

SAULT STE. MARIE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN 49783
REGULAR MEETING, BOARD OF EDUCATION
Phone 906/635-6609

Minutes – Monday, April 11, 2022

246. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Sault Area Middle School, 684 Marquette Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie and viewable via Zoom: <https://eupschools.zoom.us/j/97706528602> Meeting ID: 977 0652 8602.

Student Alexis Kelly led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

247. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

Board Members Present: Lisa A. Young, Melissa S. Pingatore, Daniel L. Smith, Raymond J. DeWitt, Caitlin L. Galer, Christine M. Curtis, Jay D. Wilson

Absent: None

248. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Curtis, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

249. **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting - March 15, 2022

Closed Session - March 15, 2022

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the minutes as presented.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Motion Carried.

250. **D. *BUSINESS REPORT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

Mrs. Bennin requested approval for the March bill lists. She noted there was a significant increase in local sources due to pre-interest, winter tax payments. She indicated a settlement check from Chippewa County for delinquent real property taxes from the city and townships was expected in May.

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the March General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,188,701.71 and the Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$65,775.30.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

II. *COMMUNICATIONS*

251. **A. *REPORTS TO THE BOARD***

1. *Recognition*

- a. Teacher of the Month (Devin Swatman-Stewart) – Dr. Sheri McFarlane

Dr. McFarlane reported on the selection of Devin Swatman-Stewart as helpful teacher of the month. She highlighted the many ways he helps with the social and emotional needs of the students and his willingness to step in and help when needed. She will present him with the helpful Teacher of the Month tee shirt and \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Doug LaPrade Meemic Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

- b. Employee of the Month (Barbara Farrar) – Dr. Sheri McFarlane

Dr. McFarlane reported on the selection of Barbara Farrar as helpful employee of the month. She noted multiple ways Mrs. Farrar has worked and volunteered for the district over the past 20 years. Mrs. Farrar was presented with the helpful Employee of the Month tee shirt and \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Doug LaPrade Meemic Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

President DeWitt congratulated the recipients and thanked sponsors Doug LaPrade of MEEMIC Insurance and Mike Lynn of Parker Ace Hardware for their support.

Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported on the numerous ways principals share content data to ensure careful care and adequate measures are available for students. She provided the following description of the meetings principals regularly attend.

Emergency Student Assistance Team Meetings: For students in immediate crisis, typically experiencing trauma.

Safety and Supervision Plan Meetings: Ongoing plan for students after SAT meetings.

Student Services Meetings: Coordinated meetings of staff that support students needing additional internal and external care.

Administrative Team Meetings: To coordinate and follow up on district efforts.

504 Meetings: To identify students with a disability that impacts a major life activity.

Student Assistance Team Meetings: Academic, social, or emotional meetings with staff and parents to ensure success.

IEP Meetings: For students under IDEA with disabilities to review annual goals, programs, and services.

PBIS Meetings: Positive behavior support system for Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III activities and data review.

2. Washington School – Dr. Sheri McFarlane

Dr. McFarlane reported on the donations of snacks and clothing received at Washington School. She noted doctors Jesse Skog and Carrie Schneider of Hearing First have provided numerous snacks for students throughout the school day.

Dr. McFarlane reported 93.3% of parents participated in parent teacher conferences. She noted parents were given the choice to meet virtually or in-person.

Dr. McFarlane reported the space themed family engagement/literacy night was a success with 489 people representing 160 students.

Dr. McFarlane reported Mrs. Meg Boucher had been working with the Kindergarten and First Grade Students on their performance for the Grandparents/Special Persons Day scheduled for April 14 at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Dr. McFarlane reported Mrs. Jessie Bourque had secured vision screening for students through Craig Krouth of the Lions Club for the end of April or beginning of May. She noted the Lions Club has a partnership with an ophthalmologist who will see and treat a student if needed.

Dr. McFarlane reported there were 257 students enrolled at Washington School.

Dr. McFarlane reported on the following student content meetings.
Student Services Meetings to date: 3
Student Assistance Team Meetings to date: 40
Individual Educational Plan Meetings to date: 39
Positive Behavioral Interventions Supports Meetings to date: 6

3. Lincoln School – Mrs. Diane Chevillot

Mrs. Chevillot reported 93% of parents participated in parent teacher conferences. She indicated parents had the choice of attending virtual or in-person.

Mrs. Chevillot reported the March reading month theme was Fairy Tales and the school will be sending home a book with each student to encourage reading throughout the summer.

Mrs. Chevillot reported Grandparents/Special Persons Day was scheduled for Wednesday and at times that would be most beneficial for families with multiple children throughout the school.

Mrs. Chevillot reported on the HSAT staff recognition and wellness grant activities that benefit the staff, students, and foster a school family environment.

Mrs. Chevillot reported there were currently 362 students enrolled and she anticipated 2 more before the end of the year.

Mrs. Chevillot reported on the following student content meetings.
Emergency Student Assistance Team Meetings to date: 3 (focused around 1 student)
Student Services Meetings to identify focus areas to date: 7
504 Meetings to date: 4
Student Assistance Team Meetings before and after school to date: 86

Individual Educational Plan Meetings to date: 47
Positive Behavioral Interventions Supports Meetings steered by Mrs. Morley and Mrs. DeNuccio to date: 5

4. Sault Middle School – Ms. Jessica Rondeau

Ms. Rondeau introduced STEM Teacher Mr. John Twichel who shared a brief synopsis of the underwater ROV Square One Competition that took place earlier in the day at LSSU. He thanked Ms. Rondeau for her support.

Ms. Rondeau reported on the schoolwide purchase of the book called “Restart” for March is reading month.

Ms. Rondeau noted April was a busy season for academic M-STEP and PSAT testing.

Ms. Rondeau announced the Esports playoffs had begun.

Ms. Rondeau indicated the first track meet would start next week.

Ms. Rondeau reported the Spring Family Fun Night was scheduled for next Thursday and would be featured around STEM games and activities.

Ms. Rondeau announced Teacher Appreciation Week was May 2-6.

Ms. Rondeau reported 32 students would be participating in the Washington, D.C. trip from May 5-9.

Ms. Rondeau reported the 13 MOONS Curriculum had just begun for students in 5th grade.

Ms. Rondeau announced Inter-Tribal Council had begun making presentations about the risks of gambling and how students are being targeted with apps in social media.

Ms. Rondeau reported on the following student content meetings.

Emergency Student Assistance Team Meetings to date: 5

Safety and Supervision Plan Meetings to date: 30

Student Services – Meetings to date: 18

Administrative Team Meetings to Date: 8

504 Meetings to date: 20

Student Assistance Team Meetings to date: 26

Individual Educational Plan Meetings to date: 58

Positive Behavioral Interventions Supports Meetings to date: 6

5. Malcolm High School – Mrs. Sandy Sawyer

Mrs. Sawyer reported Dr. Treurer had made presentations to the students and they had asked a lot of questions.

Mrs. Sawyer reported the 13 MOONS presentations had begun.

Mrs. Sawyer reported the Life Skills class made and delivered a meal for a community member who had been diagnosed with cancer.

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the spirit week and dress down days scheduled at Malcolm.

Mrs. Sawyer reported students had participated in outside teaching at the Sugar Bush.

Mrs. Sawyer reported there had been a good turnout of about 80 people at the Parent Family Engagement Night.

Mrs. Sawyer reported school would not be in session on April 26 and 27 because of an Alternative Education Conference.

Mrs. Sawyer reported the school has begun to plan for senior recognition and graduation. She invited the Board to the May 17 student recognition cookout.

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the following student content meetings.

Student Assistance Team Meetings to date: 3

Safety and Supervision Plan Meetings to date: 3

Student Services – Meetings to date: 5

Administrative Team Meetings to Date: 5

504 Meetings to date: 7

Student Assistance Team Meetings to date: 5

Individual Educational Plan Meetings to date: 11

Positive Behavioral Interventions Supports Meetings to date: 6

Mrs. Sawyer reported a total of 80 students were enrolled and 60-65 of them attended in-person instruction.

6. Sault Area High School – Mr. Carl McCready

Mr. McCready reported on the completion of Snowcoming Week, I Heart College Cash Night, District Band Festival, Meet the Guard, Senior Ski at Boyne Mountain, French and Spanish Club Trip, and BPA and HOSA state competition. He noted one HOSA student and eleven BPA students would be going on to compete at nationals.

Mr. McCready reported Counselor Mrs. Kenn had been busy coordinating state testing for the students.

Mr. McCready reported sophomores were busy planning for their next two years in their career readiness class, and freshmen were participating in the Freshmen Shuffle by walking through non-traditional offerings to get an idea of some electives they may want to pursue.

Mr. McCready reported freshmen orientation has been redesigned for ease of sharing information to district and transfer-in students.

Mr. McCready reported the counselors had been busy working on next year's master teacher schedule.

Mr. McCready reported students participated in activities at the Sugar Bush and the presentation about the risks of youth gambling.

Mr. McCready reported on the following student content meetings.

Student Assistance Team Meetings to date: 6

Safety and Supervision Plan Meetings to date: 4

Student Services – Meetings to date: 10

Administrative Team Meetings to Date: weekly

504 Meetings to date: 6

Student Assistance Team Meetings to date: 8

Individual Educational Plan Meetings to date: 84

Positive Behavioral Interventions Supports Meetings to date: 16

252. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer thanked the principals for their reports.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district is looking to update the Blackboard program to help with sharing information that is current, pleasing, and disability accessible.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the Michigan State Police grant the district is hoping to secure to alleviate hand programming every door lock. She indicated the plan would require electricity to each door and a request for proposal was ready to go.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported DM Burr is fully staffed at the 5 school buildings, but they only clean the bathrooms and kitchen floors at the EUPISD and administration building.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported a request for proposal will be going out at the end of April to replace some of the high school carpet.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported a request for proposal would be going out next week for a used 77 passenger school bus. She noted concern for bus driver shortage. She stated maintenance staff have stepped in to help drive buses but there is a lot of maintenance that goes on over the summer, and the staff will need to use some of their vacation over the summer. She reported the district is down to one mechanic.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Payne and Dolan would be conducting a full investigation on the track surface and the Board will be apprised of it when completed.

Discussion ensued on merging bus routes and a transportation contingency plan.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there were two retirements in the teacher group.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported MSU and the Apollo Center is collecting district broadband data to determine if there is a correlation between a student's connectivity to the internet and academic success.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district professional development and blue calendars are being worked on and are slated to be ready in May.

253. C. ***AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION***

CTE Automotive Instructor Craig McDonald reported on his concern for additional duties and expertise CTE teachers need to provide to run their programs over and above that of academic teachers and for the same pay. He provided the Board with a list of roles and duties in hopes to change the way programs are operating.

III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS

254. A. ***PERSONNEL***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the following two items and indicated their connection.

1. Director of Student Achievement Contract – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the Director of Student Achievement Contract as presented.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

2. New Hire

Dr. Barbara Light – Director of Student Achievement – Sault Area Public Schools

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Dr. Barbara Light as Director of Student Achievement for Sault Area Public Schools.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

255. **B. *EUPISD BUDGET PROPOSAL 2022-2023 – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education support the proposed EUPISD budget for 2022-2023 and submit the resolution.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

256. **C. *OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST – Ms. Heather Hopkins***

Ms. Hopkins reported on the following overnight travel request. She stated two students were in 9th grade but were unable to attend their trip in the fall due to COVID restrictions.

Upon inquiry from President DeWitt, Ms. Hopkins stated she was unaware of any student who was not able to attend because of finances.

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the overnight travel to Washington, D.C. as presented.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

257. **D. *OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST – Mr. Carl McCready***

Mr. McCready presented the following overnight travel request.

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the overnight travel to Dallas for students to compete in the BPA National Leadership Conference and Competition as presented.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

258. **E. *OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST – Ms. Jeanne Shibley***

Ms. Shibley reported on the following overnight travel request and indicated it was contingent upon one higher ranked team not being able to attend.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the overnight travel to Saginaw for students to participate in the FIRST Robotics State Competition as presented.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

259. **F. *OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST – Mr. Carl McCready***

Mr. McCready presented the following overnight travel request.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the overnight travel to Big Rapids for students to compete in the State Secondary Welding Competition as presented.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried.

260. **G. *LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the Native American Parent Committee had been working on the land acknowledge agreement for about a year and a half. She indicated her intention was to use the statement at formal activities such as graduation, award nights, and whenever the drum was present.

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education acknowledge the use of land and affirm the ongoing relationship between Indigenous people and the land of Bahweting, The Place of the Rapids, also known as Sault Sainte Marie.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

261. **H. *CTE CONVENTIONAL LATHE BID – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

Mrs. Bennin reported the district received three quotes from MSC Direct, Republic Lagun, and Sierra Victor Industries. She noted Sierra Victor came back with the low bid. She reported Mr. Mark Armstrong was in support of awarding the bid, and the cost would be covered from this year's CTE state aid dollars.

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education award the CTE Conventional Lathe Bid to Sierra Victor at the low bid cost of \$29,858.

Yeas: Young, Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer, Curtis, Wilson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

262. **IV. *BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES***

Member Smith expressed concern for an Evening News article in today's paper regarding Sault Schools ESSER funds, a picture of a swimming pool below, and no statement from the district.

Member Curtis stated the Board has had several discussions over the years about ESSER funds.

Raised by Member Smith, discussion ensued about the possibility of a new pool.

Member Smith stated if the district requests a millage in May, it is responsible for the cost of the election.

Member Pingatore questioned where funding for a pool and its maintenance would come from without the financial assistance of a millage.

Member Wilson suggested if the community wants a pool, they need to communicate that through a millage and know how the cost will affect their property taxes.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the school attorney does not recommend the district engage in fund raising for a pool.

Upon inquiry from Member Young, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported regardless if the pool has its own fiduciary and conducts its own fund raising, the district owns the property and would not recommend fund raising.

Member Smith stated Mr. Naughton reported to the Board a couple of months ago that he did not foresee a positive bond proposal until 2024 at the earliest.

Member Galer reported Mr. Naughton also stated the district needs to have the pool conversations now if it was to consider a millage in 2024, and she feels it's important to hear from the community.

Member Wilson stated he would support whatever the attorney advised.

Member Young indicated she was in favor of a new pool and building for the community.

President DeWitt expressed concern for the district to maintain a community pool with anticipated state funding cutbacks.

Member Curtis stated she was 100 percent in support of the swim team and suggested money may better be spent supporting other pools in the area. She stated the recent report for CTE program staffing and increases in supplies was an area to focus on. She stated she agrees with Member Wilson if the community wants it, perhaps everyone can come together and make it happen.

President DeWitt indicated he would like to continue the pool discussion at the next board workshop.

Member Pingatore indicated she is aware of the difficulty of local pool owners finding certified pool operators to maintain their pools and questioned how that could be avoided.

Member Smith stated the Board needs to focus on the educational needs of the students, not community projects.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported bylaws establish how board members should act. Member Smith stated that led into his next concern about the board compensation bylaw which was passed. He stated he was obviously against it and thought it should fall under board ethics.

Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported bylaws only require one vote, but policies require a first read then a vote. She stated bylaws had typically been processed in batches by the policy company until recently.

Member Pingatore reported the Board had been given an opt-out form for compensation so they didn't have to take it.

Member Young stated she did not want to close the door to a new pool and wanted to hear from the pool committee before closing the door on it as she would like to see a pool for the district.

President DeWitt stated he wasn't closing the door on a pool.

Member Galer stated she would love a pool regardless of who pays for it.

263. **V. *FUTURE PLANNING***

President DeWitt reviewed the following events.

April 26 - Annual Board Meeting - Big Bear Hospitality Room - 7:00 p.m.

May 10 - EUPSBA Meeting - Sault Area High School - 5:30 p.m.

May 3 - Evening with the Arts - Sault Area High School -

May 4 - Board Budget Workshop - Sault Middle School - 5:30 p.m.

May 5 - Budget Presentations - Sault Middle School - Staff 4:30 p.m.,
Public 5:30 p.m.

May 9 - Regular Board Meeting - Sault Middle School - 7:00 p.m.

May 26 - Malcolm Graduation - Sault Area High School - 7:00 p.m.

May 29 - Sault High Graduation - Location to be determined - 2:00 p.m.

June 13 - Regular Board Meeting - Sault Area Middle School - 7:00 p.m.

264. **VI. *ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:57 p.m., it was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Galer, that the meeting be adjourned.

Raymond J. DeWitt, Board President

Christine M. Curtis, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary