

**Official Minutes of the  
Oak Park Board of Education District 97  
260 Madison Street, Oak Park  
April 13, 2021 Meeting**

This meeting was held in-person and virtually using Zoom during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. One or more of the board members met in-person and everyone else were virtual.

President Broy called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Broy, Spurlock, Kearney, Kim, and Breymaier (arrived at 5:35 p.m.) were present. Member Liebl and Moore participated via Zoom.

Absent: None

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley, Director of Communications Amanda Siegfried, Senior Director of Technology Michael Arensdorff, Senior Director of Human Resources Gina Herrmann, Chief Academic and Accountability Office Eboney Lofton, Associate Superintendent of Education Felicia Starks Turner, Senior Director of Equity Carrie Kamm, Senior Director of Curriculum, and Board Secretaries Sheryl Marinier and Lonya Boose.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moore moved, seconded by Kim that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees or Legal Counsel for the District 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1), Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(14), Pending Litigation 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2) at 5:31 p.m.

Ayes: Moore, Kim, Kearney, Broy, Spurlock, and Liebl

Nays: None

Absent: Breymaier (arrived at 5:35 p.m.,)

Motion passed

OPEN SESSION

**OPEN SESSION**

Kearney motioned that the board move into Open Session at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Moore. All members of the Board were in agreement. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:01 p.m. Members Liebl and Moore participated remotely.

**PUBLIC HEARING-FUNDS TRANSFER**

This item was tabled until May.

PUBLIC  
COMMENT

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Member Spurlock and Moore read the following public comments aloud.

**Taylor Furlong**

My name is Taylor Furlong, and I am a first year teacher at Beye Elementary School. I have been teaching for almost 10 years. I know I have mentioned some of these items in previous emails, but I want to ensure the information is included again. When I first began at Beye, Patrick was one of the first people to reach out to me and offer assistance. I have had the privilege of co-teaching Second Step with Mr. McAndrew's class this year. I have seen the impact on the students, firsthand. I have sat it in the hallway with a student or two as they are crying worried about their teacher and the world. The students' social emotional well-being has plummeted. First COVID, then stay at home order, then remote learning, and now this.

Many of his students, and students in general suffer from PTSD. The trauma responses that have happened, are happening, and soon will happen are avoidable, in my opinion. I truly think that if his contract is not renewed, you are making a huge mistake. I've never been this scared working in a new district. Patrick has been a remarkable mentor, leader, confidant, coworker, and man. Having the inside track of co teaching with him has me feeling extremely blessed.

The way this situation is unfolding is disgusting and inhumane. The district pleads for us to give one another grace. Where is the grace for Patrick? Where is the grace for his students? Where is the grace for the entire Beye community? Oak Park is equitable and student-focused. If this is actually the case, can someone please inform staff the breakdown of these decisions and the reasons as to why? Our students need quality teachers. Why is the district throwing one out the window?

In the same breath, can Patrick work at another school in the district? This seems to be a personal situation that will probably never figure itself out. Would he be allowed to move to Longfellow, Hatch, Holmes, or any other elementary school? Schools fight for dedicated and productive teachers. I am so saddened and disheartened that a district as amazing and prestigious as Oak Park cannot or chooses not to care enough to keep one around.

He is someone's father. He is someone's husband. He is someone's mentor. He is someone's son, best friend, brother, hero, and I could really continue to go on. For one second, please think about what is being done before it is too late.

I leave you with this question--would you want Patrick McAndrew to either teach your child or be your child's mentor?

I hope you have a blessed evening, and I really hope we keep the students at the forefront of this discussion.

### **Kelly Simkowski**

Once again I find myself in the position of advocating for a person who's track record should speak for itself, Patrick McAndrew.

This time I am writing for the students of Beye School who have not had the privilege of being taught by an amazing, creative, innovative, smart and charismatic man. Patrick McAndrew is all this and more. But you know this already. You have heard from hundreds of parents, students and co-workers who have had the privilege of knowing or working with Patrick. You know he's great!

After twelve years in this district, I am sad to say I am happy to be moving on from Beye. This is no longer the student and family centered, close knit community I have loved.

I fought to have my son with Down syndrome included at Beye, his home school. He has been well loved and supported there. However, it is perfectly clear to me now, Beye leadership has no plan to make this a student centric community. Approximately 45 days until the taste of vitriol and vindictiveness will be out of my mouth. Do the right thing. Keep Patrick McAndrew!!!

### **Cassandra Miller**

My name is Cassandra Miller and I am a parent of two children currently attending Beye elementary (a second grader and fifth grader).

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting on the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and **we deserve a voice in this decision**. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2020, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my children's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

**Michael O'Brien**

I am a parent of a student who is currently in Mr. McAndrew's class and a preschooler who would hypothetically be starting kindergarten at Beye in two years.

I have just learned of tomorrow's vote on the renewal of Mr. McAndrew's contract, and all I can say is that this is an utterly terrible way of beginning to rebuild faith in the Beye and District 97 administrations.

My son came home from class today bursting with excitement and enthusiasm. He simply couldn't get over how much he enjoyed Mr. McAndrew live and in person. Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, and Beye parents deserve some say in whether or not that happens.

**Graham Miller**

My name is Graham Miller and I am a parent of two children currently attending Beye elementary (a second grader and fifth grader).

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting on the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and **we deserve a voice in this decision**. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2020, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my children's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

**Kim Jackewicz**

My name is Kim Jackewicz and I am a parent of a Beye School 3rd grader. I had hoped I was done writing to the board this year, but having just heard tonight that you intend to terminate Patrick McAndrew's contract for next year has me back behind the keyboard.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting on the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. That you are considering terminating a Golden Apple winning teacher who has done nothing but wonderful things for the Beye community while we there is already a teacher shortage in the state of Illinois (that will only be exacerbated by how poorly so many teachers were treated during this pandemic) is a decision that makes no sense whatsoever. The Beye community has made it crystal clear that we want Mr. McAndrew with us for as long as he would like to be here. To bring him back only to turn around and tell him that you're terminating is not only a bad decision, but it brings down the already low morale among other teachers at Beye. Please, please - listen to the community and to the right thing. Retain Patrick McAndrew.

**Samina Hadi-Tabassum**

I am writing to urge you to RENEW Patrick McAndrew's contract and have him continue teaching at Beye Elementary, our local school.

It is disheartening that the district is willing to let go of a talented, well heeled teacher over politics. The board and its leadership is taking a punitive stance to save face and cover its own errors.

The Board is supposed to represent all of our community--not just a select few.  
There is an overwhelming majority of children who have been positively impacted by Patrick's legacy.

Please do not destroy a man's career over differences based on individual personas and personalities.

True leadership is doing what is best for the children.

**Ariel Schick**

My name is Ariel Schick and I am the parent of a fifth grader in Patrick McAndrew's class at Beye. Of course we had all hoped this dispiriting chapter was over, but with great sadness and frustration I write to you again. Please abstain from voting on the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract tomorrow at the Executive Session Board meeting. The parents of Beye have been extremely vocal about our support of Mr. McAndrew, and obviously biased decisions such as choosing not to renew his contract are confirmation that D97 administration does not care about our students or district parents. They clearly prefer retaliation over collaboration while asking parents, staff and children to begin healing.

This decision directly affects the Beye community and we should have the opportunity to speak, especially when the D97 administration and Principal Schemidt have not been truthful throughout this dumpster fire of a process.

**Kristen Nomura**

My name is Kristen Nomura and I am a parent of David Nomura and Dylan Nomura attending Beye elementary in the 5th and 3rd grades.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting on the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2020, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

**Kim Becker**

My name is Kim Becker and I have a son in Mr. McAndrew's class.

I'm so disappointed to be writing to you again. My day started out well. I got my first vaccine dose and came home to my child smiling and pointing out to me that Mr. McAndrew was doing the read aloud recordings again. When we talked about the best part of our day, he said "for the first time in awhile, my whole day was great" and that felt so nice to hear. But then, not long after the school day ended, I learned that Mr. McAndrew was called into a meeting at 3:00 on his first day back and told his contract would not be renewed. My day went from good to bad. I had been hopeful. Now I feel deflated, defeated. Again. I'm tired of all this as I'm sure you all are too. Maybe for different reasons, but still. None of us wants to be having this conversation anymore. So I guess all I have to say is this: Is the right person being let go? I truly don't understand how this action of not renewing Mr. McAndrew's contract is justified. He already paid the price for his "misuse of sick days" and after reading over the hundreds of pages pertaining to this

situation received by the FOIA, I reject his integrity being called into question. What I do call into question is the integrity of how this administration, this District has handled the whole situation right down to the fact that he was brought back on April 12th, the day before you all meet to approve renewals. That he was told at the end of the day, which left no time for us to hear the news and request to speak live in time. That he wasn't even reviewed. What is going on here? Why does the District not value extraordinary teachers more? He is back now. Why can we not move on now and keep him part of the Beye community for our future 5th graders? I've gone over it so many times in my head, trying to see things from a different point of view. But I always come back to the punishment being far greater than any infraction committed. I see an administration that was unwilling and unable to take a step back and reach out to Mr. McAndrew in a supportive way to figure out the best way to move forward having learned of his travel/misuse of sick days. There was no investment in him as a beloved teacher of many years or of him as a human with his own suffering. He never tried to hide anything. I truly believe he would have cooperated in any way necessary to assure a safe return to the classroom. But he wasn't given that opportunity, he wasn't given the benefit of the doubt that he has the best interest of his own children and ours at heart. Which all leads me to believe there is a deeper problem here and one that doesn't match up with what I've expected from Oak Park and it's schools. I don't trust the administration, the District. I don't feel proud to have my son going through this system, one that fails to demonstrate some of my core values. Is this how future issues will play out?

I urge you to please consider the responsibility and wrong doing of all players involved, which includes decisions made by the administration/District and please abstain from voting on the renewal of Mr. McAndrew's contract tomorrow.  
Thank you for your time,

**Tanya Fisher**

I am the parent of a current Beye 3rd grader and an incoming kindergartener. I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting on the renewal of our beloved teacher Patrick McAndrew's contract at the April 13th Executive Session Board Meeting. This vote was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2021, the day before the meeting.

As you know, Beye parents and students (both past and present) feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew is an irreplaceable teacher and we deserve a voice in this decision. As this directly impacts both my children's education and the entire Beye community, I request that you empower us to be true partners in our children's education and create an opportunity for parents, students, and staff to be heard before any decision of this magnitude is made. While Mr. McAndrew may only be a name on a piece of paper or a personnel file to you, he is an integral, longstanding member of our school community.

**Tom Schick**

My name is Tom Schick and my daughter is a current student in Mr. McAndrew's class.

I have just been informed that the district is not planning to renew Mr. McAndrew's contract for next year. This is a huge mistake. Mr. McAndrew is one of the best teachers at Beye. It would be a terrible loss for the community and detrimental to the morale of other teachers and staff of in the district. The lack of empathy shown by the administration throughout this process has been absolutely appalling. Not a single decision that they have made has been to the benefit of the children. Forcing out Mr. McAndrew, a Golden Apple teacher, is just the latest example. I don't understand how this process works, but couldn't there be a more creative solution? Mr. McAndrew is an incredible teacher and a beloved member of our community. Oak Park can do better than this. We should be working together to do what's best for the children. Teachers, students, and parents should be treated as partners with district 97, not as adversaries. Unfortunately, Principal Schmeidt and the rest of the administration seem to view things differently. As a parent with a child who has been adversely affected by the actions of this administration, I am asking the

board to once again do the right thing and prevent this injustice from happening. The current situation at Beye is extremely sad, please don't make it worse.

**Wendy Roderweiss**

Our Beye school community is broken. It has been broken by the loss of over a year of in-person, meaningful interactions, so many personal losses, and so many emotional toils. As we all know, it was challenged further by the situations surrounding Ms. Walsh-Kallay and Mr. McAndrew's absence from the school community. We can all agree that things could have been handled better, but that seems to be the motto of this entire pandemic year. But looking back on the year, decisions were made that were bind to the harm inflicted on our children, and to our community.

I saw a touch of that reversed today. My son Grady, who has only been back in-person for only 4 days, had his beloved teacher returned to him. He came home from school, utterly beaming. He said "As amazing as Mr. McAndrew is online, he's 100 times more amazing in person!" He told us of how Mr. McAndrew improvised a math lesson, how he shared amazing stories with them and turned them into lessons, and how truly happy all of the kids were.

Don't do this again, don't make a decision without including the voice of the community that it is affecting. We were promised transparency and communication going forward. This is the opposite of that. On Patrick's first day back, he is told that his contract isn't being renewed, and none of us heard about it. The vote is tomorrow, and we don't have time to be included. These are our kids, our community, and I think that it is clear from the past several months that the community wants Patrick McAndrew to be a part of it.

If Patrick's contract is not renewed I feel that Beye may be irreparably broken. Please don't do this. Please listen to our voices, the ones who see a person who loves our kids, and gives everything that he has to them. He is an amazing teacher who showed bad judgement. Whether or not you believe that his judgement was understandable or not doesn't matter. What matters is our kids. Keep an amazing teacher at our school. This is not a person that should be terminated. This is short sighted and will have lasting repercussions.

**Carrie Cotter**

My name is Carrie Cotter, my daughter is Cate Cotter - a current student in Patrick McAndrew's fifth grade class. Unfortunately, you've heard from me before. I am writing because it is important for the board to understand the level of frustration that this situation has caused. There has been much made about giving parents an opportunity to be heard throughout this debacle, but very little listening has actually been done at the district level. The students have not been prioritized and that is a problem for our district. Please do not elect to terminate Mr. McAndrew's contract the day after he is reinstated into his classroom. Please prioritize the students of his class who have been put through the ringer. Please prioritize the remainder of their last year at Beye. Please do not decimate their teacher - whom they were so ecstatic to see after so long - one day after his reinstatement. I understand that there are technicalities, policies, discipline, etc., etc. I understand that this has not been as clear cut as it has sometimes been portrayed. But I also understand that there are kids involved here and with very few exceptions, each time a student-centered decision could be made with regard to Mr. McAndrew, the opposite has been done - most notably adding an extra week to his absence rather than simply reinstating him after spring break (after it had been determined by the board that he was fit to return) so the kids could just start fresh and put this all behind them. There was no student-centered rationale for that. Please prioritize the students of his current classroom and let them salvage the remainder of their fifth grade year. This is an extraordinary year with extraordinary circumstances for so many - please recognize that and help the district to come up with a creative solution to this problem rooted in healing and reconciliation. I love

Beye and I love D97 and I am heartbroken, frustrated and plain angry at what I (and more importantly, my daughter) have witnessed through this process.

The following comments were not read aloud during the meeting.

**Karen Fogg**

My name is Karen Fogg and I am a 5th grade teacher at Beye Elementary School and a long time resident of Oak Park. I am writing, yet again, on behalf of my friend and colleague, Patrick McAndrew.

I know you are aware of the trauma he has experienced this past year and how it was compounded by an inhumane and unjust charge by D97 of fraudulently using sick days. He was investigated, put on administrative leave, kept from his classroom and then recommended for termination by human resource director Gina Herrmann. Then he was strung along some more and finally able to plead his case. Although termination was rightly taken off the table it was then recommended that he be suspended for 10 days without pay. This recommendation came from Superintendent Dr. Kelley and was supported by 6 of the 7 board members. I was absolutely appalled by this punitive action on top of his extended leave. During that time, from February 1st until yesterday, April 12th he was traumatized, humiliated, fearing for the loss of his job, his reputation and his dignity. And let's not forget that we are in the midst of a global pandemic.

Patrick McAndrew, as I am sure you must be aware by now, is a teacher whose impact has been positive and far reaching . You have heard hundreds of testimonials in the form of letters from past, present and future students, from colleagues and friends, and from community members. Patrick is committed to his vocation and it shows in every fibre of his being. He is an exceptional teacher who has been recognized by the Golden Apple Foundation, Loyola University, and everyone who has worked with him, or has had the pleasure of being in his class. And after his first day back at school after being away from his class for over 2 months, he was invited to meet with Beye Principal Jennifer Schmeidt and Human Resource Director Gina Herrmann to discuss "moving forward." And what was "moving forward"? He was told that the district would not be renewing his contract.

Patrick McAndrew is a passionate, dedicated, creative and professional teacher whose expertise, experience and commitment should be lauded, celebrated and honored. We need teachers like Patrick McAndrew. Not renewing his contract seems small minded and punitive.

Beye School is struggling this year. Our spirits are broken and the district has recognized that , which is evidenced by the presence of Reesheda Graham Washington. If the district, and Jennifer Schmeidt are truly committed to Beye School's healing and moving forward, in building trust and a sense of community ,then the first step is righting a wrong and renewing a deserved teacher's contract. Patrick McAndrew belongs in District 97. Patrick McAndrew belongs at Beye School. Do the right thing and keep Patrick where he belongs.

**Joey Tesch**

My name is Joey Tesch and I'm the parent of two D97 students, a 2nd grader who attends Beye and a 6th grader who attends Julian and is a Beye alumni.

I'm writing to you, again, on behalf of Patrick McAndrew. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2020, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and our children's education, I implore you to allow parents, children, and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

Please consider what is in the best interest of our children and the Beye community.

**Patrick Turnock**

It's come to my attention that the D97 administration is recommending that Mr. McAndrew's contract not be renewed for the coming school year.

I don't pretend to know the history/office politics that led the district and Mr. McAndrew to this point. I do know that Mr. McAndrew is universally loved & respected at Beye School by parents, fellow teachers/staff, and the kids.

At the very least, this recommendation is tone deaf, after the administration saw firsthand the support Mr. McAndrew has from the Beye community. He received a sanction... he's a really good teacher... just move on. It seems to me that there are far more pressing issues the district should be wrestling with, rather than repeatedly trying to drive out Mr. McAndrew.

So, please keep Mr. McAndrew & just stop this already.

**Rob Latham**

I, Rob Latham, six year resident of oak park, am writing to encourage the board to support retaining Patrick McAndrew. He taught my daughter as the pandemic upended everything in 2021. I understand there are consequences for our decisions, but I also understand that those consequences should be proportional and fair. The district would suffer a tremendous loss to no longer have his enthusiasm, his care, and his immense experience.

I urge the board to recognize the best interests of our children and our community and to renew Mr McAndrew's contract.

**Jennifer Dunk**

My name is Jennifer Dunk and I am a parent of Theo Dunk attending Beye elementary in the 5th grade.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting on the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2021, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

**Steve & Audrey Dormanen**

Our names are Audrey and Steve Dormanen and we recently reached out to you regarding the enormously positive impact Patrick McAndrews has had on our daughter Julia. As a reminder our March 17 is pasted below.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting to revoke Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2021, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.



As this directly impacts the Beye community, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Thank you for service to the community and doing what is right for the D97 families.

**Melanie Minnix**

This is the second letter I have written recently in support of Patrick McAndrew. I was just notified that his contract will not be renewed. I understand that the Board may be reluctant to interfere with what is likely deemed as a 'personnel matter'. However, I would hope that the outpouring from the community expressing unwavering and passionate support for Mr. McAndrew should give you pause.

Why are all these parents and community members speaking out so loudly? Some have immediate concerns as they have children in the system at the moment. But there are many more of us whose children were beneficiaries of Mr. McAndrew's gifted teaching and dedication many many years ago. My son is about to turn 30 next month and he even wrote you a letter. Mr. McAndrew is not just some fondly remembered teacher, but is recognized as an unusually gifted and talented educator who made and continues to make a difference. It is absolutely fantastic teachers like Mr. McAndrew who gave Beye School its superior reputation. The alleged charges against him in light of his stellar contributions seem petty and out of proportion. And, the way it was handled so he supposedly couldn't be evaluated properly was a set-up for dismissal.

So this 'personnel' matter should raise a red flag to the Board about management and fairness and reputation and most of all about the quality of teachers and education in an especially tough tough year. Now is the time we should be supporting our teachers and students more than ever.

I urge you to give Mr. McAndrew the fair treatment he and the community deserves.

**Lori Browder**

My name is Lori Browder and I am a parent of Grace Browder, attending Beye elementary in the 3rd grade.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention on April 12, 2020, on the eve of today's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made. We cannot afford to lose high quality, dedicated teachers -- it is tearing the fabric of the community and will have long lasting impact moving forward.

**Lynn Pautler**

I previously wrote to you concerning the importance of having Patrick McAndrew in our district ( see below). Our community needs Patrick McAndrew at Beye School. Please keep him here. He is a great great teacher. Not renewing his contract is a huge loss for our children.

**Lynn Pautler**

*I am writing to share my respect and admiration for Patrick McAndrew. He is an amazing teacher and*

*human being. My non-white daughter, who is adopted and currently attending St. Andrews University in Scotland, still swears that Patrick McAndrew was the best teacher that she has ever had. All through Beye she never felt that any teacher “got her” like Mr. McAndrew. His energy and inclusion of all students finally made her feel an equal member of a community at Beye. It was extremely important towards her development to have her adoption and minority status actually embraced by a teacher. He boosted her confidence while inspiring and encouraging her to live a BIG life including service to others. His ongoing influence shows up everyday in her decisions and successes. That is a great teacher!*

### **Jen Stringfield**

I'm a Beye parent (former Beye kiddo in 6th, one 3rd grader, one 1st grader, and a kindergartener next year). Parents were just made aware of the decision not to renew Patrick McAndrew's contract at Beye. I urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of his contract. He is a beloved teacher, a Golden Apple winner, and all around good human being. Our community is hurting from the pandemic, his removal from the classroom, and the extended time he was away. Adding this to the burden our students are carrying is too much, please don't pile this on too.

### **Scott Rozman**

My name is Scott Rozman and I am a parent of Ulric Rozman-Puig attending Beye elementary in the 4th grade

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2020, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

### **Matt Niksch**

My name is Matt Niksch and I am a parent of 1st and 4th grade children attending Beye elementary, along with a Beye alumnus in 7th grade at Julian.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at today's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting.

I'd also like to express my dissatisfaction as a Beye parent about the handling of this matter. Every year, the district extends significant effort to enlist parents in answering the 5Essentials Survey. It asks if our voice is valued at the school, and by moving not to renew Mr. McAndrew's contract, District 97's administration has made it clear that our voice is not valued.

When the district moved to terminate Mr. McAndrew last month, in the middle of the school year, in the middle of the pandemic, you heard an outpouring of comments from parents about why that was a terrible idea. You also learned from parents about why Mr. McAndrew is such a valued member of our community at Beye. I very much hope he teaches my 5th grade son next year.

After last month's vote, Principal Schemidt summarized the conversation at the subsequent PTO meeting as a chance to, "identify ways that we will move forward as a building and community." I don't think any parents receiving that email understood that to mean, "continue moving forward with removing Patrick McAndrew." This move does not serve the interests of children and looks like the opposite of moving forward as a building and community to me.

**Gale Zemel**

My name is Gale Zemel. I have spent many years at Beye School as a parent and long time volunteer.

Gina Herrmann assured parents it was NOT a criminal case recommending the termination of Patrick McAndrew.

Other than, "There is more to this case than you know," there was no other information being given to the students, families, teachers and community at large.

As far as anyone knows, nobody "in the trenches" had been asked for their opinion or thoughts. How is this possible when every board member ran on the premise of listening to the needs of our students?

After all the letters and calls supporting Patrick McAndrew from the Beye School community, who is the board listening to in the recommendation of not renewing his contract for next year?

After all these years of award-winning service, how could Mr. McAndrew suddenly be persona non grata?

**Sharon Lomasney**

Thank you for your efforts. Admittedly, I don't know details of the Mr. McAndrew situation, but if the rumors are true (that the district is recommending his contract not be renewed due to mis-use of sick days) it does seem quite petty and obtuse, especially now.

I request that you consider all sides to this story, and take it into consideration when put to vote. As elected officials we look to you to represent your constituents accordingly.

**Nancy Hess**

I am very disturbed to read that Patrick McAndrew's contract will not be renewed. It seems to me this decision may benefit some administrator or board member but definitely *not the children*. Who are you working for? Please reconsider.

**Kaitlyn Hwang**

Hello. My name is Kaitlyn Hwang. My daughter, Audrey Latham, was Mr. McAndrew's student last school year. It saddens me that the district is recommending not renewing Mr. McAndrew's contract.

I do not know what happened but I do ask you to think what not renewing his contract will achieve. He served his punishment by not returning for 10 school days.

If our goal is to move forward as a community, we should realize that he is essential. Listen to the parents that want him to stay. Listen to the teachers that want him to stay as well.

The process of having Mr. McAndrew back took a long time. The district asked the parents for grace and patience in this months-long process. The district asked the parents to move forward and heal without any explanation.

I am asking you to consider that we are living in unusual times and give Mr. McAndrew the opportunity to return.

**Jon Campbell**

My name is Jonathan Campbell and I am a parent of a Beye School student. I am writing in support of Patrick McAndrew at Beye school. I am disturbed that I need to write this message as these concerns

appeared to be resolved last month. Yet I learned that yesterday as Mr. McAndrew resumed his duties at Beye, he received notice he will be terminated as of the end of this academic year.

The decision to terminate Mr. McAndrew is highly questionable. It was not given to him until one day before this Board meeting, leaving parents of Beye students little time to communicate our concerns to you. There is no explanation for this decision and it will lower morale among the remaining teachers at Beye in what has already proven to be an exceptionally stressful year.

I asked this before and I am asking again: How does the termination of a Golden Apple award winner accomplish the District's goals? Highly talented teachers cannot be purchased as commodities even in years when finances are solid and we do not have a pandemic to resolve. The Beye community already made it quite clear to you that we want Mr. McAndrew to continue teaching at Beye for as long as he wishes to remain. I am not impressed with what appears to be an attempt to hide the termination of a Golden Apple award winner with an outstanding reputation in this community.

Retain Patrick McAndrew. He belongs at Beye Elementary and you are aware of it.

### **Carolyn Williams**

My name is Carolyn Williams. I am a former Beye School parent of 2 children. My youngest daughter, Lucy Williams, had the privilege of having Patrick McAndrew as her teacher.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at today's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. Along with many parents I know of current Beye School students, I feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching children. He was an outstanding teacher, clearly dedicated to his students and profession. The current parents of his students most surely deserve a voice in this decision surrounding his future at Beye School. I understand that this was only just brought to everyone's attention yesterday, April 12, 2021, on the eve of today's meeting. As this directly impacts the Beye community, and education in Oak Park, I implore you to give parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Carolyn Williams

### **Jeffrey Roberts**

My name is Jeffrey Roberts, and I am a parent of Avery & Ian Roberts attending Beye elementary in the 3rd grade.

I am writing to request that you abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tonight's Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel very strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention yesterday, April 12, 2020, on the eve of today's meeting (a strategy that appears underhanded). As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I IMPLY you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

Seeing the repeated efforts to remove Mr. McAndrew gives me concern over the interests of Beye's leadership and D97 HR. Given the complexities of the past year, this is a time to advocate for the students and community versus counterproductive dogmatic administrative processes.

### **Jared & Jaime Lewis**

We are the parents of a student in Mr. McAndrew's class and are very disappointed in the level of transparency offered the last few months. It seems that the consequences of Mr. McAndrew's actions during this difficult pandemic is going far beyond reasonably fitting the infraction. We hope that you will consider the emotional stress inflicted on the students (and families) of his class, the shattering of the

positive work culture in the building, and the financial penalty Mr. McAndrew has already endured as **enough is enough**. There is no need to further strip Mr. McAndrew of his livelihood for the disclosed administrative infraction.

Beye has been a wonderful experience so far for our family, and speaking from the perspective of parents that have two more children on the cusp of possibly attending Mr. McAndrew's future classes, there is absolutely **no need to remove an excellent teacher** from the staff.

Please put our community and our kids first. The actions to date have not considered the community, or the kids. The FOIA made it clear that this is about an overzealous administration's need to punish a person and in doing so are taking down our community in the process. We urge you to consider the community and kids since the Administration refuses to acknowledge us.

**Please vote to renew Mr. McAndrew's contract.**

**Wendy Borlabi**

My name is Wendy Borlabi and I am a parent of twins attending Beye elementary in the second grade.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting on the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2021, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

**Kim Fotzler**

My name is Kim Fotzler and I am a parent of Lincoln & Hunter attending Beye elementary in Kindergarten & 3rd grade. I am also a teacher at OPRF.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2021, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Carrie Kovach**

This is my third email in a month regarding Mr. McAndrew at Beye school. It's unbelievable to me that parents have had to fight repeatedly this spring to keep Mr. McAndrew at Beye School in addition to all the other adjustments we've been making with our kids and school. **He has paid his dues. This feels vindictive.**

As a board, please know that there is an incredible amount of distrust in our administration right now and fear of losing good teachers (we've already lost one pressured into retirement). Our Beye community is stressed.

Can you please settle this issue once and for all with the administration and let us have some peace of

mind by keeping Mr. McAndrew and renewing his contract? With a projected teacher shortage, what is the plan to get quality teachers for all these vacancies at Beye? How do all these needless changes serve our kids? **We are ALL watching and the Beye community being able to recover hinges on the support parents receive from the board.**

**Susan Nadis**

I am distressed to hear that Mr. McAndrew's contract may not be renewed. It has been some time since my children were at Beye School but Mr. McAndrews was one of their all-time favorite and inspiring teachers. Now our grandchildren are here in elementary school and I am very concerned about what not renewing Mr. McAndrew's contract implies about the district 97 school system. I am suspicious of the motivation to lose such an inspiring and motivating teacher may be. I strongly urge you to reconsider and reverse this error in judgement.

**Lindsay Romanoff**

My name is Lindsay Romanoff and I am a parent of 2 kids attending Beye elementary in third/first grades.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2020, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

**Roshan Shrestha**

I am a parent of 1st grader attending Beye elementary.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2020, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made. Thank you for your time and consideration, Roshan

**Mike Kellogg**

I am writing to you as a concerned parent of students at Beye Elementary. My name is Mike Kellogg and my son, Asher Kellogg, is a student in Mr. McAndrew's 5th grade class at Beye Elementary. I am also the parent of Finley who is in 2nd grade.

I have been extremely frustrated at the handling of Mr. McAndrew's suspension and absence from the classroom. At every turn, the actions of the school district administration has been detrimental to the education and mental health of the students in Mr. McAndrew's class. His absence from the classroom for 10 weeks was unnecessary. The communication from the district and administration has been lacking at best, and in some instances, disingenuous and untruthful.

Yesterday was Mr. McAndrew's first day back in the classroom. The Beye students and community were excited to put this situation behind us and move forward with learning for the rest of the school year. While we were very frustrated with the handling of the situation, my family was eager to have closure and finish this difficult school year on a high note. However, it was brought to my attention yesterday that his contract is under review with the school board today. The timing of this contract review indicates that the administration at the school and/or district are not acting in the best interests of the students in Mr. McAndrews classroom, are not committed to listening to the Beye school community, and are creating problems rather than solving them.

What is perfectly clear is that this is not in the best interests of the students in Mr. McAndrew's classroom.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at the April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. I not only want Mr. McAndrew in the classroom now, I want him in the classroom teaching future Beye fifth graders including our younger son in 3 years when he reaches fifth grade.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

**Jen Kellogg**

My name is Jen Kellogg and I am a parent of Asher Kellogg attending Beye elementary in the 5th grade in Mr. McAndrew's class. I am also the parent of Finley who is in 2nd grade.

Every morning during the announcements, the Beye Laws are recited:

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be safe
4. Be problem solvers
5. Be peacemakers

Yesterday was Mr. McAndrew's first day back in the classroom after being away from the class for 10 weeks for very confusing reasons. The Beye students and community were excited to finally put this situation behind us and move forward with learning for the rest of the school year. However, it was brought to the community's attention yesterday that his contract is under review with the school board today. We are still in a very stressful pandemic where uncertainty is at every turn. Children are transitioning to new school schedules. There are only 8 weeks left in the school year. To say the timing of this contract review is tone deaf is a drastic understatement.

I struggle greatly to see how the administration at the school and/or district are practicing what they preach. What is perfectly clear is that this is not in the best interests of the students in Mr. McAndrew's classroom.

In reference to the above Beye Laws:

1. Nothing about this feels respectful to Mr McAndrew or the kids in his class.
2. It seems irresponsible to create additional unnecessary stress on all during this time.
4. Genuine problem solvers would look at the impact of this issue on the entire community, and consider if this timing is appropriate.
5. This action is instigating a fight. A lot more than healing circles are going to be needed to restore the peace in the Beye Community after yet another avoidable drama.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at the April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made. Thank you for your time and consideration, Jen Kellogg

**Morgen Alexander-Young**

My name is Morgen Alexander-Young and I am a parent of 1 child attending Beye elementary in the 2nd grade, and 1 child attending Julian in the 6th grade.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at the April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, many parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

**Allan Hoffstadter**

Word has reached me that Mr McAndrews' contract is not going to be renewed, and that thus District 97 is to lose his talent and his dedication.

I am so disappointed in the administration of this school system.

I am so saddened for the children.

How can you not see the repercussions for them?

Beye school gave my children exactly what they needed for success in the world beyond this community.

I appreciate the fact that they were not present to witness these events as young and impressionable children.

It would be a hard lesson for them, and not one I would have wanted them to learn.

**Judy Weik**

I am writing in support of Beye teacher, Patrick McAndrew. In my opinion, it would be a grave mistake not to renew his contract for the coming school year. My children attended Beye School many years ago when Patrick was first teaching at Beye. He was an amazing teacher who cared for all the students at Beye—not just those in his classroom. He was enthusiastic and encouraging, and he gave one hundred percent every single day. I realize that he may have violated a rule concerning sick days, but not renewing his contract is only going to hurt the students in District 97.

District 97 is very, very lucky to have such an outstanding teacher. I urge you to please reconsider and renew his contract.

**Ellen Barton**

It seems that per Principal Schmeidt and Gina Herrmann, District 97 HR director that Patrick McAndrew, 5th grade teacher at Beye School will not have his contract renewed. I am writing this as a letter of



support for him, as I know from direct experience that he is an excellent teacher. He is also very trustworthy, honorable, and committed to teaching children. He is a former Golden Apple winner.

It appears that he has been targeted by the new principal who may feel threatened by his experience and leadership at Beye School. Or perhaps higher paid teachers are being trimmed (as other tenured teachers have been cut at Beye School). It is hard to understand what is happening because students and their parents have not been given information, leading to a mysterious shroud which also tend to ruin a person's reputation.

Regardless of the reason, as a long time Oak Park Taxpayer I am concerned at some of the decisions to terminate teachers during this stressful Covid year. This is draining the knowledge base and experience at Beye school. It does not appear that there is a clear reason to terminate Patrick McAndrew and it appears that this termination is retaliatory and discriminatory. It is also suspicious as it occurs the year before he regains tenure. This disciplinary action has been handled poorly by Principal Schmeidt and Ms. Herrmann. Perhaps their contracts should also be examined. I think teachers should be cherished and respected, I am not sure how the Beye principal and HR director can justify this termination. Please consider the children who love him in making your Board consideration.

#### **Susan Beach**

Well, here we are again. On your agenda is the termination of non-tenured teachers for the upcoming school year. Mr. McAndrew is on that list.

The district administration and the Beye principal are getting their way, out of the heated spotlight of parent letters and demonstrations.

Before you sign off on this shameful firing, I request you go back and read the dozens and dozens of letters you have received, or that were read as public comment.

This entire situation has been handled as though there is a personal vendetta against Mr. McAndrew by the Principal, HR director and/or superintendent. If it is not, then why fire this man who has meant so much to his students and who could make a difference in the lives of so many more Beye kids.

The punishment does not fit the crime and Beye School kids are the losers here. Shame on the leadership for doing this to such a fine teacher.

#### **Natalie Bauman**

I am writing to give support for Patrick McAndrew -

I have had the pleasure of working with Patrick since 1997 here at Beye School. He is a man who is the "Whole Teacher". He has conviction, a passion for education, he is invested in his students, and he delivers creative and compelling instruction. He is always asking "What is best for students"? Then, he searches out the best ways to reach his students.

Patrick is always a team player, and I have been fortunate to have been a part of his teaching team for the last 3 years here at Beye School. I have learned much from working with Patrick, and have only seen him as a high quality instructor who has deserved the many accolades that he has received. His students have fun while learning, and they never question that he has high expectations for them. They also know that he will help them to reach their full potential.

Having Patrick as a member of the Beye Staff is a positive and energizing experience. He values his colleagues, and he is invested in making Beye the best place possible. I implore you to please consider keeping him on as a 5th grade teacher.

### **Jessica and Chris Daly**

Not renewing Patrick McAndrew's contract is short sighted. It goes against the wishes of the Beye community -- as you know after reading the HUNDREDS of letters written over the last months about the impact Patrick has had on his students.

It appears this decision is being made by a principal who has been with the district for 1 year, a Head of HR who has been with the district for 2 years and a superintendent who is on the way out. Their actions do not reflect the Beye community. Their actions, this week and over the last several months, do not put children at the front. Their actions are cruel to a teacher with a stellar 30 year record -- during a pandemic. Their actions will not help the Beye community move forward and grow trust in a new principal.

I do not know what can be done at this point, but I urge you to look into the total failure in the handling of this situation over the last 3 months -- the total lack of humanity and lack of student-centered rationale in the decision making.

### **Karen Fogg addressed the board**

My name is Karen Fogg and I am a 5th grade teacher at Beye Elementary School, a long-time resident of Oak Park and a parent of a D97 and D200 graduate.

Beye School is currently broken and bleeding. A school once known for its heart, its sense of community, its creativity and most importantly its empathy is now a place of fear and distrust.

Although much of this has been sparked by what has happened to my friend and colleague, Patrick McAndrew, I believe his plight, which continues, is symptomatic of a more systemic problem in our district.

How did an investigation of Patrick's alleged "fraudulent use of sick days" become this nightmare that we cannot wake up from? It went from instantly putting him on "paid administrative leave", which deprived the 5th graders at Beye of their beloved teacher, his 5th grade team of their invaluable comrade, teammate and friend, and it deprived a school community of an important colleague, voice and presence for over two months. Within that time it was recommended that he be terminated. Seriously? Terminated? Who made this determination? How did we arrive at termination? District 97 was recommending terminating a seasoned, award winning teacher, with an impeccable record and exemplary evaluations because he legitimately used sick days and yet "they" deemed them fraudulent. And who was this "they" who deemed them fraudulent? Was it the principal, Jennifer Schmeidt who started the ball rolling? Was it Human Resources Director Gina Herrmann? Was it Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley? Was it other administrators? Was it the board? Who was in on the discussions that decided this teacher's career should come to an end? Ruining a man's career for whose benefit? And let's not forget we are in the midst of a pandemic.

Now because Patrick McAndrew has a stellar reputation and a history in Oak Park and Beye School, the community support for him was strong and vocal. Even though he was silenced by the district and unable to speak on his own behalf and rumors were flying, the community rallied and wrote letters, and spoke to the principal, the superintendent, the administration and the board.

When it was Patrick's opportunity to speak on his own behalf to the board he did so not because he was asked to, but because he knew an injustice was being done and his side hadn't been heard by anyone other than Gina Herrmann and Jenn Schmeidt. This was done at a closed door session and interestingly enough the district had brought two lawyers who questioned Patrick at the opening. He had not been informed that he was to be interrogated by lawyers at this meeting, and although he had nothing to hide, he was blindsided, and perhaps that was the intention. When you read the minutes as to who was in attendance at this meeting there are no mention of the district's lawyers.

So after hundreds of letters on his behalf and his own self-defense, the board determined that termination was not the way to go, but somehow ten days unpaid suspension was. So in addition to his paid administrative leave they tacked on 10 days, with spring break in between, for good measure. And 6 of the 7 board members were in favor of this. Unbelievable. Only one board member listened and truly heard Patrick McAndrew. But then that is what teachers have felt for a while now, we are not being heard.

What if he had been another teacher, with no support. What if he had decided that he wouldn't speak on his own behalf. Would the board have voted to terminate another teacher because they used sick days for their mental well-being. Have other teachers been silenced and terminated with no real due process?

We want to heal. We want to work in a school and a district where we are respected and heard and can have civil discourse without fear of retaliation. We want to be able to take a sick day and not worry if our jobs and careers are on the line. Healing can only begin when all parties are speaking truths. Begin by renewing Patrick McAndrew's contract.

### **Linda Mysliwiec Creed**

My name is Linda Mysliwiec Creed and I am a parent of Leo Schroeder attending Beye elementary in the 5th grade.

I am writing to urge you to abstain from voting against the renewal of Patrick McAndrew's contract at tomorrow's April 13th Executive Session Board meeting. As you are well aware, the parents of Beye Elementary feel strongly that Mr. McAndrew belongs at Beye, teaching our children, and we deserve a voice in this decision. This was only just brought to our attention today, April 12, 2021, on the eve of tomorrow's meeting.

As this directly impacts the Beye community and my child's education, I implore you to allow me and other parents, children and staff, an opportunity to be heard before any decision is made.

### **Martin Ho**

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Beye School PTO Executive Committee, we are asking the Board to abstain from voting on the matter of renewing Mr. McAndrew's contract this evening. While the Beye School PTO Executive Committee chose to remain neutral regarding the resolution of the personnel process involving Mr. McAndrew, we would like to express concern regarding the lack of transparency around the process to date and the amount of time that this process has taken. We are aware that many members of the Beye community have expressed considerable pain, hurt, and distrust surrounding this matter. We are also keenly aware of the toll this has taken on the students involved. The Beye 5th Graders, at a minimum, are all well aware of this situation and it has caused a lot of anxiety and confusion for some of them in an already tumultuous year. Very recently, many members of the Beye community have expressed concern and surprise that Mr. McAndrew was informed of the possibility of his contract non-renewal on his first day back after an extended leave. While we understand that we are not privy to all of the information, we do have concerns over the timing and optics of how the Board is handling this decision. In our opinion, this has caused additional division and conflict in our community at a time when cooperation and healing are so critical. It is our strong position that dialogue with families and all

impacted, along with full transparency in this process, is what is needed here to foster a collaborative community and provide the best possible environment for our students to learn. Furthermore, a new Board was just elected, and we feel those elected officials should have the opportunity to weigh in on this issue, as they were selected by the citizens of Oak Park to do so. Unless there is a compelling reason to the contrary, which we would urge you to share with us, we strongly believe that this matter should be postponed until the end of this school year. Our students should be closing out this year celebrating all they have accomplished and overcome during this trying year. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

**Jamee Kelly Cichosz**

The attempt not to renew Patrick McAndrew's contract for next year has the appearance of retribution. Mr. McAndrew has been disciplined for his offense and deemed worthy to return to the classroom. To move not to renew his contract for next year seems hypocritical. I would urge the Board to reject the District's recommendation and renew Mr. McAndrew's contract for next year. Having worked with him, I feel his loss would be devastating for Beye School and the District.

**Linda Robinet**

My name is Linda Robinet. I am a 4th grade teacher at Beye School. I have taught in the District for over 20 years. I attended Beye School as a child and my son went to Beye.

Thank you for your hard work during these incredibly challenging times.

Thank you, most of all, for your recent decision regarding Patrick McAndrew at Beye School.

Unfortunately, this situation continues.

Mr. McAndrew was giddy yesterday, his first day back in his classroom after two months. His energy was brighter than the sun. The families and his students were so delighted to have him back.

Then at 3pm, Patrick was pulled into a 3pm meeting with Principal Jennifer Schemidt and Senior Director of Human Resources Gina Hermann to be informed that his contract was not being renewed.

The timing seems rather odd.

This feels retaliatory.

Why would the District, after all the marches, rallies, newspaper articles, emails, letters, and the Board's decision to overturn the motion for termination, only to not renew his contract on his first day back?

Doesn't D97 want to keep highly qualified teachers in our classrooms?

His exemplary record and reputation SPEAKS for itself!

Why is the D97 creating division and taking these actions?

Doesn't the Beye community and staff deserve better? The Fact is YES!

D97 Board please get involved and stop this blatant and targeted termination!

Please help Beye from this blacklisting and fear mongering.

**Steve and Sarah Miller**

Sorry if this is too late for tonight's meeting, but we are writing as Beye School parents of a 3rd grader and a now Julian 6th grader re Patrick McAndrew. It recently came to our attention that tonight non-tenured staff will be voted on for retention for next year. Due to his time away from Beye it appears that Mr. McAndrew has lost his tenure status and it is being recommended by the administration that he not be renewed. As you heard from many current and former Beye families recently, Mr. McAndrew is a tremendously impactful teacher. He's a Golden Apple winner and brings tremendous energy and caring to

his classroom. Regardless of what led to his suspension earlier in the year, he has served his punishment. If it was deemed appropriate for him to return to the classroom recently to teach the remainder of the school year, he certainly should return next year as well. Beye School is a community that embraces diversity and accepts all and Mr. McAndrew models that in his classroom on a daily basis. Please allow him to return to Beye for next year.

Sean Flynn

Dear board and administrators,

I have no opinion on the personnel matter between Mr. McAndrew and District 97. There are contracts and processes in place, and with only spotty public information about the alleged infraction or the administration's response, it's not my place to offer an opinion.

I am writing, however, as a Beye parent with sincere concerns about the toxic state of relations between the administration and its stakeholders in the Oak Park community. The drama over Mr. McAndrew's employment situation has exemplified this toxicity. You need only spend a few moments on any community Facebook page to recognize the incredible level of distrust and cynicism so many people in our community have about District 97 administration.

The McAndrew situation is merely one of many school-related issues in Oak Park over the past year that have been unnecessarily heated. Genuine community questions about many issues—including both closing schools and then later reopening them—were met with opaque, unempathetic communication from the district to its stakeholders, leading to unnecessary surprises and anxiety for parents. Nature abhors a vacuum, but with no straightforward answers, our community took to social media, where the conversation became divisive and painful. While there probably was no perfect solution to this school year, effective communication could have tempered the emotions.

With that in mind, it's not surprising that the McAndrew situation has unleashed such anger among some families in the Beye community. Whether Mr. McAndrew does or doesn't deserve to retain his job, the truth is that it would have all been better if the administration had given parents a straight, honest and empathetic answer to their questions. This should be the expectation for our district's leaders, even in a situation where legal barriers limited what can be shared. Instead, however, more than three months since Christmas break the families and students in this classroom have had little more than rumor, hearsay and empty commentary from the school district to work off of. It's not hard to see why there is such angst right now.

According to the District 97 website, the Board of Education's number 2 priority is to "connect with the community." The site says, "The board engages in an ongoing two-way conversation with the entire community. This conversation enables the board to hear and understand the community's educational aspirations and desires, to serve effectively as an advocate for district improvement and to inform the community of the district's performance."

As your own priorities make clear, the buck stops with the board. It's easy to blame the current superintendent and administration for its communications failure, but you are the officials we have elected to make sure the administration hears our concerns, and Dr. Kelley's ability to communicate with families is only as good as yours. This year there has been little "two-way conversation," limited understanding of the whole community's aspirations and desires, and poor advocacy on the board's part for both the improvement and communication of our district's performance.

The current feelings at Beye School do not need to be par for the course. With a new board convening soon, and a new superintendent to be hired, much more effective communication with everyone in Oak

Park must be a central consideration for District 97's path forward. The success of our schools and the health of our community depends on it.

Member Moore read the following comments.

**Deborah Levine**

My name is Deborah Levine and I am the parent of a child in Mr. Patrick McAndrew's 5th grade classroom at Beye. It made me so happy to get Mr. McAndrew's email with today's schedule and to send my kid off to school knowing that Mr. McAndrew would be there, but this afternoon, I learned that D97 is not renewing his contract and I am sickened, thoroughly sickened by the actions of the D97 administration.

It is clear that they do not value excellent teachers and therefore do not center the needs of our students because if they did, they'd be hanging on to all of the excellent teachers we have and paying attention to creating a climate that keeps excellent teachers. But today, on his first day back in the classroom after an unnecessarily long absence of over 10 weeks (primarily impacting our children who had to contend with three substitutes and the absence of their beloved teacher who actually knew them and their academic strengths and weaknesses), the administration informed Mr. Patrick McAndrew that his contract has not been renewed for the coming year. And he is an excellent teacher - a Golden Apple award winner who previously had tenure with D97 before leaving to expand his horizons and teach in Nepal and then returning, getting rehired by D97 and bringing those expanded horizons to our students. But I don't need to tell you that he is an excellent teacher. You already know. You got HUNDREDS of letters from students, parents, former students, parents of former students, colleagues, and parents of potential future students expressing what an excellent teacher he is when the administration was attempting to terminate his employment. And as much as this is a tragedy for Mr. McAndrew, it is more of a tragedy for the school district. How can we keep teachers if we treat them this way? How can we maintain the morale of the teachers if we treat them this way?

I urge you to look into who made this decision and consider whether or not those people should be a part of the D97 administration. They clearly do not value the excellent teachers we have. They clearly do not center youth in their decisions. Read all of the documentation of Mr. McAndrew's case as we did (through use of the Freedom of Information Act) and you will see that nowhere, did anyone in the administration even mention what the impact of having a teacher removed from the classroom would be on the students - and in the middle of a pandemic when there is already a lack of stability in their lives - not ONE word of concern for the impact on the students. Again, I urge you to look into who made this decision and consider termination for them. We need people in the administration who will genuinely look out for our students and our teachers.

**Julian PTO**

The Percy Julian Middle School PTO Executive Committee is resending this letter to seek additional information about the plan to return to full day on-site instruction. We have had communications with Mr. Christian and feel that D97 is striving to meet student equity needs in the updated Trimester 3 teaching model rollout. However, we have the following questions.

1. Why are students not being given a chance to opt-in to this highly altered teaching model proposed for implementation in the middle of Trimester 3? The original Trimester 3 plan presented to the public was for four half-days once every three weeks. Due to updated CDC guidance, D97 has now altered their teaching model to full in-person and includes Covid screening. Families should be given an option to decide if this new teaching model is something that would benefit their child.

2. What steps will be taken to ensure that remote learners receive equal access to their education under the new plan? We are concerned that teachers will be even more challenged than they have been under the current model to teach to both in-person students and remote students. Will the administration commit to surveying the current families of remote learners about their experiences to help improve their access to learning? What resources will be offered to teachers, i.e. upgraded audio-visual equipment such as clip-on microphones and multiple cameras, so that remote learning students can hear and see their teacher?
3. When will D97 provide a detailed plan for the proposed mid-Trimester 3 teaching model and class schedule for the middle schools?
4. How will the plan take into consideration the middle school teaching model? For example,
  - Will students keep their same A/B Day schedule and teachers?
  - Will students rotate classes?
  - Will teachers be in the same room as in person students?
  - What will the impact be on remote learners with respect to routine and engagement?
  - How will social engagement be encouraged and fostered among all students?
  - Will there be in-person before and after school opportunities such as clubs and sports for both remote and in-person students?
  - What happens to elective classes such as chorus, band, art, foreign language, speech and debate?

### **Kanohi Gurgas**

I am an 8th grader at Julian and here are my thoughts about the new full in person plan. First off, I have not read the email that was sent to parents (I got a summary of it though) but I was shocked that the plan was to not let remote students choose if they wanted to go back in person. I chose remote because I knew that I would still get the same quality education as before while keeping my family safe on one end. There was a brief mention in the email that remote kids would be stuck live streaming the classroom while they were denied the choice of the same quality learning that in person students would be getting. Live streaming is a bad idea because I know that I would not learn a thing. The live streaming during hybrid just doesn't work. I cannot hear the teacher at all, unless they are sitting right in front of the computer. My teacher walks around the classroom giving ideas and advice for community service projects. I never get to hear what they are saying and I assume that is what would happen in person. I know from talking to some teachers that they really try to interact with both in person and remote kids but it is hard unless they have another teacher to help them out.

If I was able to choose to go back in person, I know I would not feel safe eating lunch only six feet away from other students. I do not think that the CDC has put out guidelines about in person lunches and I know that the three feet recommendation is only for masked and low transmission rate communities. Covid-19 can spread up to about six feet from the host and with no air flow it can be higher, same with the newer strains. I would like the choice of in person or remote and I should not have to choose between my safety and education. About thirty percent of students are remote and we are mostly people of color. This plan is unethical and most families pushing for full in person are Caucasian. We all have different reasons for choosing remote but we should all have a choice. If I was to do in person, I would ask to be able to eat lunch outside. Changing classes is also not a good idea, students would not stay three feet apart and the hallways are always crowded. I know this from experience.

I know this is a work in progress but saying that this is the plan without consulting teachers, parents and students should not be something that happens. I feel very strongly about this, we should have a choice of remote or in person, a better plan for lunch or just stick with the hybrid plan that is working now. As a

student I do not feel that I should not be having to write this email to fight for my education. The hybrid plan now is working and having people in the building does not just fix the problem of struggling students. Implementing this plan might just make students struggle more because they are getting less attention from teachers who are already stretched thin. I would like the choice of quality remote or quality in person learning and reassurance that lunch will be safe.

I hope this shows some of the many concerns with the new plan and helps make a better plan for in person learning.

**Carrie Golbeck**

Why would we move forward with this plan which increases risk, when cases are going up? Everything possible option increases risk - more kids, more days, longer days. If we could hold off until the fall to bring everyone back into the building, we demonstrate safety first.

**Maureen Chen**

B117 is fast becoming the dominant, and more transmissible, strain of Covid-19 in the Midwest. Dr. Michael Osterholm, Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, was quoted last week, saying, "it infects kids very readily" and "we're going to have to reconsider what we're doing now [in schools]."

Is there a plan in place for D97 schools to revert back to full remote learning in response to this growing threat?

If so, what metrics determine when the course would change?

If not, why not?

**Susan Raphael**

We have to at least give parents the option to not send their kids if they aren't comfortable with the risk.

As a parent of 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders in D97, I am concerned about D97's plans for indoor lunch in the classroom as part of the return to school plan. While I continue to follow the latest on Covid 19, my concern for lunch in the classroom was raised by the presentation of Dr. Chundi at the March 9<sup>th</sup> D97 Board Meeting. During his presentation as well as Q & A with the board, he was asked questions about viral load and stated how there is a difference in the viral load among kids under 11 and those over 11. This becomes a more critical issue with the rise in variants as the dominant Covid strain in our state with kids that cannot yet be vaccinated.

Moore acknowledged on behalf of the board, that these are very difficult times for everyone. She reminded the community that the board members are all dedicated to making decision that are best for all of the students by using the information that they have available to them. As board members, parents and neighbors we take a lot of time preparing for the meeting and reviewing materials. We do not take safety lightly. She acknowledged the inappropriate behavior that has become evident in our community. Social media, virtual spaces, and public comments should address the issues without become a public attack. We must always lead by example. We should all hold ourselves to a higher standard.

The board acknowledged the frustration that many parents are feeling with some of the recent decisions, and shared that there are challenges when it comes to providing the community with some of the information that they are requesting. The community was reminded that the board has norms that are posted on the district website that the members hold each other to. The community was reassured that the board members try the very best that they can. It was noted that when the board receives letters from someone that verbally attacks them, it does not make their job easier. It was noted that the board will work on communication and transparency, and try to lead by example.



## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **BACK TO SCHOOL UPDATE**

SPECIAL REPORTS

Dr. Kelley reported on the status of the return of students to on site learning. She recognized the principals, Assistant Principals and Student Support Specialists, noting that they have had a challenging year and have gone without a break to ensure that student learning is at the best that it can be during the pandemic.

Dr. Kelley reminded everyone that flexibility is the key, suggesting that everyone must be ready to shift from one model to another. She noted that the State guidance was revised again on March 9. At that time, the State decided to reduce the social distancing limits from six feet to three feet, and ISBE supported the return to in-person instruction by phase five. She indicated that there is evidence that the Governor will remove the emergency mandate in the near future.

She reported that the district is focusing on internal metrics and asking students and staff to adhere to universal masking, washing of hands and the district has increased the cleaning of surfaces with an EPA approved disinfectant. She noted that the district is no longer required to perform temperature checks when students arrive at school, but everyone will continue to practice social distancing in the schools and offices.

Jim Hackett reported that the district works with the Oak Park Health Department and the IDPH guidance. He suggested that parents should familiarize themselves with these metrics.

Amanda Siegfried shared an updated metrics dashboard, and reported that the district is still tracking community spread, mitigation strategies and school spread. She reported that the numbers are very low, and to date, there are no in-school transmissions.

Hackett reported that two additional mitigation strategies are being put into place. The district is currently mandating onsite COVID-19 testing with Northshore for the Brooks and Julian students. The program will soon be offered to staff as well. Hackett reported that the COVID-19 vaccinations were offered to all staff.

Jeanne Keane reported on the space needs in the classrooms. She noted that classroom seating is currently between five and six feet. There are two classrooms that are slightly below five feet. She explained that if the district decides to bring more children back to in-person learning, they may need to consider lowering the distance between desks. She asked the board to consider modifying the motion that will be before them later in the meeting to read “three to six feet” opposed to limiting the distance between desks to four feet as it is written. She explained that this change will accommodate middle school schedules and equity based criteria to switch from remote to in-person instruction. Dr. Kelley noted that classroom guidance is not the same for lunch time. Students must be six feet apart and facing the same direction while eating lunch. The principals are thinking of ways to accommodate this need.

Dr. Kelley explained that the board must provide a 55 minute duty free lunch and 300 minutes of weekly planning time to the teachers. She expressed concern that the district has not been able to find enough lunch time supervisors for Mann and Hatch schools. She explained that due to the size of the school populations, the district will be unable to keep cohorts of students separated during the lunch periods, but will continue to follow the IDPH guidelines.

Dr. Kelley summarized by saying that to implement this shift, the district will need everyone to do their self-certifications, follow travel guidance, and not send students and staff to school who have been exposed to the virus. The administration will need the board’s approval for spacing as guided by IDPH and CDC.

Eboney Lofton shared the timeline for the extended day schedules noting that elementary students will attend a full-day instruction starting on April 16. Classes will begin at 8:00 a.m. For the middle schools, two thought exchanges were administered, one for students and one for staff and families. About 1,000 people participated in both. The themes that were raised in the exchanges included lunch safety, and the need for more on-site learning for the middle school students. Other comments included noting that there have been too many changes this year, suggesting that the district wait until fall to make any more changes. Some students indicated that they will feel uncomfortable eating lunch at school, and others suggested brainstorming ways to eat lunch safely.

The results of the thought process were;

- Middle School students will attend full-day instruction Monday through Friday
- Middle School students will change classes during the school day
- Lunch will be provided during the day in intervals aligned to the safety guidelines

Additionally, it was noted that;

- Middle School will continue with the A/B schedule for the remainder of this school year
- The A/B schedule reduces transitions. Hallways may be dedicated to one direction only, and adjustments may be made to the bell schedule
- Interactions with the special's teachers will be possible

The timeline for the shift to full-day learning was shared and a draft resolution was offered for consideration.

Dr. Kelley reported that she will be meeting with Dr. Johnson tomorrow via Zoom. She expressed the importance of all the stakeholders feeling comfortable with the next phase of the planning. She reminded everyone that the Governor's executive order is still in place, and as a community, everyone must remain vigilant with all of the guidelines.

Board comments included knowing if the synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences can be more aligned. Interest was expressed in knowing what the percentage of full-time students will be.

Dr. Kelley reminded the community that meal distribution is available every Tuesday for families who are interested.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

ACTION ITEMS

##### **4.1.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 23, 2021 BOARD MEETING**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim, that the Board of Education, District 97, approve the minutes from the March 23, 2021 board meeting as presented.

Ayes: Spurlock, Kim, Broy, Breymaier, Kearney, Moore, and Liebl  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

##### **4.1.2 APPROVAL OF CLOSED MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 16, 2019 – DECEMBER 10, 2019**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97, approve the closed meeting minutes from July 16, 2019 through December 10, 2019 as identified below:

July 16, 2019

August 13, 2019

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| September 10, 2019 | September 24, 2019 |
| October 15, 2019   | November 9, 2019   |
| November 26, 2019  | December 10, 2019  |

Ayes: Spurlock, Moore, Broy, Breymaier, Kim, Kearney, and Liebl  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: None  
 Motion passed.

#### **4.1.3 REVIEW/RELEASE OF CLOSED MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 16, 2019-DECEMBER 10, 2019.**

Moore moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education, District 97, release/keep confidential the executive session minutes for the following dates:

|                    |                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| July 16, 2019      | Release item 3                    |
| August 13, 2019    | Release items 1 and 3             |
| September 10, 2019 | Keep entire document confidential |
| September 24, 2019 | Keep entire document confidential |
| October 15, 2019   | Keep entire document confidential |
| November 9, 2019   | Release the entire document       |
| November 26, 2019  | Release item 4                    |
| December 10, 2019  | Release item 3                    |

Ayes: Moore, Spurlock, Broy, Breymaier, Kim, Kearney, and Liebl  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: None  
 Motion passed.

#### **4.2 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Breymaier moved, seconded by Kim, that the Board of Education, District 97, accept the consent agenda as presented.

4.2.1 Bill List  
 4.2.2 Personnel (revised)  
 4.2.3 Renewal of Probationary Teachers

Ayes: Breymaier, Kim, Spurlock, Moore, Liebl, Broy, and Kearney  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: None  
 Motion passed.

#### **4.3.1 APPROVAL OF ASBESTOS AGREEMENT**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Moore Board of Education, District 97, approve the asbestos consulting services that were presented on March 23, 2021 in the amount of \$80,300 to Jacob & Hefner.

Ayes: Spurlock, Moore, Kearney, Broy, Breymaier, Kim, and Liebl  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: None  
 Motion passed.

**4.3.2 APPROVAL OF TEACHER LEADERSHIP ROLES SY22**

Kim moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the District 97 Board of Education approve the District 97 Teacher Leadership Roles for school year 2021-2022 with a financial impact of \$667,500.00.

Ayes: Kim, Spurlock, Moore, Broy, Kearney, Breymaier, and Liebl

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**4.3.3 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AFFIRMING TENURE TEACHER DISMISSAL (executive session)**

Spurlock moved, seconded by Kim, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approves the resolution affirming the dismissal of tenured teacher, [REDACTED].

Ayes: Spurlock, Kim, Broy, Breymaier, Kearney, Moore, and Liebl

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**4.3.4 APPROVAL OF CLASSROOM SEATING LIMITATIONS**

Kim moved, seconded by Spurlock, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approve the ability for classroom seating to be spaced between 3 feet and 6 feet.

Ayes: Kim, Spurlock, Breymaier, Kearney, Broy, Moore, and Liebl

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**4.3.5 APPROVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL PCR TESTING**

Moore moved, seconded by Breymaier, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approve the Middle School PCR Testing.

Ayes: Moore, Breymaier, Kearney, Spurlock, Broy, Kim, and Liebl

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

**4.3.6 NON-RENEWAL and DISMISSAL of PERMANENT SUBSTITUTES, FIRST, SECOND, THIRD YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHERS**

Breymaier moved, seconded by Kim, that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approve the resolution authorizing the non-renewal and dismissal of permanent substitutes and first, second and third year probationary teachers.

Ayes: Breymaier, Kim, Kearney, Spurlock, Broy, and Moore

Nays: Liebl

Absent: None

Motion passed.

One board member noted that she is receiving a lot of questions about this, so she explained that the bargaining agreement that the district has with the teachers requires that the district consider its needs for the upcoming year. The district looks at the classroom needs and sometimes there are non-tenure teachers

who are not brought back. By law, the teachers must be notified 45 days before the end of the school year, making this meeting the last opportunity for the board to take action on this topic for this school year.

#### **4.3.7 DISMISSAL OF Part-time SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

Kim moved, seconded by Spurlock that the Board of Education of Oak Park District 97 approves the resolution authorizing the dismissal of part-time educational support personnel.

Ayes: Kim, Spurlock, Breymaier, Kearney, Broy, Moore, and Liebl  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Motion passed.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM**

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

##### **HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWALS**

Gina Herrmann reported that the board is asked to renew the health insurance annually. She reported that the rates went down this year. The thought is that due to COVID-19, people chose to put off elective surgeries. She indicated that because of this, rates are expected to increase the following year.

##### **SY22 STAFFING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Gina Herrmann recommended a decrease of five teachers for the next school year. She noted that her recommendation was based on the current classroom numbers and may need to be revised after the registration process takes place.

Eboney Lofton and her team explained that they are requesting additional Math Interventionists for tier 2 and 3 students. Faith Cole reported that often the foundational skills have been missed. It is difficult for students to try and catch up without assistance. Interventionists were supplied for reading and there was a noticeable improvement in the abilities of the students. She explained that it can be difficult to diagnose where the gaps fall when the children are younger. When they reach middle school age, teachers can see that they do not have the skills. She noted that reading can lend itself to parent support at home, but math is not that easy, noting that parents may be uncomfortable supporting their children with math. She suggested that the district may want to consider educating the parents on the new math too. Tawanda Lawrence reported that the district rolled out CMP3 a few years ago and are seeing great success. The district is also currently piloting two algebra programs.

##### **WHITTIER BOILER BIDS**

Jeanne Keane reported that Whittier School has two cast iron boilers which both have multiple leaks. She reported that the concrete boiler pads underneath them are also cracking. She received 11 proposals for the work on March 18, which were reviewed by the Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) on March 22. She reported that FAC recommended replacement of the boilers and awarding the contact to the lowest bidder. This item will return to the board for action on April 27, 2021.

#### **5.1.4 DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY**

Jeanne Keane reported that Beye School has submitted a list of library books for purging. This item will return to the board for action on April 27, 2021.

#### **BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

STANDING BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – FAC, FORC, CCE and CLAIM)

Committee for Legislative Action, Intervention and Monitoring (CLAIM)

It was reported that the data sharing bill has been assigned to the Executive Committee and will be reviewed tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Member Kearney sent in a witness slip in support of the bill on behalf of the School Board.

The Legislative Forum is scheduled for April 28, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held virtually this year, and all four legislators are scheduled to be in attendance.

#### INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON REPORT FOLLOW UP (as needed – IGOV, PTO Council, CEC, OPEF, and Self-Evaluation)

##### Oak Park Education Foundation (OPEF)

It was reported that the OPEF is planning a virtual magic night. The event will take place on May 21 and registration is fee. OPEF is considering a partnership with a local restaurant for this event. They are encouraging families to hold a backyard event on May 21 and invite their neighbors to participate in the virtual magic night with them.

OPEF is considering ways to engage free and reduced lunch students to attend Base Camp. They are planning to offer scholarships to these families to encourage attendance in the program.

#### CONCLUDING ITEMS

##### BOARD REMARKS

CLOSING ITEMS

One board member indicated that the tone of the public comments this evening suggest that the board and/or administration are overturning decisions that are made by the other. She noted that the two teams work as thought partners. There may be times when the two groups do not agree, but it is never personal. The two groups are always trying to doing what is best for the community.

Another board member reminded the community that the board is doing this for the children. Board members do not receive compensation, and she noted that being a public servant is not easy. She reminded the community that they can question the board members. She shared that being on the receiving end of some of the recent comments has been difficult for the board members and the administration, noting that some of the comments have even ended up on social media. She asked the people making the comments to stop for a second and think about what they want their names attached to, and how their comments might affect their children.

##### AGENDA MAINTENANCE

The draft agenda for the April 27, 2021 meeting was reviewed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

President Broy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary