

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200**  
**February 12, 2025**

The first regular meeting of the month of February of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 200, DuPage County, Illinois, was called to order at the Washington Elementary School, 911 Bridle Ln., Wheaton, IL, by Board President Rob Hanlon, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon the roll being called, the following were present:

Board Members:      Mr. Rob Hanlon  
                             Ms. Julie Kulovits  
                             Mr. Dave Long  
                             Ms. Angela Blatner  
                             Mr. Erik Hjerpe  
                             Mr. Brad Paulsen  
                             Mr. John Rutledge

Also in Attendance: Dr. Jeff Schuler, Superintendent  
                             Ms. Alyssa Barry  
                             Mr. Matt Biscan  
                             Ms. Melissa Murphy  
                             Dr. Brian O’Keeffe  
                             Dr. Chris Silagi  
                             Mr. Jason Spencer

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Member Brad Paulsen led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOST SCHOOL**

Dr. Jennifer Craig, Principal of Washington Elementary School, welcomed the Board to the school. Some Washington students had planned to be part of the presentation but were advised not to come out due to the unknown weather situation. Dr. Craig highlighted the work that happens at Washington and thanked the active PTA for all they do for the school, as well as the dedication of the incredible Washington staff whose commitment to supporting student growth has resulted in the school receiving the summative designation of exemplary from the state of Illinois for two years in a row. The clubs at Washington help students feel connected and comfortable at school. Some clubs noted include Student Council, Art Club, Kids in Motion, Drama Club, Crochet Club, Earth Club, and the Growth Mindset Game Club. The students who were to be present tonight to talk about these clubs will create a video that will be shared with the Board. Board members were thanked for supporting these clubs and for supporting the work being done every day at Washington.

**MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Dr. Schuler asked that the middle school capital projects update (oral report) be moved before the facilities approval consent agenda.

## **RECOGNITIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

The community partnership recognition originally scheduled for February was postponed due to weather.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items**

None

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Schuler provided the following updates:

- Community Education evening on AI - Thank you to Jason Spencer and his team, along with members of the high school administration for leading this event to educate the community, provide some resources, and give some clarity on what AI is, what it is not and how the District is approaching the topic.
- Student Ambassadors at January CAC meeting - Thank you to the students for joining the CAC meeting last month to discuss cell phone use and some implications of potential adjustments to the current policy. The ambassadors took questions from CAC. They solicited feedback from fellow students and came to the meeting to discuss with the committee. They did a great job.
- Ratings Call - Dr. Schuler and Dr. O’Keeffe joined a ratings call today. The district’s credit rating is being reviewed before selling bonds. The outcome is expected next week.
- First Remote Learning Day of the Year - thank you to the teams across the District. The plan is in place so our teachers can adapt, and principals quickly mobilized and moved information out to ensure we were set up for the day. The preference is to have kids in the buildings when possible. While remote learning is not a replacement for the in-person opportunity, it is a great option.
- Student Ambassador Report - The student ambassadors did not participate in the meeting due to the weather.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Acceptance of Gift to Hawthorne Elementary School - SAIL Program – Recommend acceptance of gift to Hawthorne SAIL program as presented.
2. Acceptance of Gifts from Longfellow Elementary School PTA – Recommend acceptance of gifts from Longfellow PTA as presented.
3. Acceptance of Gift from Washington Elementary School PTA - Recommend acceptance of gift from Washington PTA as presented.
4. Approval of Middle School ELA Instructional Materials – Recommend approval of middle school ELA instructional materials as presented.
5. Approval of Professional Learning Expenditure Request for Board Members – Recommend approval of professional learning expenditure request for board members as presented.
6. Approval to Add Serious Safety Hazard Bus Route - Emerson Elementary School – Recommend approval to add serious safety hazard bus route as presented.
7. Approval of Bills Payable and Payroll – Recommend approval of bills payable and payroll as presented.
8. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2025, Regular Meeting, Open, January 22, 2025, Committee of the Whole, Open, and Approval to Destroy Recordings of Closed Sessions Prior to September 2023 As Allowable by Law – Recommend approval of the minutes as presented and approve the destruction of recordings of closed sessions prior to September 2023 as allowable by law.

