



BOARD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Michael Pizur

Mr. Pizur gave an update on the recent Finance and Facilities Committee meeting.

2018-2019 AUDIT REVIEW WITH EDWARD MCCORMICK FROM MUELLER CPA

Ed McCormick presented the 2019 audit. He reported that the district is in good position, complies with acceptable accounting and reporting principals and has procedures in place to maintain accurate financial records.

DISCUSSION OF VARIANCES FROM BUDGET TO ACTUAL

Mr. Veihman presented the FY19 budget to actual report. He explained to the committee how actual property tax collections underperformed revenue estimates due to the tax collections, the timing of collection payments to the district and a significantly higher number of property tax refunds. Mr. Veihman also discussed at length unanticipated special education expenses that came in over budget for the fiscal year. As a result of the lower property tax collections and unanticipated special education expenses, the school district ran a deficit of approximately \$500,000. Dr. Scarsella noted that it will be increasingly difficult for the school district to balance future budgets due to the change in the state's school funding formula and historically low inflation.

REVIEW OF LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

committee discussed the merits of taxable vs. non-taxable working cash fund bonds.

REVIEW OF DISTRICT DEPOSITORIES

Mr. Veihman presented the list of district depositories as required by School Code.

STUDENT LEARNING AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Katie Thomason

Mrs. Thomason indicated that the Palos South School Improvement Plan was presented at the recent Student Learning and Services Committee meeting.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Terrence Heafey

Mr. Heafey updated the board on the recent Policy Committee meeting.

- The committee discussed two policy recommendations from IASB, 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program and 7:285 Food Allergy Management Program and recommended these policies be moved to first reading.
- The committee discussed and recommended the implementation of IASB's policy review calendar.
- **IASB RESOLUTIONS**
The proposed resolutions outlined in the 2019 Resolutions Committee Report were referred to the Policy Committee for consideration. *The Policy Committee recommended debate by the full board on Resolution #1.

After discussion during the regular board meeting, a directive was given to Pam Paris, the Palos 118's delegate assembly representative to vote "Do Not Adopt" on Resolution 1 regarding student safety.

MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Member: Pam Paris

Mrs. Paris reported that the Veterans Day assembly was a great event. She stated that the MPA is busy preparing to lend support to the music department for upcoming winter concerts.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Member: Pam Paris

Mrs. Pacholski, Foundation Chairperson shared that the Foundation is making plans for their next Trivia Night on February 8. Mrs. Pacholski announced that Gerry and Kathy Ring will once again emcee the event.

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Member: Katie Thomason

Mrs. Paris gave this month's PFA report.

The PFA has the following upcoming events:

- "A December to Remember" will take place December 7. This special event includes Breakfast with Santa, Santa's Secret Shop, and, new this year, lunch with Buddy the Elf. We thank our dedicated volunteers for the countless hours they have put into organizing this event.
- December 13 is spirit lunches at Palos East and West.
- For those with a student graduating this year, we encourage them to check out the Facebook page our graduation committee has created.
- Watch for information regarding these and other events in the PFA weekly e-mail newsletters, our Facebook page and [webpage](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

SCHOOL REPORT CARD

On October 30, the Illinois State Board of Education released the 2019 School Report Cards. Highlights from this year's report card include strong academic gains in student growth and proficiency. Palos South and Palos East received a Tier 1 Exemplary School Summative designation for 2019 which places their performance in the top 10% of schools statewide. Palos West received a Tier 2 Commendable School Summative Designation which places West in the top 25% of schools statewide. All three Palos 118 schools are high performing and he congratulated students and staff on these outstanding results. The community can view our school report cards online at www.illinoisreportcard.com.

HEALTH LIFE SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT

Thank you to Justin Veihman, Kathy Pagoria, Pete Messina, and the entire Operations Staff for their dedication to maintaining safe learning environments for our Palos 118 students. For the second year in a row, our school district had no safety violations identified during our recent annual life safety inspection.

5 YEAR STATE COMPLIANCE VISIT

Illinois Administrative Code requires that each school in Illinois has a compliance visit to ascertain if school districts are complying with state operational requirements and state and federal regulations. Palos 118 is the first school district in the South Cook region to achieve a perfect score on the district evaluation, staff licensure, and health/life safety inspection during its State compliance visit.

PALOS SOUTH OPEN GYMS

The Palos South gym will be open on Fridays from January 10 - March 20 from 6 – 8 p.m. At least one Palos Rec staff member will be present for supervision. This will be open to all Palos 118 students and younger siblings for \$2/child. All children must have a responsible adult to sign them in and remain present while the child is playing. A single adult can sign in multiple children.. Open gym participants will have access to the gyms, the fitness center, and hallway bathrooms. The rest of the school will be locked off from open gym participants. No food or drink will be allowed. Thank you to Dr. Cantorna, Justin Veihman, and the Palos Park Recreation Department for working together to make this program available.

NEWS ARTICLE

Copies of an interesting article from Dr. Cantorna linking screen time to lower brain development in preschoolers was made available at the sign in table and at each board seat. We are currently exploring how we can utilize parent informational nights to share similar information with our school community.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Board Members Nadine Scodro, Mike Pizur, and Pam Paris for visiting schools with me last month to celebrate with staff their school summative designations. Teachers and administrators were in good spirits and extremely proud to be recognized by the state as high performing schools. Also, thank you to Mike and Pam for representing the board at our recent Veterans Day Assembly at Palos South. It was also great to see Terry Heafey in attendance with his daughter, and Katie Thomason with her uncle who was honored for his military service.

PRINCIPALS' UPDATES

- East
 - Principal Szklanecki shared information about the East Pajama Drive organized by Carrie Lithgow which runs through December 6. Scholastic Books will match each donation with a book. This initiative benefits the Together We Cope charity.
 - Mr. Szklanecki reported that East is continuing their work on Social Emotional Learning using the book, "Power of Our Words."
 - Mrs. Tieri and Mrs. Sokolov will be leading an upcoming staff meeting to provide professional development on using reinforcing, reminding, and redirecting language.

- South
 - Principal Wrzesinski reported that the band concerts were changed to the third week of December. Please check the online calendar for the most current list of events.
 - Palos South Capstone students will be performing their first round of presentations on Friday, December 13 in the Little Theater.
 - South students learned tips on "Keeping your body safe" and "See something – say something" through the Erin's Law Presentations last week.

- West
 - Principal Peloquin reported that West's School Leadership Team has been reviewing the School Improvement Plan as well as the school report card to drive team discussions on student growth and teacher professional development.
 - West is also continuing their focus on Social Emotional development by having staff reward students for their acts of kindness with special yellow pride catchers.
 - West students will be collecting mittens in the month of December and the student council is sponsoring a toy drive.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 TAX LEVY HEARING

The Board of Education conducted a Public Hearing Concerning the 2019 Tax Levy. No comments were received.

ADOPTION OF 2019 TAX LEVY

The Board of Education adopted the "Resolution Providing for the Tax Levy for the Year 2019" and the "Certificate of Tax Levy" totaling \$23,503,000.

ADOPTION OF 2018 TAX LEVY OF INDIVIDUAL FUNDS

The Board of Education adopted the "Resolution Allocating Tax Levy to Individual Funds of the District" and "Applying a Loss Cost Factor."

APPROVAL OF 2020 DISTRICT DEPOSITORIES

The Board of Education approved fiscal year 2020 depositories for the district's liquid assets.

FIRST READING OF POLICY UPDATES

A first reading was conducted on the following policies: 4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program and 7:285 Food Allergy Management Program. A second reading and adoption will take place at the regular December Board Meeting.