

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

Minutes – Monday, November 8, 2021

89. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Sault Area High School, 904 Marquette Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

President Smith introduced Ahnaka Oshelski who led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

90. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: None

91. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

92. **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – October 11, 2021
Closed Meeting A – October 11, 2021
Closed Meeting B - October 11, 2021
Special Meeting - October 18, 2021
Closed Meeting - October 18, 2021

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None
Motion Carried.

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

Mrs. Bennin sought approval for the October General Fund and Food Service Bill Lists.

Mrs. Bennin confirmed the district received its first of eleven State Aid payments. She noted the payment did not include all of the categoricals, the foundational increase, nor reflect the audited pupil count.

Mrs. Bennin reported there was a slight decrease in fund equity due to non-receipt of federal grant money.

Mrs. Bennin reported cash flow was higher than expected due to the lower than projected bill list.

Mrs. Bennin acknowledged the Board had received a digital copy of the June 30, 2021 yearend audit and it would be uploaded to the district's transparency website.

Mrs. Bennin indicated the first budget amendment would be presented in December or January pending receipt of federal funds.

President Smith reported the business report was reviewed at last week's finance meeting and there were no concerns.

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 \$1,797,236.92 for October including \$1,152.75 for the Food Service Bill List.

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

II. COMMUNICATIONS

94. **A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

1. School Updates
 - a. Washington School – Dr. Sheri McFarlane

Dr. McFarlane reported 6 new students had enrolled at Washington since October 6.

Dr. McFarlane reported Meijer donated \$100 for school supplies. She stated the school has been providing 17 families with pantry items in backpacks, and she anticipates more shortly. She stated the school could use some snow pants and unisex sweat pants.

Dr. McFarlane reported students are working well with understanding the 4 B's and zones of regulation. She indicated Social Worker Jennifer Randazzo offers a weekly lesson for each class as an effective reinforcement.

Dr. McFarlane reported the need for Playground/Lunch Supervisors.

Dr. McFarlane thanked Washington School staff for stepping in to help and make operations run smooth while other staff were out for various reasons.

Upon inquiry of President Smith, Dr. McFarlane reported new enrollment had been for a variety of reasons.

b. Lincoln School – Mrs. Diane Chevillot

Mrs. Chevillot stated the year was off to a great start and enrollment had increased to a total of 366 since the start of school.

Mrs. Chevillot thanked staff from Lincoln and Washington Schools for a successful Math Family Fun Night. She indicated it had reached 170 combined students.

c. SAMS – Mr. Bill Schomberg

Mr. Schomberg reported the pancake Student Incentive Day and Native American Heritage celebration went well. He indicated the first Family Fun Night organized by Mrs. Pomeroy was scheduled for November 20.

Mr. Schomberg reported the first marking period report cards would be available next week.

Mr. Schomberg reported some students in the STEM program would be competing in the underwater competition at Northern Michigan University next week.

Mr. Schomberg reported Middle School athletics had begun, and he was anticipating new enrollment over the next few weeks.

d. Malcolm - Mrs. Sandy Sawyer

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the success of the first quarter Student Appreciation Day and Math Breakout Box Challenge.

Mrs. Sawyer reported the Student Council election had concluded and monthly meetings would begin shortly.

Mrs. Sawyers reported on the great job Mrs. Cymbalist did with organizing the food and clothing pantry.

Mrs. Sawyers reported on the good job Mrs. Morley has been doing in working with the Native American Advisor Team. She noted Monday was Rock your Mocs Day.

Mrs. Sawyer reported 8 new students would be starting second quarter and 6 of those were from Sault High. She indicated she was looking forward to printing report cards next week.

Mrs. Sawyer invited the Board to the Malcolm Fall Feast. She noted the Sons of the Legion donated \$400 toward the celebration. President Smith reported the event is always nice.

e. Sault Area High School – Mr. Carl McCready

Mr. McCready stated enrollment was strong. He reported on the class meetings Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Lussier, Mr. Lockwood, and he presented at the start of the year.

Mr. McCready reported the Grade 9 and 10 MAP and ELA testing had been administered, HOSA had sponsored a blood drive, Homecoming was held early by conference design and its outside courtyard dance was well attended.

Mr. McCready reported all of the state emergency drills had been completed ahead of schedule.

Mr. McCready reported on the Orange Shirt Day and Native American Heritage Month success organized by Mrs. Blair.

Mr. McCready reported Mrs. Hammock continues to do a nice job with the National Honor Society and students will begin receiving notification on the selection.

Mr. McCready reported Mrs. Lussier organized another successful first quarter CTE breakfast.

Mr. McCready reported the senior college planning night organized by Mrs. Talentino and Mrs. Ken was well attended.

Mr. McCready reported Mr. Todd Welton from ICE provided a presentation for parents on how to keep teenagers safe on the internet and social media. He indicated there was a lot of good information but hoped attendance was better.

Mr. McCready reported Mrs. Gardner is doing a good job of fulfilling the Math and Computer Science component for the AP Computer Science.

Mr. McCready reported he was happy to hand out district trophies to the girls Volleyball Team.

Mr. McCready reported Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Ken had brought a group of students down to tour Ferris State University to get a feel for what it has to offer. He indicated some of the other university visits would be held virtually.