9. Approval of Personnel Report to Include Employment, Resignation, Retirement, and Leave of Absence of Administrative, Certified, Classified, and Non-Union Staff – Recommend approval of the personnel report as presented.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- #1-3 Acceptance of Gifts - thank you to our PTA partners who continue to provide support; thankful to the Longfellow PTA for supporting programs/schools from across the district.
- #5 Professional Learning Expenditure for Board members - the opportunity for the Board to attend the next regional meeting with IASB (Illinois Association of School Boards). Congratulations to the Board who will be receiving the School Board Governance Award at the upcoming meeting in March. The Board has continued to be recognized for the work they do to lead our community
- #4 ELA Instructional Materials - these were on display at the SSC. Thank you to Ms. Murphy and the middle school team for the continued work around our focus on learning acceleration which has been a priority in the District 200 strategic plan.

### **MOTION**

Member Paulsen moved, Member Kulovits seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **FACILITIES APPROVAL CONSENT AGENDA (Moved After Oral Report)**

1. Approval of ROE Building Permits for 2025 Summer Architectural Capital Projects – Recommend approval of the submission of the permit applications to the ROE for all 2025 summer architectural capital projects as presented.
2. Approval of ROE Building Permits for 2025 Summer Mechanical Capital Projects – Recommend approval of the submission of the permit applications to the ROE for all 2025 summer mechanical capital projects as presented.
3. Approval to Release Middle School Capital Project Bids - Projects Issuance 1 - Recommend approval of the release of bids for project issuance 1 of the middle school capital projects as presented.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- The timing of approving budgets and bids in March and receiving the first cost estimate update. The importance of the Board to know where we are in terms of the overall budget before project bids are awarded for the first issuance.

### **MOTION**

Member Paulsen moved, Member Rutledge, seconded to approve the Facilities Approval Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: AYE 7, NAY 0.

**The motion carried 7-0.**

### **ORAL REPORTS (Moved After Consent Agenda)**

#### Middle School Capital Project Update

Mr. Michael Dolter of Perkins & Will, the lead architect for the middle school capital projects, provided the Board of Education with a PowerPoint presentation and update on the projects.

This included information on the following:

- Schedule Update

- Project Phases > Pre-Design/Programming, Schematic Design, Design Development, Contract Documents, Bidding/Negotiation, Construction
- A 3-Issuance Approach > Issuance 1: Enabling Work (Monroe/Franklin), Monroe Standard Classrooms, Bid - Feb/Mar 2025, Built - summer 2025; Issuance 2: Building Additions & Associated Projects All Three Schools, Bid - May/June 2025, Built - Summer 2025/26; Issuance 3: Bulk of Work All Three Schools, Bid - Oct/Nov 2025, Built - Summer 2026/27 (Issuance 3 may be broken out or extended if needed)
- Project Timeline > Design, Bidding, BOE Approval, Permitting, Construction, Project Closeout, Design Budget Review for Issuances 1, 2-A/B, and 3 from 2024 through 2028
- Design Update
  - Monroe Classrooms
    - Monroe Classrooms - Prototyping > Spring 2025: Survey existing conditions, Two classrooms will serve as prototype classrooms to explore impacts of technology & furniture; Summer 2025: Survey prototype, 30+ classrooms identified for renovation (furniture, fixtures, finishes, equipment); Fall 2025: Survey 1st roll-out phase, feedback from renovated classrooms will provide input for any changes needed for classroom model at all three schools
    - Lighting > Fifteen Issuance 1 classrooms are ‘buried’ and have no access to natural light; Research has shown that access to natural light impacts student concentration, engagement, performance, and overall student well-being
    - Daylighting Studies - Light Tube Option (Alternate Bid) > Pros: Works easier with existing structure & systems, lower budget impact, multiple in one space; Cons: No access to views, smaller impact, diffuse lighting
    - Daylighting Studies - Skylight Option (Alternate Bid) > Pros: More access to diversity of lighting, access to views outside; Cons: Challenges with controllability, some classrooms will need to have mechanical systems revised, greater budget impact
  - Monroe Commons/Cafeteria
    - Cafeteria Size Comparison > Cafeteria square footage, number of students, square feet/student/lunch for Edison, Franklin, Hubble, and Monroe Middle Schools
    - Current Locker Utilization > Available Lockers, Lockers Used, % Used for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade at Edison, Franklin, and Monroe; Conclusion: providing lockers for projected populations with a reasonable growth buffer will allow some reorganization of lockers and the opportunity for reimagining corridor and common space usage
  - Building Entry Concepts
    - Existing Conditions - Edison
    - Design Drivers - Edison > Improved accessibility, soften building presence, provide gathering opportunities, improve access to natural light in the LLC
    - Schematic Design - Edison
    - Existing Conditions - Franklin
    - Design Drivers - Franklin > Improved accessibility, consolidated identity, extension of security practices, address aging conditions
    - Schematic Design - Franklin > updated interior access with lift, secured vestibule; improved accessibility, both sides of the main stair
    - Existing Conditions - Monroe

- Design Drivers - Monroe > Improved wayfinding, improved building identity, extension of security practices
- Schematic Design - Monroe > main office for internal management, student and staff/faculty; updated plan, welcome center for external visitor control, Teacher lounge & large group meeting space; updated vestibule & circulation pathways; reinforce visual and wayfinding hierarchy to secured entry
- Building Systems
  - Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) > Good IAQ contributes to a favorable environment for students, performance of teachers and staff, and a sense of comfort, health and well-being. These elements combine to assist a school in its core mission - educating children
  - Mechanical Systems - Existing Conditions: Edison > Aged central plant equipment - classrooms are served by individual 2-pipe cabinet unit heating/cooling units; Each classroom has variability in quality, Air intake compromised by proximity to ground
  - Mechanical Systems - Existing Conditions: Franklin > Aged central plant equipment - classrooms are served by individual 2-pipe cabinet unit heating/cooling units; Cabinet Unit Heater (CUH) - takes up valuable floor space, limited air distribution, added noise, individual outside air connection, heating or cooling only
  - Mechanical Systems - Existing Conditions: Monroe > Classrooms are served by a forced air distribution system (Variable Air Volume - VAV)
  - Mechanical Systems - Proposed: Edison > Remove cabinet unit heaters, replace central systems (boilers, chillers, etc), serve classrooms with a DOAS/4-pipe fan coil system
  - Mechanical Systems - Proposed: Franklin > Remove cabinet unit heaters, replace central systems (boilers, chillers, etc), serve classrooms with a DOAS/4-pipe fan coil system
  - Mechanical Systems - Proposed: Monroe > Keep terminal air units (distribution), replace central systems (boilers, chillers, air handlers, etc), add A/C to non-air conditioned spaces
  - Proposed System - DOAS (Dedicated Outdoor Air Unit) > What is it? The DOAS unit brings in clean, filtered air from the outside at a higher rate than traditional forced air systems that recirculate a majority of the air in a space. Air from the outside is filtered and pre-conditioned before entering the space at neutral temperatures. Separate equipment is used to regulate temperature within the space; Why is it beneficial? Energy use reduction, increased efficiency, increased indoor environmental air quality.
  - Proposed System - 4-Pipe Fan Coil > What is it? While the DOAS brings in room neutral air, the fan coil unit conditions the space; Why is it beneficial? A decoupled system allows for energy use reduction and reduced duct size. The four-pipe system allows for flexibility in temperature, providing simultaneous heating and cooling when needed.
- Open Discussion

There was additional information on the following:

- These are three complex building renovation and addition projects, each containing many elements. The focus of the Board updates is on the new elements that have not been seen before, require additional clarity, or involve actions the Board will be taking.

- Project phase - the majority of the project is in the design development phase and the contract documents phase (part of issuance one).
- Issuance 1 is expected out to the construction manager next week.
- Project timeline - there have been no changes to this to date.
- Perkins & Will is working with Nicholas & Associates on the project construction logistics.
- There are two classrooms at Monroe that will serve as a prototype for instructional technology and furniture
  - Working with vendors to bring in pieces to test out and determine what is the best approach for both technology and furnishings within those classrooms; what best supports teaching and learning in the classrooms.
  - A survey is being released this week for students and staff who work in those two classrooms to provide input on the current state of furniture in the classroom, how it supports/hinders education and collaboration within the classroom; this will be used as the baseline.
  - The goal is to have those two prototype classrooms ready next week.
  - After some time, another survey will go out to do a cross-comparison between the pre and post-prototype classroom to determine what can be learned and improved.
  - There has been discussion around distributing the furniture/instructional technology used as the prototype to the other middle schools if that is desired.
  - Once a decision is made on which direction we are going with overall furnishings as well as technology, we will have an opportunity to test this out in the thirty renovated classrooms at Monroe.
- The two approaches to daylighting in the classrooms
  - Skylight option is a single linear, long rectangular option that brings light into the classroom. These would be positioned as close to the teaching wall as possible.
  - Light tube option would be four pre-engineered solar connectors within the classroom that take light, focus it down, reflect it in the space, and then diffuse it within the space itself.
- Both daylighting options are structured as an alternative bid.
- Based on feedback from the last meeting, reported back on the comparison in numbers of all four middle school cafeterias - square footage, number of students and square foot per student per lunch. The national standards are somewhere between 15-25 square foot per student for a lunch period. All D200 middle schools fall well within the national standard. Note: the Monroe square footage does not show the open corridor space on three sides.
- Current locker utilization - the highest use percentage per grade is 78% and the lowest is down at 32%. Bottom line - there is a good opportunity to regain some additional space for small group use or other uses within the hallways to make use of those for educational purposes.
- Have been studying opportunities for improvements at the building entries at all three middle schools to put a deliberate and improved entryway in the buildings and to make them more inviting and more reflective of the communities they serve. Will continue to work with the principals and schools on these entryways.

There were comments and/or questions on the following:

- “Project Closeout” and what this entails - the wrap-up of all of the work in a given phase that is almost always behind the scenes - includes ensuring all of the warranty items have been completed, substantial completion of the project, taking occupancy, completing punch list items, owner operation manuals and training.

- The two prototype classrooms at Monroe and the thirty-plus classrooms identified for renovation will not happen concurrently. The prototype will happen this Spring, and the latter will happen in Summer 2025.
- The two daylighting options - feedback from using these options in other locations. The light tube option has been very well received in a multitude of different environments (gymnasiums, libraries, classrooms). The skylight option is also fairly well-tested.
- Location of the skylight option within the classrooms - trying to focus that in a space that is going to be the most beneficial for the classroom, and the least impactful for the existing mechanical systems and structure within the space.
- Light tube option material (does not allow a view) - how this works.
- Inclined to think about the light tube option - do not think we will have a singular teaching wall. Technology and furniture are going to enable all walls to be teaching walls. Moving away from a fronted classroom.
- Interest in seeing a classroom that has the light tube option. Dr. Schuler and Dr. O'Keeffe visited Clapham School in downtown Wheaton, where they put light tubes in a number of their classrooms. Teachers in these classrooms reported positively on what the light brings to the space.
- Monroe lockers in the cafeteria space - the proposal includes eliminating the locker banks that are currently in the cafeteria. Noted the sightline challenge with those lockers. Currently running through scenarios and working with the school as to where to locate lockers. The numbers show there is the ability to do that.
- Monroe lockers in the central commons area - all of the seventh-grade lockers.
- Franklin lower level commons area - give special attention to that space from the furniture finishes and lighting standpoint.
- Activating some additional open spaces within Edison and Franklin.
- Franklin building entry - exposed to elements or sheltered? Has been suggested to look at adding some canopy over ramps to enter the building, continuing to explore some way to cover the ramps, and find a way to integrate that into the current landscape around the space.
- Franklin elevator - normal cab elevator that will go from the entry level to the first level; designation.
- Edison entrance - proposed design - positive comments.
- Monroe - repurposing the multipurpose room is a good evolution of the design process.
- Franklin - design around ramp, elevator, entryway, and code requirements.
- Timing to finalize the issuance #3 work (interior renovations) - the end of the year; continuing to work with users and administration to nail down the open items.
- Monroe - waiting area for the public and how this compares to Edison and Franklin.
- Windows at the three middle schools - new windows at Edison; next week will be investigating the condition of windows at Franklin and Monroe, and these may be structured as alternates in the documents. This will allow the Board to have some cost control over the project.
- Mechanical systems - included in the project budgets.
- Boilers - high efficiency; allows for flexibility and can be used when needed.
- DOAS mechanical system - is not what we have at Jefferson (a geothermal system).
- Three issuances - this is a very normal practice/process for a complex phased three-school project. Issuance #2 is critical to setting up issuance #3. Perkins & Will will be working closely with Nicholas and the schools to phase/sequence this work.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Board Facilities Committee**

The Board Facilities Committee met on January 15, 2025. The meeting notes were attached to the agenda item. There was additional information on the following:

- Member Paulsen noted that the committee discussed how, as we consider the capital work and Sherman Dergis work for 2026 and 2027, it may be beneficial to adopt a more focused approach to future projects. Given the significant amount of middle school work planned for that period, we might want to strategically concentrate our efforts on fewer sites and dedicate more resources to specific schools.
- The committee also discussed the idea that now is a good time to review and implement an updated capital plan for the elementary and high schools—to reassess and prioritize where we are and what the focus should be for the next 5-10 years.

### **Board Finance Committee**

The Board Finance Committee met on January 16, 2025. The meeting notes were attached to the agenda item. There was additional information on the following:

- Member Long noted the topics discussed at the committee meeting were covered at the January 26, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **Board Human Resources/Policy Committee**

The Board Human Resources/Policy Committee met on January 10, 2025, and February 7, 2025. The meeting notes were attached to the agenda item. There was additional information on the following:

- Member Kulovits noted the two topics primarily discussed at both committee meetings were the CAC bylaws and the cell phone policy/procedures.
- CAC Bylaws - reviewed every three years; the CAC chair and vice-chair were at the last meeting and had a productive conversation; having more applicants than available spots for new members the last few years - working through some options; the next step is for the bylaws committee to be reconvened to talk through some concepts; discussed how CAC applications are reviewed.
- Cell phone policy/process - getting feedback from teachers; the student ambassadors got feedback from their classmates; the topic was discussed at the last CAC meeting and will continue at the upcoming meeting, and then will be presented to the Board for discussion.

## **OTHER REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

- Board members noted visits to/participating in the following:
  - WNHS production of “*Silent Sky*”
  - Hawthorne PTA meeting
  - Student Excellence Foundation fundraiser “We Love Our Schools”
  - The upcoming District 200’s Special Olympics “Bowl for the Torch” fundraiser
  - The Board representative at the February CAC meeting - Brad Paulsen

## **WRITTEN REPORTS**

### **Monthly Financial Reports**

### **FOIA Report**

### **Board Communication Log**

### **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report**



## TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

### Middle School Capital Projects

- Request for an update on the new staff-to-student messaging system (Rooms) after the first year of implementation
- The possibility of having middle school hall supervisors outside of bathrooms similar to the high schools

## NEXT REGULAR MEETING

March 12, 2025, 7:00 PM, Wheaton North High School

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 26, 2025, Committee of the Whole, 7:00 PM, School Service Center

## CLOSED SESSION

Collective Negotiating Matters Between the Public Body and its Employees or Their Representatives, or Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) and the Placement of Individual Students in Special Education Programs and Other Matters Relating to Individual Students 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(10).

## MOTION

Member Kulovits moved, Member Blatner seconded to adjourn the meeting to closed session for the purpose of 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (10). Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.** Action will be taken following the closed session.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 8:17 PM.

## RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Member Kulovits moved, Member Blatner seconded to reconvene in Open Session. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Roll call was taken, all seven Board Members were present, and the open session was reconvened at 8:51 PM.

## ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

### Action on Uniform Grievance U2024-25-01

The Board is charged with making a decision and taking action on a Uniform Grievance complaint. The Board, in Closed Session, reviewed the Uniform Grievance investigative report and relevant documents submitted by the Complaint Manager.

It was recommended that the Board approve the Uniform Grievance appeal recommendation determined in Closed Session for U2024-25-01.

## **MOTION**

Member Hanlon moved, Member Kulovits seconded to approve the Uniform Grievance (UG) appeal recommendation determined in Closed Session for U2024-25-01. Based upon the Board's consideration of the written appeal as well as the information submitted related to the UG U2024-25-01 investigation, that the Board affirm the Superintendent's decision dated January 10, 2025. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

## **Action on Uniform Grievance U2024-25-02**

The Board is charged with making a decision and taking action on a Uniform Grievance complaint. The Board, in Closed Session, reviewed the Uniform Grievance investigative report and relevant documents submitted by the Complaint Manager.

It was recommended that the Board approve the Uniform Grievance appeal recommendation determined in Closed Session for U2024-25-02.

## **MOTION**

Member Hanlon moved, Member Long seconded to approve the Uniform Grievance (UG) appeal recommendation determined in Closed Session for U2024-25-02. Based upon the Board's consideration of the written appeal as well as the information submitted related to the UG U2024-25-02 investigation, that the Board affirm the Superintendent's decision dated January 16, 2025. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

## **MOTION**

There being no further business to come before the Board in Open Session, Member Paulsen moved, Member Kulovits seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice call being taken, all were in favor. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

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**Dave Long, Secretary**

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**Rob Hanlon, President**