anything that required tutoring assistance. There are between 40 and 50 kids and around 50 tutors at every session. This has been very well received parents and students.

The Science Fair was hosted at Niles West on Saturday, March 14, and they received 35 gold medals. Ambria Benesch and Kiana Lee were selected to represent Region 6 at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest international pre-college science competition. The ISEF, which will be held May 10 through 15 in Pittsburgh, PA., brings together more than 1,700 high school students from over 70 countries, regions, and territories to showcase their independent research as they compete for upwards of \$5 million in prizes. The Intel ISEF is the premier global science competition for students in grades 9-12. Academic Bull won their CSL Championship for the first time. Our Math Team has 15 members going to the state competition.

Dr. Gatta discussed a video of the different school day options at Breakfast with the Board. When School Day comes back on the agenda, the video will be shown to the Board. The students also discussed the school calendar and summer school. The students expressed an interest in some courses they would like to see offered in summer school and the Administration is already working on this.

VIII. Community Representative Comments

No community representatives asked to speak.

IX. Approval of Consent Agenda

It was moved by DONIGER and seconded by EVANS to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

Included in the Consent Agenda were:

- Approved Monthly Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$9,914,111.31.
Personnel

- Approved administrative contract for the following administrator for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Burns, Carole	Director of Special Education 205 day calendar	\$117,420	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
Di Sanza, Kathleen	Director of Transition Services, 205 day calendar	\$114,000	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

- Approved the employment of the following administrative staff for 2015 Summer School:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Brown, Henry	Dean	.5	\$3,100
Di Sanza, Kathleen	Director of Extended School Year	.5	\$3,100
Felton, Marlon	Dean	.5	\$3,100
Hamilton, Anna	Director of Extended School Year	.5	\$3,100

- Approved the employment of the following support staff for 2014 Summer School:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Tado, Cindy	Summer School Clerk	1.0	\$20.50/Hr.

- Approved the resignation of the following certified staff for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION / LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Filipek, Cheryl	Fine Arts / North	May 22, 2015

- Approved the following certified staff leave of absence for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE OF LEAVE</u>	<u>LEAVE FTE</u>
Litberg, Lisa	Special Education / North	Emergency Medical Leave - Unpaid	February 13, 2015 - February 18, 2015
Litberg, Lisa	Special Education / North	Emergency Medical Leave - Unpaid	February 23, 2015 - February 24, 2015

- Approved the following certified staff leave of absence for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE OF LEAVE</u>	<u>LEAVE FTE</u>
Goldman, Shoshana	Mathematics / North	Prolonged Illness - Unpaid	.4
Wisner, Barbara	Fine Arts / West	Child Rearing - Unpaid	November 2, 2015 - December 18, 2015

- Approved the change to following certified staff leave of absence for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/LOCATION</u>	<u>TYPE OF LEAVE</u>	<u>FROM LEAVE FTE</u>	<u>TO LEAVE FTE</u>
Fishbune, Sarah	Counselor / North	Family Care - Unpaid	.2	.4
<i>Previously approved on February 9, 2015</i>				

- Approved the employment of the following support staff for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Ruber, Greg	Paraprofessional, Science - P1 / Step 1, 186 days	1.0	February 19, 2015

- Approved the resignation of the following support staff for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION / LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Gonzalez, Kristine	Benefits / District	March 2, 2015

- Approved the resignation of the following support staff for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION / LOCATION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Ho, Ellen	Paraprofessional, Math / North	May 22, 2015

- Approved the employment of the following paid interns for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/LOCATION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Kilcommons, Lauren	Psychology Intern / West	\$16,000/Yr.	August 11, 2015
Surbey, Alisen	Psychology Intern / West	\$16,000/Yr.	August 11, 2015

Freeman, Clara Social Work Intern / West \$9,000/Yr. August 11, 2015

- Approved the employment of the following part-time/temporary staff for 2014-15 School year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION / LOCATION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Green, Keila	Main Office < 600/hours / North	\$16.00/Hr.	March 10, 2015
Kachaochana, Marosa	Family Liaison	\$20.52/Hr.	March 12, 2015
Kim, Susie	Textbook Center / West	\$8.25/Hr.	May 22, 2015
Marcelo, Isabelle	Job Coach / West	\$14.00/Hr.	March 17, 2015
Nahulak, Bonnie	Job Coach / West	\$14.00/Hr.	March 17, 2015
Peterson, Laurie	Job Coach / West	\$14.00/Hr.	March 17, 2015
Zarrieneh, Areian	Main Office / West	\$8.25/Hr.	May 22, 2015

- Approved the employment of the following stipend positions for the 2014-2015 school year:

NILES WEST

Softball, Assistant
Boys Volleyball, Assistant
Girls Water Polo, Assistant
Vocal Jazz, Assistant
Athletic Filming

NAME

*Savarino, Enza
*Hester, Nicholas (.5)
*Tabatt, Thomas (.5)
*Zivanovic, Aleks
*Rice, Frank

NILES NORTH

Boys Outdoor Track, Assistant
Boys Outdoor Track, Assistant
Boys Outdoor Track, Assistant
Viking Strings Club, Sponsor
Softball, Assistant
Boys Volleyball, Assistant
Play 5, Assistant
*Indicates employee outside the District

NAME

Yim, Joseph (.75)
*Roberts, Jonathon (.75)
*Rehmani, Sunil (.5)
Page, Jennifer
Hunt, Kenneth
*Kenmotsu, Steven
*Phillips, Tyrone

- Approved the employment of the following substitute for the 2014-2015 school year:

NAME

Gailey, Megan
Holbrook, Matthew
Martin, Janice

- Approved the employment of the following clerical substitute for the 2014-2015 school year:

NAME

Rodriquez, Meagan

- Approved the following employment action:

CASE #

Larissa Petrakis
2015-E04

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Suspension without pay one (1) day

EFFECTIVE DATE

April 1, 2015

- Approved the resignation of the following certified staff for the 2015-2016 school year:

NAME

Chihoski, Robert

POSITION / LOCATION

Special Education / West

EFFECTIVE DATE

May 22, 2015

- Approved Minutes of the February 9, 2015 Board of Education meeting - Open and Closed sessions.
- Approved the purchase and installation of a Backstop Netting System at the Varsity Baseball Field at Niles North.
- Approved the disposal of obsolete text books.

- Approved awarding (Bid Release 3) the Niles Building Maintenance 2015 Summer Work to approved bidders.
- Approved the (School Based Health Clinics Construction Bid) for Niles North and Niles West Healthcare Clinics to the approved bidders.
- Approved the renewal of membership for 2015-16 in the Illinois High School Association.
- Approved the Letter of Agreement - IEP 504.
- Approved the Letter of Agreement - Promotional Positions.
- Approved the Technology Purchase of Samsung Chromebooks for a total cost not to exceed \$240,786.00.

- X. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Gatta welcomed parents and students for the art display in the District office. This program is under the direction of Jean Hedstrom, who works at the District Office in collaboration with the art teachers at Niles West and Niles North. Dr. Gatta invited the students up to be recognized by the Board of Education for the art work that is on display at the District office. She also invited visitors to look at the display case and pictures on the wall, which is all student art, and she invited everyone for refreshments.

Dr. Gatta reminded the Board and community that they can see this year's Town Hall meeting; the Superintendent's Financial Address with the questions and answers via cable and also view it on line via our website at District219tv. She invited everyone to learn more about our schools and how we are allocating resources. Dr. Gatta had an opportunity to go to a meeting with Sorayah, one of the Assyrian parent groups, which had over 100 people in attendance. It was a great opportunity to talk about what the family liaison program means to them and participation in their students' academic life. She received follow-up letters stating that the ELL Parent Center and the Family Liaison Program is very important in our school.

Some of the Board members had the opportunity to accompany us this past week to Writers' Week, Coming Together in Skokie and Hairspray. We saw the community performance of Hairspray and then went to the Commons for Writers' Week, where professional writers spoke to the student body and one of the writers, was the editor of the book, "Invisible," which was in conjunction with Coming Together in Skokie. Many of the leaders in our community from the Mayor, to the head of the Chambers, Oakton Community College, to the different groups that are responsible for Coming Together in Skokie this year, i.e., YWCA, public libraries, Villages, etc., all dined together after the Writer's Week presentation and our culinary students catered the affair.

Breakfast with our Student Governments was amazing. The Student Governments have a great infrastructure in place where they vet so many of the ideas that come to the Board, whether it is via the Administration, teachers or one of the committee structures. We discussed everything this month from summer school, school calendar, final exams, busing, and one-to-one technology initiatives. The full minutes will be provided to the Board in the Friday letter.

The tutoring program is another way we reach out to the different sender districts like Summer Sizzling Science, where we educate so many of the K-8 elementary students in the summer, not to mention the K-8 Feeder Programming and Classrooms First. Opportunities like this through District 68, the Tutoring program and Project Lead the Way, which Chris Powell is heading up in 7 of the 8 school, and just recently our partnership on Bus Day. It is important for the larger community to know that partnerships come in many forms. It isn't just Classrooms First which is getting the attention at this time.

XI. Principals' Report

Niles North - Dr. Ryan McTague commented about the outstanding week, starting with Breakfast with the Board, Writers Week, Hairspray, and Coming Together in Skokie. Congratulations to the Niles North Vikings Robotics Team for securing the Illinois State Championship for the second year in a row. This shows our emphasis on STEM technology and it is our most popular club. Niles North has become known as the premiere high school destination for robotics in the State of Illinois. We have many 7th and 8th graders come to the club meetings, as they begin this process in their junior high. Niles North hosted its 30th year Writers' Week. This was in collaboration with the Humanities Department and our students. The purpose was to introduce the students to writers in our community. 1200 students attended 32 different sessions presented by a variety of writers. Dr. McTague thanked everyone in Humanities that worked hard to make this happen. Niles North Debate Team will compete in the National Speech and Debate

Association Tournament on June 14-19 in Dallas, TX. This is the largest academic competition in the world. Niles North will go to the state meet next week.

Dr. McTague said nothing speaks more to our sense of community than when on Saturday night our Fine Arts parents and patrons and our Athletic Booster Club came together to have our Second City Fundraiser for the benefit of student athletes, performers and programs with over 500 people in attendance. Both organizations raised over \$8,000.

Tomorrow night is the orchestra junior high concert at Niles North. We give our orchestra teacher to two junior highs (Golf and McCracken) to have an orchestra program because they would not have an orchestra program without her. We fund her salary and she goes to the junior highs for the portion of her day that the high school does not have orchestras and that is happening tomorrow night. We have seen numbers increase. It is another example of a partnership, where we are articulating that programs can exist where they currently do not.

Niles West - Dr. Jason Ness stated that Niles West's Cameron Lee won two state championships and finished second in his other events in the Athletes with Disabilities portion of the boys state swimming meet at New Trier over the weekend of March 6-7.

Nicole Nienow received a letter from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago notifying her that she has been accepted into SAIC's First Year Scholars Program. Nicole competed against 4,500 applicants from every state and 52 countries. Only 2% of applicants are accepted for the Class of 2019.

Simone Elkeles, popular New York Times bestselling author, will visit Niles West on Wednesday, April 8 in the auditorium. This is also a kick-off event for the Annual Break for Books Summer Reading Book Fair that will take place on Friday, April 10.

Every year Niles West, in collaboration with Niles North, hosts one of the state's biggest College Nights. We have about 275 to 300 colleges visit Niles West and it is a great opportunity for families to do some research on colleges.

Dr. Ness thanked Mrs. Geraghty for organizing the Board Candidate Forum and the students who participated in the Forum.

XII. Board Members' Comments

Mrs. Valfer mentioned that we should be proud of Jewell Lloyd, a Niles West graduate, who was named Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) player of the year and most recently named ESPN's Woman's National Player of the Year.

Mrs. Valfer apologized for not being able to attend Breakfast with the Board at Niles West, but was she was able to attend the Niles North Breakfast with the Board. She said breakfast was outstanding and the students were well prepared and their questions were articulated and well prepared.

Mrs. Valfer attended Hairspray with her daughters and niece. Everyone was happy to be back at the school and have wonderful memories of their time at District 219. Hairspray was fantastic and was a sold out performance. Mrs. Valfer thought Hairspray was very appropriate because this is the 50th year anniversary of the Walk on Selma. Hairspray was chosen because it has a very strong message about equality and diversity and the message came out in the musical.

Mrs. Valfer reminded everyone to vote for Board candidates on April 7. Early voting begins March 23. She encouraged everyone to bring their children with them, especially the middle and junior school students who are studying the Constitution, so that they can learn how the process works.

Mr. Evans thought Hairspray was outstanding and that it was good to see students that graduated from our schools come back with a passion to be a part of this show. Also, Coming Together in Skokie was a very strong and encouraging event. With regards to basketball this past Saturday, Abdel Nader who plays for Iowa State University, and a Niles North graduate, was involved in helping his school win the big 12 basketball tournament. We should be very proud when our students perform at that level. He also commended the teachers for getting connected with their students.

Mrs. Klint and Dr. Gatta attended the Fairview PTA Meeting and were able to answer questions for the people attending. One of the parents mentioned that girls' and boys' basketball would be playing at Niles West and Niles North in our Field House this weekend. This is another example of our partnership with the community. Mrs. Klint encouraged everyone to go onto our website to see the Town Hall meeting, both Candidate Forums, concerts, etc. If you cannot attend all of these events, this will definitely keep you apprised of the events.

Ms. Doniger attended Hairspray and said it was an historic night. She thought the cast was wonderful and the musical presented an important message, especially since the District is discussing equity. She also attended the Superintendent's Financial Address and reiterated some of the items mentioned in the address (fiscal stability, worked with labor unions, extension of contract, paying down our debt and able to increase educational programs by 7%). She believes we are doing amazing things at District 219.

Mr. Greenspan attended Second City at Niles North and said it was great.

Mr. Silverman attended Hairspray. Hairspray was a great mixture of alumni talent and student talent. He felt the mentoring the alumni gave to the students was great. He also attended a play at Niles West. He stated that the Fine Arts program at both schools is amazing.

Mrs. Klint attended Niles West's performance of "On the Razzle" and said it was also fantastic.

XIII. Board Committee Reports

Mr. Greenspan attended the Green Schools National Conference and said we are leading the way in terms of sustainability and to a healthier environment. Two students also attended the conference.

Mr. Greenspan stated that they had a Facilities Committee meeting and that summer projects are coming up including the conclusion of the traffic study on Oakton Street, where we are implementing the second phase. The first phase was the redesign of the entrance way, the exit at the pass way, the new traffic signals that will be under construction this summer and the widening of this intersection, in conjunction with the Village of Morton Grove, Skokie and the State of Illinois IDOT. We are also doing the facade at the north end of the building at Niles North. Construction for the new health clinics will begin this summer. We are planning on opening in July and the clinics will operate at a cost savings to the District.

On behalf of Legat Architects and IHC Construction, Mike Maloney presented to the Board of Education an award to the school from the Green Building Council for the LEAD Certification Award for our Aquatic Center at Niles North. Niles North is the first public high school to receive a LEAD Certification. USGBC (United States Green Building Council) put together a program to recognize buildings through LEAD which stands for leadership, energy and environmental design. In order to receive this certification, buildings have to meet certain prerequisites for sustainable building practices and they can also earn additional points. There are different levels of certification (generic, certified, silver, gold and platinum). The Aquatic Center qualified for 67 points, which was 7 points above the threshold for gold level. It was the first facility of its kind in the country to achieve that level of gold certification. Mr. Greenspan stated that since he chaired the Facilities Committee, this District has been great in terms of supporting and sustaining our existing buildings. It takes a team effort to accomplish this, which results in long term operations and savings. He thanked the architects, Facilities Committee, Administration, staff and everyone that made this happen.

XIV. Business

School Day Report

Dr. Gatta discussed the Administration's visit to Glenbrook South. They are in a unique position of going from the eight 50 minute period day (which is one of the schedules we are reviewing) which they were on last year and switched to the AB Block (the other schedule we are looking at) this year. The overarching things that Dr. Gatta realized after the visit is how well positioned we are to make a major change. Administrators at Glenbrook South said that two of the key ingredients to making the switch to the AB Block successful was they went to a one-to-one initiative and began using Google Apps for education and having an on-line presence for teachers in terms of syllabus and information. We are in our 5th year of doing this. Glenbrook South said that was integral in changing to the Block periods. The other major piece was investment in resource centers. They discussed what they are developing and it sounds a lot like the Lit Centers that we have had in place for over a decade. Dr. Gatta left Glenbrook South realizing there is no perfect school day, but we are positioned very well if we choose to go in the direction of a Block Schedule. Finally, she found that the data they presented very useful in terms of the number of classes students were able to take under a different schedule and it was stated that the AB Block provided the most opportunity for

students to take electives. We talked to directors, teachers, department chairs and administrators regarding what we were considering.

Glenbrook said the students were surprised at how much they like the Block Schedule. They feel there is balance as they move from day to day. The students also felt that they were able to fit everything in as well as extracurricular activities. Students also said when they do go to the resource center they feel like they are getting help and they are not rushed.

Mr. Silverman stated that he still has many unanswered questions as we distill through all of the materials, regarding students, teachers and parents. He said we have to feel comfortable enough to make sure that we understand all of the feedback, the pros and cons, the risks and address them. This will be discussed over the summer and addressed again in the fall.

Dr. Gatta suggested that we put this on the Annual Review of Programs. We could put it on for a 3rd year. We need to make a decision. It could be put on as the choice or one of two choices. We could invite administration from the Glenbrooks to be on the panel to talk about the changes.

XV. Math Report

David Wartowski and Bob Williams, Math Directors, gave an overview of the math report. Highlighted items were: standardized math scores are increasing, we are awaiting the ACT scores from this year and that the IACT scores last year were the highest in the history of the District and race is less of a predictor of performance. Extension classes have long term benefits to students and have benefited 93% of the students in these classes. We are still working on how to make them better. Dr. Gatta said we want to be on the trajectory where every student who comes to District 219 is ready to take geometry. Mr. Greenspan requested that the math report be distributed to the elementary school districts' superintendents and board members. Dr. Gatta agreed to do this.

XVI. Policy and Procedure First Reading

Ms. Doniger said the Policy Committee is reviewing policies that have been reviewed by the Administration, faculty and staff. Most of these policy changes are from state and federal law. Three policies are about bullying and harassment prohibition. This will come back for a second reading.

XVII. Revised Classrooms First Consolidation IGA

Classrooms First Consolidation Intergovernmental Agreement, which was discussed at the last Board meeting, has been revised. The essence of the change is to remove the stigma of the \$2 million dollars and make it more about working better with our feeder districts. District 69's Steering Committee and Board have also approved these changes. There will be an Annual Report each year that delineates spending for the year. This year we are not even at \$250,000 in expenditures. We started the consolidation with District 69 because they were very receptive to the initiative. The process has already started with other districts. There will be other intergovernmental agreements in the future. The overall goal is to work better together as a Township. This is about providing content leadership, sharing administrators and looking at that K-14 experience. It is scalable to any size feeder district which is based on their needs.

It was moved by VALFER and seconded by GREENSPAN to approve the Revised Classrooms First Consolidation IGA.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

XVIII. Transportation Bid

It was moved by DONIGER and seconded by KLINT to reject all bids for Transportation Services that were opened on February 25, 2015 and rebid Regular Transportation and Special Education in separate bids.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

XIX. Purchase of Propane Fueled School Buses

District 219 feels that by owning the buses, we can control and make sure that the buses are ready to go on time. If District 219 owns the buses, there is also no capital cost required on the part of the bidders, and therefore we will get better bids and better support; plus with propane buses as opposed to gasoline buses there is no need to start them earlier to get warm because they start up right away.

We need to provide excellent bus service to our families. This opens up the pool to other providers. This is more about management and operations than capital investment. If we make the capital investment of the buses and store them on our property we have a higher likelihood of success.

It was moved by GREENSPAN and seconded by DONIGER to accept the bid from Central State Bus Sales, Inc. in an amount of \$4,856,500 for the purchase of 55 propane fueled school buses plus the cost of adding the seat belts.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

XX. Positive Connections Contract

It was moved by DONIGER and seconded by EVANS not to renew the extension option for two additional one year periods with Positive Connections, Inc.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

XXI. Old Business

There was no old business.

XXII. New Business

There was no new business.

XXIII. Audience to Visitors (on items related to District business)

Eric Poders, a Morton Grove resident, discussed a comparison between District 219's budget and Maine Township's budget.

Mary Kay Bianchi, parent of a Niles West student, read a statement in support of the Niles West Music Department. She made very positive statements in support of the band teacher that has come under attack and the positive influence the teacher has had on her daughter and other students.

Richard Evonitz, President of the Board of Education in East Prairie District 73 said he was asked specifically to come to the Board meeting tonight to respond to a comment made during District 219's October 20th Board meeting. He said he feels that after hearing the dialogue at tonight's meeting on Classrooms First and what his Board asked him to say was moot at this point. There was a concern in his district that the feeder districts were not doing a good job or that they were causing problems. Mr. Evonitz said what he heard tonight from the Board members is exactly the opposite. He will report back to District 73 and the Board that the Classrooms First dialogue he heard tonight is that District 219 is a partner for the elementary districts; and that is how District 73 feels about District 219. He thanked District 219 for their support.

XXIV. Information Items

- Financial Report for January 2015
- Freedom of Information Requests (FOIA)

XXV. Closed Session

It was moved by KLINT and seconded by DONIGER to recess into Closed Session for purposes of personnel and adjourn to Open Session with action taken.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye: Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 11:10 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to Open Session at 11:30 p.m.

XXVI. Adjournment

It was moved by GREENSPAN and seconded by DONIGER to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Doniger, Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 a.m.

President

Secretary