

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

**Minutes – Monday, December 13, 2021**

143. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Sault Area High School, 904 Marquette Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 and via Zoom: <https://eupschools.zoom.us/j/91633647342> or Call In: +1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 916 3364 7342

144. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: None

145. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education move to adopt the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

146. **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – November 8, 2021

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

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

Mrs. Bennin reported on and sought approval for the November General Fund and Food Service Bill Lists. She noted cash flow was typical and steady for the month.

Mrs. Bennin reported there would be a draw down in December and she hoped to bring the first budget amendment to the Board in January.

President Smith confirmed the report was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,259,460.73 for November including \$145,964.83 for the Food Service Bill List.

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

## ***II. COMMUNICATIONS***

### **148. A. *REPORTS TO THE BOARD***

#### **1. Recognition**

- a. Teacher of the Month (Susan Wagner) – Mrs. Jessica Rondeau-McCarthy

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on Susan Wagner as the Helpful Teacher of the Month. Susan will be presented with the Teacher of the Month tee shirt and \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Doug Laprade of Meemic Laprade Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

- b. Employee of the Month (Kim Shadnaw) – Mr. Carl McCready

Mr. McCready reported on Kim Shadnaw being recognized as the Helpful Employee of the Month. He will present her with the Employee of the Month tee shirt and \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Doug Laprade of Meemic Laprade Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

President Smith asked the administrators to pass the Board's congratulations to Mrs. Wagener and Mrs. Shadnaw.

President Smith thanked Doug LaPrade and owners of Parker Ace Hardware for their continued support.

2. Technology Update – Eric Galer

Mr. Galer reported the Sault Schools' Technology Department of 3.8 full time employees merged with the EUPISD in May 2017 which now employs 13 full time employees, 3 part time employees and is seeking to fill 2 positions.

Mr. Galer reported the EUPISD supports 17 regional school districts in the areas of internet, network, computers, printers, copiers, telephone communication systems, projection systems, security cameras, transportation navigation tablets, door locking systems, classroom visual and sound systems, student Chromebook/devices, identification and badge printing.

Mr. Galer reported the district has over 5,000 devices with 175 unique models.

Mr. Galer reported on the current state and anticipated replacement of the following items: Network Infrastructure needs to be reviewed with E-Rate services every three years, Security Cameras Systems at Washington, Lincoln, and the Soo Township Complex are 7 years old and should be replaced this summer, the Phone System is 8 ½ years old and needs to be reviewed for replacement, Classroom Desktop Computers are 7 ½ years old and need to be replaced, Classroom Visual Equipment is 6 ½ years old and need to be reviewed for replacement, Document Cameras/Projectors need to be reviewed for possible upgrades, Door Offline Classroom Locks are 6 ½ years old and need to be reviewed for possible replacement with online locks and the duty of maintenance and operations return to the Maintenance Department.

Mr. Galer reported 2,180 student devices will be at the end of their life cycle in June 2026. He reported Google guarantees those devices will receive software updates and have access to the newest operating system until then.

Mr. Galer reported half of the staff mobile devices were purchased in the summer of 2021.

Mr. Galer reported the New Bus Garage Facility will need to be equipped with access to the network, telecommunications, and security. He stated the department is currently working with the bus garage on the Navigation Tablets

Mr. Galer reported over the next 2-4 years the district needs to look into classroom visual technology and document cameras, interactive projector or panel, the other half of staff mobile devices should be replaced and the district needs to access its cybersecurity.

Mr. Galer reported over the next 5 years the district should look into replacing student devices, begin investigating a replacement for the phone system, and look into replacing the camera server at the main campus.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Mr. Galer reported all classroom badges are programed on an annual basis but additional ones need to be synced on a rotating basis according to a variety of situations.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Mr. Galer reported devices were assigned to high school students at the start of the year, and based on last year, it should only take around 24 hours to deploy the rest of the devices providing everyone was working on it.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Mr. Galer indicated if all classroom locks were the same, programming could be done instantaneously and it would save a lot of manpower.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Mr. Galer had been a phenomenal employee, only missed two board meetings in 10 years, and will be greatly missed. She wished him well in his new job.

149. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on

150. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Nancy Sawruk spoke on her concern for the Sault High Hockey Coach and presented a letter from Mr. Swanson. She thanked the Board for their time.

President Smith thanked Mrs. Sawruk.

Parent Joy Newhouse spoke on her concern for excluding students from education due to the potential risk of having COVID, the lack of communication from the health department regarding contact tracing, and the school's role in all of it. She referenced data indicating schools are not super spreaders and the absence in addressing asymptomatic students.

**III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS**

151. A. ***PERSONNEL - Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

**New Hires**

Mr. Steve Lockwood presented the following.

1. Lisa Schulte – Girls Freshman Basketball Coach – Sault Area High School

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Lisa Schulte as Girls Freshman Basketball Coach for Sault Area High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the following.

2. Natasha Halonen – Paraprofessional – Sault Area Middle School

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Natasha Halonen as General Support Paraprofessional for Sault Area Middle School.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the position was to support at-risk students.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

152. B. ***PILOT PROGRAM - TEST TO STAY – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported after three months of the district's Test To Stay Pilot Program, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services adopted the plan with only changing testing every day to testing every other day. She reported the district has secured the National Guard through March and out of the 489 student tests to date, 12 percent were positive.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the

Board of Education repeal the October 18, 2021, Pilot Program guidelines and default to testing every other day.

Yeas: DeWitt, Pingatore, Smith, Curtis, Galer

Nays: Wilson, Young

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

153. **C. *ESSER PUBLIC COMMENT***

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education accept comment on ESSER funds.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Parent Nick Huyck indicated he would like any extra funds to be spent on school security.

154. **D. *ESSER III AND FEDERAL SPENDING – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district needs to apply for the ESSER funds and receive approval of a plan before it can seek the funds.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the American Rescue Plan ESSER III and Federal Spending Plan.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

155. **E. *ZOOM BOARD MEETINGS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the extension of virtual meetings with the intent to modify policy to include virtual meetings.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

156. **F. *OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST – Mrs. Heather Suggitt***

Mrs. Lussier presented the request and confirmed it was for 56 students and 4 adults to travel to Escanaba for BPA competition.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the overnight travel request for students to participate in the BPA Regional Leadership Conference as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

157. **G. *CROSSING GUARDS - Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Sault Ste. Marie for two Crossing Guards for Sault Middle School and Washington School.

President Smith commented on the positive relationship for the district to engage with the city.

Member Galer commented on the great posts parents have put out on Facebook regarding the outstanding Crossing Guard at the Middle School and Washington School.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated staff have indicated they are happy with him as well.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

158. **H. *GIFTS AND DONATIONS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

1. The Wesleyan Church donated \$200 from a Chili Cook-off for the Washington School At Risk fund to assist with food and clothing for students in need.
2. On behalf of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault families, Dustin McClelland donated several winter jackets and articles of clothing to the Kidz Kloset.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education accept the above donations with thanks and appreciation.

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

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

Member Curtis spoke on the need for staff to be relieved from spending valuable time on dealing with COVID issues.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the transportation office has moved over to the new building, but the rest of the staff have not fully moved over and was unsure of the completion of the restrooms.

A member of the audience and former employee on first floor at War Memorial Hospital spoke on her concern for the effects of dealing with COVID and the percentage of error in PCR tests.

160. **V. FUTURE PLANNING**

December 14 - Grades K & 1 Holiday Program - 5:30, 6:15 p.m. - Washington  
December 15 - Grades 2, 3, 4 Holiday Program - 5:30, 6:15, 7:00 p.m. - Lincoln  
December 16 - High School Christmas Concert - 7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Church  
January 10 - Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Sault Middle School  
January 19 - Special Meeting - 5:30 p.m. - Sault Middle School  
February 14 - Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Sault Middle School

161. **VI. CLOSED SESSION – M.O.M.A. 15.268 §8(a)**

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, at 8:36 p.m. that the Board of Education move into closed session in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8(a), to consider a periodic personnel evaluation.

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

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:55 p.m.



162. *VII. ADJOURNMENT*

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:55 p.m., it was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Galer, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

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Daniel L. Smith, President

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Lisa A. Young, Board Secretary

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Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary