

MINUTES

The Minutes of the First Regular Meeting
of the Month of December of the Board of Education
Township High School District 214 held on December 10, 2020
at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Petro with Notices to Board Members and Members of the Press sent on December 7, 2020, reading as follows:

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN LOCATION OF MEETING

You are hereby notified that members of the Board of Education of Township High School District 214 will hold a remote meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2020 rather than at the Forest View Education Center as originally scheduled. The meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Education meeting will not be conducted in person in the typical manner and, instead, will be conducted remotely for the express purpose of protecting public health and in compliance with directives to avoid public gatherings.

Due to the Governor restricting public gatherings to no more than 10 people, the Board of Education meeting will be conducted via an electronic video-conferencing application known as Zoom. Information regarding access to the audio recording of the Board of Education meeting is available on the District's website, www.d214.org.

COVID-19 Protocols for the 2020 Tax Levy Hearing and Public Comments

Public comments for the 2020 Tax Levy Hearing and for agenda and non-agenda items will be accepted prior to the meeting via submission to the following email address: rinn.knoepfle@d214.org.

Submissions must be received by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2020, must include the sender's name and should follow the decorum standards for public comment. During the public participation portion of the meeting, the Superintendent will read or summarize the emails. The emails will be shared in totality with the Board of Education and will be posted on the District's website.

The purpose of the Meeting is set forth in the following agenda for the meeting:

- I. CALL TO ORDER
President Petro
- II. ROLL CALL
Mrs. Knoepfle
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Regular Meeting of November 12, 2020
Closed Session Meeting of November 12, 2020
- V. PUBLIC HEARING – 2020 Tax Levy – 7:00 p.m.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Freedom of Information Act Report
Adaptive Pause Update
- VIII. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

- IX. CONSENT CALENDAR
- 2020-146 Accounts Payable
 - 2020-147 Personnel Transaction Report
 - 2020-148 Destruction of Closed Minutes Audio Recordings
 - 2020-149 Board of Education Policy Revisions – PRESS Edition
 - 2020-150 Job Description – Plumber/Pipe Fitter
- X. ACTION ITEM (The public may comment on each item after Board discussion.)
- 2020-151 2020 Property Tax Levy
- XI. CLOSED SESSION
- o The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459;
- XII. RECONVENE IN OPEN MEETING
- Immediately following the Closed Session, the Board of Education will reconvene in Open Session and may take action deemed necessary as a result of the Closed Session discussions.
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Signed

Dan Petro
Board President

The following members were present:

William Dussling	Vice President
Mark Hineman	Member
Alva Kreutzer	Member
Mildred Palmer	Member
Dan Petro	President
Leonard Walker	Member
Todd Younger	Member

Absent at roll call:

None

Also present at the meeting were: D. Schuler, superintendent; C. Johnson, associate superintendent for finance and operations; M. Johnson, assistant superintendent for student services; K. Kraft, associate superintendent for human resources; L. Lopez, associate superintendent for teaching and learning; J. Wardle, principal, BGHS; P. Kelly, principal, EGHS; P. Mogge, director of community engagement and outreach; T. Schlorff, director of instructional technology and technology services; R. Knoepfle,

executive assistant to the school board and superintendent; C. Uhle, director of administrative services; staff members; parents; students; and citizens.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Petro led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Walker and seconded by Hineman that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2020 and the Closed Session of November 12, 2020.

Upon roll call, the motion carried.

Ayes: Dussling, Hineman, Kreutzer, Palmer, Walker, Younger, Petro

Nays: None

3. PUBLIC HEARING – 2020 Tax Levy

At 7:03 p.m., D. Petro opened the public hearing to provide citizens an opportunity to address the Board on the proposed 2020 Property Tax Levy.

D. Schuler explained that later in the evening the Board will be considering the approval of the 2020 Tax Levy which will include the Board adopting and certifying the Tax Levy Resolution regarding the 2020 Tax Levy, directing the President and the Secretary to also certify such levy on the Certificate of Tax Levy form and execute the Resolution Authorizing Reduction of Certain Fund Levies for the 2020 Levy Year, directing the President to sign the Certification of Compliance with the Truth-In-Taxation Law, and directing the Secretary to file said documents with the Clerk of Cook County on or before December 29, 2020. He noted that the District received one public comment this evening, and prior to reading the public comment he has asked C. Johnson, associate superintendent of finance and operations, to provide an overview of the process of setting the tax levy.

C. Johnson explained that the tax levy is an ask or request of a certain amount of revenue generated from tax dollars to maintain and enhance the programs associated with providing students an education. Local property taxes support 84% of the total school district revenue. The District must estimate the levy 20 days prior to adopting it through the approval of the Tentative Tax Levy, which was approved by the Board at the November 12, 2020 meeting. Illinois statute requires taxing bodies to follow the Truth in Taxation requirements when passing a levy, so the District must publish a notice of the anticipated increase when it is more than 5% and hold a public hearing. District 214 has historically held a public hearing for transparency sake every year, even when the levy request is lower than the 5% threshold. All levies must be adopted and filed with the County Clerk by the last Tuesday in December each year. The components of the levy that are known when estimating the levy are the prior year extension, the rate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the prior year, the bond payments, and the rate limits. Unknown components that will factor into the final actual tax receipts include the impact of new property and the equalized assess value (EAV). The District EAV comes from the assessed value of property, the equalizer established by the assessor, the homeowner and commercial exemptions (homeowner exemption, senior exemption, senior freeze exemption, and Class 6 and Class 7 commercial and industrial exemptions) applied, and the TIFs within the District.

C. Johnson noted that the CPI is important because the District can only receive the lower of CPI or 5% as an increase to last year's extension plus the value of new property. The value of new property is unknown as the District has not yet received the assessed value of those properties when it must set the levy. The District also must estimate the new taxable incremental value that result from the expiration of Tax Incremental Districts, of which this year there are a possible three expiring, out of the 16 that exist within the District. If the District doesn't capture the value of the new property the year it is released back onto the tax rolls, the District would forego that increase in valuation in perpetuity. The Property Tax Extension Law Limit protects the taxpayer by limiting the levy request to the lesser of CPI or 5% plus the new property, such as those coming off of the TIFs.

The authorized tax rate is determined by the total amount of taxes levied by the Board of Education divided by the total Equalized Assessed Value set by the Township Assessors within the taxing body. The final extension and tax rates are determined by the County and presented on the individual tax bills. Variances in the EAV will adjust that rate, variance in the projected new property will adjust the total extension, and final collections of revenues will be impacted by unknown changes in TIF districts and additions of Class 6 and 7 commercial exemptions and by tax appeals. This year the District is asking for a 4.99% increase in new revenue in the levy proposal.

D. Schuler read the public comment submitted:

- C. Bolos, requested that the Board not increase the 2020 tax levy this year due to these unprecedented times.

The hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

D. Schuler read in their entirety the submitted public comments for the regular Board meeting:

- K. Ahn, an EGHS student, submitted comments regarding coronavirus protections for the health and safety of school faculty.
- E. Bauer, an Arlington Heights resident, submitted comments regarding the adaptive pause, student finals, and student achievement levels.
- J. Derengowski, an Arlington Heights resident, submitted comments regarding the reopening of schools.
- K. Murschel, an Arlington Heights resident, and L. Schillmoeller, a Rolling Meadows resident, submitted comments together regarding a letter from Local 1211 Teachers Union president to District 211 Superintendent regarding Tier 3 Mitigation issues and the desire to reopen District 214 schools immediately.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The district received the following Freedom of Information Act requests that were complied with consistent with School Code:

- K. Upton, ACME Research, requested financial information.
- S. Johlje requested contract information.
- K. Murschel requested student information.

D. Schuler noted that the District always complies to FOIAs. In regards to looking at reports regarding student success and D's/F's, the district does not generate many reports as the staff use a real time interactive dashboard to guide their practices and supports for students. He noted that for the January

Board meeting, he has asked L. Lopez to provide a comprehensive report on the academic progress from first semester.

D. Schuler also noted that while D211 and D214 are both part of Local 1211, District 214 has its own Education Association President, Vice Presidents and other officers who are all D214 employees. He has enjoyed working with D211 Superintendent Dr. Small this year and looks forward to working with her in the years to come. D. Schuler indicated that he has never met the D211 union President, who also serves as the Local 1211 President, nor received correspondences from him or met with him.

D. Schuler works directly with the D214 Education Association leadership, indicating that they have a very collaborative working relationship with the EA and collaboratively strive to get to 'yes' on issues for the betterment of students and staff. When disagreeing, they do so respectfully.

D. Schuler assured the D214 school community, that he has never received a threat of job action, a sick out, or a strike from the D214 Education Association leadership. The District did not take an Adaptive Pause for any reason other than following public health guidance from the Cook County Department of Public Health.

D. Schuler has asked C. Uhle to update the Board on the metrics monitored and used by the District in its COVID-19 response decisions for student and staff attendance as agreed upon in August.

C. Uhle outlined the District's monitoring of both building and community metrics that are tracked to manage the District response at an individual school site and for the overall District. The District has a District-level response team and each school site has a response team that provide oversight and manage any outbreaks or cases and contact tracing. The District maintains a dashboard on its website of the infection rate that is based on the number of individuals within a site. The site also indicates the number of individuals in quarantine due to possible exposure. The District follows the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) guidelines for conducting learning activities based on a risk continuum. The guidelines assist in determining the learning modality based on the level of building and community transmission levels.

The CCDPH online dashboard provides information for different defined regions within Cook County so the District is able to make decisions based on information for the local North region within Cook County. Additionally, the District follows the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making mitigation strategies throughout the District. Although the District is still able to affectively follow the CDC mitigation strategies, the North region of Cook County has met the warning level of the current IDPH Risk Levels four times in the last four weeks, moving the District into an adaptive pause. The District makes use of all of the data to drive decisions at the individual site level and District-wide as it examines the daily caseloads at the schools and the community transmission levels.

Board members discussed the importance of basing decisions on learning activities from the local metrics rather than County-wide metrics, how the fluctuation of case rates in schools is effected by the number of individuals in the buildings, the amount of time and effort needed for contact tracing, the importance of having and basing decisions on the data, the fact that some districts are holding school, and the need to continue to use the Board approved Reset, Redefine, Restart plan to make decisions, such as the one to go on the adaptive pause, based on the data that is provided on the various dashboards, including the one on the District website.

6. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

A. Kreutzer reported on the Illinois Association of School Board's (IASB) Delegate Assembly, noting members have access to a one-page summary. She provided context on the decision-making process for the proposed Resolution 2 regarding gun storage and the rationale for why the committee rejected the appeal, as they believe this must be dealt within the State legislation rather than at the association level. Financially, IASB is doing well, even with the State conference being held virtually. The Board of Directors did vote to not join the National School Board Association this year, following California's lead. Other state associations are also considering the same.

B. Dussling reported that the Board was currently missing a great radio show performance this evening by the PHS fine arts department. It will be accessible at: phstheater.com

L. Walker toured the RMHS greenhouse which is being used to provide food to the community. With the assistance of the Education Foundation, RMHS partnered with Home Depot for supplies to plant fresh vegetable plants and developed videos to demonstrate to families how to grow their own vegetables. The school has also received funding to start an outdoor garden this year. JHHS hosted in a virtual visit by alumni author K. Standefer who discussed her book, *Lightning Flowers, My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving a Life*, with students. L. Walker also congratulated the PHS journalism department for the Prospector becoming a top ten Crown Finalist for news from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and for the students whose work puts them in the top 10 in the nation at the JEA/NSPA National High School Convention. Additionally, he noted that that an anonymous donor has contributed to the Education Foundation in the name of Bob Frisk, longtime Daily Herald sports reported, to support programs such as the Media Pathway program. A special fund, Bob Frisk Legacy Fund, has been created to support journalism at Districts 214, 211 and 220.

D. Petro thanked the Food and Nutrition Services team for the continuing distribution of breakfasts and lunches each week to the community. Last Wednesday, the District distributed 15,162 breakfasts and 15,162 lunches to our community and there was an increase in the number of meals distributed yesterday.

M. Palmer was excited to report about the Wheeling High School project that grew out of an English class that resulted in providing 50 turkey dinners to local families. She was also excited to report that half of the student cohort of the Pathway to Completion for this year have been accepted into colleges. She noted the importance of students having someone champion their dreams so that a student's circumstances are not dictated by birth. D. Schuler noted he just received word this afternoon that now all of the students in this year's cohort had been accepted into one of the colleges of their choice.

D. Petro noted that this was a good opportunity to remind everyone that the Education Foundation is still collecting donations to support students through the D214Cares fund. Access to information is on the website.

7. APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

2020-146 through 2020-150

Items 2020-146 through 2020-150 appearing on the Consent Calendar were presented for the Board's consideration.

It was moved by Palmer and seconded by Kreutzer that the Board of Education approve Items 2020-146 through 2020-150 appearing on the Consent Calendar as presented.

Upon roll call, the motion carried.

Ayes: Dussling, Hineman, Kreutzer, Palmer, Walker, Younger, Petro
Nays: None

A. Approve Accounts Payable 2020-146

Actual November 12, 2020 listing:	
Educational Fund Listing	\$768,794.94
Operations and Maintenance	224,425.92
Transportation Fund	212,692.21
Debt Service	1,202.50
Capital Projects	225,950.47
TOTAL	<u>\$1,433,066.04</u>

Checks Dated: November 12, 2020
Check Numbers: 740046 through 740364

Actual November 24, 2020 listing:	
Educational Fund Listing	\$478,811.20
Operations and Maintenance	253,213.69
Transportation Fund	873,818.27
Capital Projects	7,733.56
TOTAL	<u>\$1,613,576.72</u>

Checks Dated: November 24, 2020
Check Numbers: 740375 through 740588

Transfers Dated November 1-30, 2020 listing:	
Educational Fund Listing	<u>\$2,072,292.31</u>
TOTAL	\$2,072,292.31

B. Personnel Transaction Report 2020-147

Approved Personnel Transaction Report attached to these minutes.

C. Destruction of Closed Meeting Audio Recordings 2020-148

Approved the destruction of closed session audio recordings for the following meetings:

May 13, 2019
May 16, 2019

D. Board of Education Policy Manual Revisions – PRESS Editions 2020-149

Approved the recommended policy revisions from PRESS as presented:

Policies that were reviewed in the five-year cycle that required no new revisions are:
5:270 6:315 7:300

PRESS and Administration Recommended Revised Policies:

3:40	4:90	6:310	7:100
4:55	6:20	6:320	7:140
4:80	6:300	6:340	7:325

E. New Job Description 2020-150

Approved the following job description: Plumber/Pipe Fitter

8. 2020 TAX LEVY 2020-151

It was moved by Hineman and seconded by Kreutzer that the Board of Education adopt and certify the Tax Levy Resolution regarding the 2020 Tax Levy as presented, direct the President and the Secretary to also certify such levy on the Certificate of Tax Levy form and execute the Resolution Authorizing Reduction of Certain Fund Levies for the 2020 Levy Year, direct the President to sign the Certification of Compliance with the Truth-In-Taxation Law, and direct the Secretary to file said documents with the Clerk of Cook County on or before December 29, 2020.

D. Schuler indicated that there were no changes to the proposed 2020 Tax Levy from the Tentative Levy presented in November.

Board discussion included:

- the need to safeguard the request to include new properties, but the valuation of those properties is unknown until after the filing of the levy request;
- if not included in the request this year, the District can't include those re-evaluations in future years. The amount varies greatly from year to year, for example in 2014 the value of new property was approximately \$34 million and in 2020 the request includes a valuation of \$128 million due to the inclusion of property from expired TIFs;
- even after all of the levying process, the District usually only receives about 97% of the tax receipts due to ongoing appeals. PTELL protects the taxpayer by limiting the amount of the request to CPI and addition of the new properties onto the tax rolls;
- the tax levy request is always greater than the actual receipts in order to capture those new properties so the tax burden doesn't shift to other taxpayers in the future. The greater the amount of new property that can be added to the district's request, the individual taxpayer will pay a lesser proportion of the overall taxes for the District;
- if the district levy request was for a 0% increase, the district would receive the same amount it received in the 2019 tax levy and then not be able to capture the new property in the future. Usually districts that have 0% levy requests receive most all of their revenues from the State and federal sources rather than from local property taxes;
- there is still great uncertainty regarding State and federal funding for schools this year;
- the District was able to save \$4.5 million dollars recently with the bond refinancing approved at the last meeting.

There were no additional comments from the public other than the one read at the 2020 Tax Levy Hearing earlier in the evening.

Upon roll call, the motion carried.

Ayes: Dussling, Hineman, Kreutzer, Palmer, Walker, Younger, Petro

Nays: None

9. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Palmer and seconded by Dussling that the Board of Education convene in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459.

Upon roll call, the motion carried.

Ayes: Dussling, Hineman, Kreutzer, Palmer, Walker, Younger, Petro

Nays: None

The Board convened in Closed Session at 8:20 p.m.

10. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

It was moved by Kretuzer and seconded by Dussling that the Board of Education reconvene in Open Session.

Upon roll call, the motion carried.

Ayes: Dussling, Hineman, Kreutzer, Palmer, Walker, Younger, Petro

Nays: None

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:58 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Kreutzer and seconded by Dussling to adjourn. The motion carried.

Upon roll call, the motion carried.

Ayes: Dussling, Hineman, Kreutzer, Palmer, Walker, Younger, Petro

Nays: None

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

F. Daniel Petro, president

William J. Dussling, vice president