



## BOARD BUSINESS

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Pam Paris read the following reports:*

#### MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION



The MPA has created two new virtual events to raise funds for the music program in Palos 118. They are both presented by Colleen Klimczak, owner of Peace of Mind Professional Organizing.

**New Date:** **Clear the Clutter** is a virtual workshop being offered on **Friday, March 12, from 7 pm-8 pm.**

**New Date:** **Stress Management** is a virtual workshop being offered on Saturday, **March 13, from 10 am to 11 am.** Registration for both workshops is available on the district webstore until March 10th.

Register for one or both workshops on the D118 Web Store.

#### EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Good evening and Happy New Year to all. We will be attending this board meeting via Zoom this evening.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard and have created a safe environment for our students to learn. Your dedication to our children during this time of COVID is greatly appreciated by us.

Virtual Trivia Night is Saturday, February 6, 2021. You can participate from the comfort and safety of your home working in teams. Registration for the participating teams will be online through Revtrak. The registration fee is \$100 per team; up to 6 devices per team can participate. This is a new venture for us, and a good time will be had by all! Details are on the district website and in the ecourier. We welcome sponsors to our major fundraising event for this year.

Thank you to the teams who have already registered and sponsors who have sent their donations. It is greatly appreciated!

We hope to see you soon. We want to wish health and happiness this new year to you and to all the Palos 118 educational community. We have much to be proud of in our school district.

## PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year!



The PFA is looking forward to providing teachers & students some great opportunities this spring and into next year! To do this, we are looking for new volunteers. You can join us individually or grab a friend and work as a team! We are specifically looking for people to help chair a Cardinal Chase Run, assist with staff appreciation events, and a Sponsorship Program Coordinator (that will start next year). We always need more people to get involved and are always open to new ideas!

What's happening:

- We wrapped up our first Spirit Wear order for the year! Huge thanks to Lauren Kirkner and thank you to our community for all for the support, and we are happy to find some new favorites options!
- We loved all the December traditions photos! This month submit pictures of what makes you smile for our Monthly Photo Contest!
- The first programming activity coming in early February for our younger grades and working on planning for the upper grades! More information to come soon.
- At the end of February, our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Read-a-thon will start! Centered around the Olympics theme, this fundraiser is especially important this year with the adjustments that had to be made. We are hoping to add some extra excitement and motivation to read for the students and to raise money for future programming!
- Enroll your family on the PFA website for a chance to stay informed and be entered into our monthly raffle!
- Follow us on our Facebook page or group and our website to stay fully informed with what we have going on!

The Board and administration thanked the PFA, MPA, and Foundation for their support of our students, staff, and schools.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dr. Scarsella reported that the district had a successful return from winter recess last Thursday. He expressed his sincere thanks to District 118 families who continue to partner with the district to keep our schools safe. Dr. Scarsella noted that at this point, there is no indication of a spike in confirmed positive cases in the district, and the administration believes returning from break with two days of entirely remote learning was a prudent safety measure. Dr. Scarsella expressed thanks and appreciation to district families for their continued flexibility during these challenging times.

Dr. Scarsella stated that the Cook County Department of Public Health is working on a plan to begin vaccinating school employees who fall under Group 1b, which is estimated to begin next month. Currently, our school nurses, OT/PT's, and speech pathologists fall under Group 1a and are eligible to receive their vaccinations now. CCDPH continues to hold weekly calls with superintendents to provide updated information on the vaccination rollout.

Dr. Scarsella noted parents had been given the opportunity to make a switch in the instructional model for their children for the second semester. The due date for the Second Semester Election Forms was last Monday, January 11. Schools are contacting all families requesting a change to ensure they

accurately filled out the form. It appears the number switching from remote to in-person, and vice versa was comparable. We do not anticipate the need for any additional staff to accommodate these requests. As promised, we will do our best to minimize any disruption to current operations.

Dr. Scarsella indicated that the district has targeted March 5 for opening registration for the next school year for all grade levels. More information will be provided to families as this date approaches. We are looking into modifying our current practices to allow families to upload registration documents from home to comply with our safety plan to limit visitors to our schools.

On February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., the school district will be hosting a virtual parent night on mental health. Dr. Christopher Higgins from Palos Behavior and Palos 118 staff will be our featured guests.

## **PRINCIPAL UPDATES**

Copies of the building principals' reports were provided at each board member's seat, which included building events. Information on these events is included in building newsletters.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

### **APPOINT BOARD MEMBERS TO HANDBOOK COMMITTEE**

Board members Pamela Paris and Nadine Scodro volunteered to serve on the district's Handbook Committee. The committee assists in the development of student behavior policy and procedure and reviews information provided in the school handbooks. Its members include parents, teachers, administrators, and board members. This committee meets once annually in the spring.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **MONITORING DISTRICT PERFORMANCE THROUGH POLICY**

Board members recommended that a policy subcommittee be formed to further discussion on this topic.

### **2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATE**

Dr. Scarsella provided the board with a working draft calendar. The administration is working with the teachers' association and will bring a calendar for board approval at the February board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATION OF BENCHMARKING AND ACCESS ASSESSMENT DATA**

Mrs. Hamed, Director of EL Program, presented the results from Access (the state standardized assessment given to our English Language students.) Mrs. Hamed indicated that Palos 118 students had outperformed EL students in the state and neighboring school districts.

Dr. Cozza presented the Fall MAP benchmarking data for reading and math. Dr. Cozza informed the board that reading performance was comparable to previous years even in light of the pandemic. Dr. Cozza also shared the administration's recommendations on improving math outcomes which declined during the pandemic. He noted math scores had been slipping prior to the pandemic.

**APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION SETTING THE FISCAL YEAR AND DESIGNATED PERSONS TO PREPARE TENTATIVE BUDGET**

The Board of Education approved a resolution setting the fiscal year for 2022 beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, and appointing Dr. Anthony M. Scarsella, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Justin Veihman, Chief School Business Official, to prepare the annual budget in tentative form.