Mr. McCready reported sophomore and senior meetings were held to discuss class rings and graduation plans.

Mr. McCready reported 90% of teacher observations were completed.

Mr. McCready reported on the 5th hour recognition lunch for Deserving Devils who showed superb PBIS, good grades, and attendance.

Mr. McCready reported Parent/Teacher Conferences were scheduled for Wednesday from 12:30-3 p.m. and 5 -7 p.m.

Mr. McCready invited the Board to the Veterans Day assembly and noted the Voice of Democracy Speeches were especially on point this year.

On behalf of the Board, President Smith thanked the principals for their work in reaching out to parents and the community.

2. **Recognition**

a. Teacher of the Month (Pamela Pomeroy) – Mr. Bill Schomberg

Mr. Schomberg presented Mrs. Pomeroy and reported on her selection for teacher of the month. He presented her with a helpful teacher of the month tee shirt and \$50 Chamber Bucks

sponsored by Doug Laprade of Meemic Laprade Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

b. Employee of the Month (Holy Pink) – Mr. Bill Schomberg

Mr. Schomberg presented Mrs. Pink and reported on her selection for employee of the month. He presented her with a helpful teacher of the month tee shirt and \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Doug Laprade Meemic Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

President Smith thanked both employees for their dedication.

c. Nick Oshelski “Mr. O” Lifetime Achievement Award – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer read the Mr. Nick Oshelski Lifetime Achievement Award Resolution and presented his family with the resolution and plaque on behalf of the Sault Area Public Schools Administrative Team.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer acknowledged an award would be presented annually to a deserving student who exemplified the outstanding qualities Mr. O represented in his lifetime and the impact he made on students and in the community.

On behalf of the Nick Oshelski family, Christopher thanked the Superintendent, Board, and Administrative Team for the honor of his father and for being a big part of their life for many years.

3. 2020-2021 Audit Presentation - Annette Eustice of Rehmann

Rehman principal Annette Eustice introduced herself and noted several school audits were being presented at the same time so the team was taking turns with the presentations. She stated she would promptly answer questions at any time during or after the meeting.

Mrs. Eustice reported the audit for year end June 30, 2021, was given an unmodified “clean” opinion without any misstated material or findings which was the highest rating the district could receive.

Mrs. Eustice reported there was a delay in getting federal guidance, which had been unprecedented in 26 years that put some pressure on Mrs. Bennin to get the report filed on time. She thanked Mrs. Bennin and her team for their dedication.

Mrs. Eustice reported the Corona Virus Relief Funds and the Child Nutrition Program had no reportable conditions.

Mrs. Eustice reviewed the Management Discussion and Analysis and explained why fluctuations occurred and what assets were purchased and paid off.

Mrs. Eustice reported on the effect of recent state defined pension and health care liability. She referenced page 45 of the audit for more explanation.

Mrs. Eustice reported on government wide data including pandemic funding.

Mrs. Eustice reported the Summary Balance Sheet is reported at the fund level as opposed to the government wide level that does not include long-term debt, or fixed assets.

Mrs. Eustice reported on the non-major government revenue and debt service funds with a combined fund balance of 1.2 million.

Mrs. Eustice presented a general fund revenue pie chart showing each category of funding. She stated there was a 4 percent increase from last year due to pandemic funding.

Mrs. Eustice reported 94% of all general fund expenditures were spent on instruction.

Mrs. Eustice reported on the general fund budget results and indicated the district had spent approximately \$796,605 less than anticipated which was very good considering all of the uncertainties.

Mrs. Eustice reviewed pandemic related and ESSER funds going forward.

Mrs. Eustice noted the foundational allowance increase of \$589 from the previous year.

Upon there being no questions, President Smith thanked Mrs. Eustice for the teams work and her review of the audit. and thanked her for her time and efforts, and confirmed the Board had a full copy of the financial statements and management report to read.

President Smith thanked Mrs. Bennin for her work.

95.

B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer thanked Mrs. Bennin and every employee who assisted in following the guidelines in complying with the audit.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the District School Improvement Team is working on developing a social media policy to bring to the Board. She anticipated this type of policy would need ongoing review to ensure communication is effectively used and does not cause harm. She stated everyone wants instant access but it can get overwhelming at times.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the work the administrative team is doing to develop the profile of a graduate to further prepare them to navigate life after high school.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated as a means to further prepare Chippewa County to live with COVID, pediatric vaccinations would be available by appointment through the Health Department starting Saturday for children ages 5-11.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district developed a mobile app to enable parents to view current COVID data on personal devices as opposed to only through the website.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the Test to Stay Program was instituted on October 18 to allow close-contact students to test and if negative, return to school wearing a mask throughout their quarantine.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported as of last Friday, there were 177 students eligible for the Test to Stay Program, 51 students (less than 1/3) took advantage of it, and 1 had tested positive. She questioned additional ways to keep healthy students in school as several had chosen to wait out the full 10 days before returning to school.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the number of positive cases, recovered cases, monitored cases, and hospitalized cases throughout the county. She stated the spread has gone down, but COVID continues throughout the community.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she anticipates hearing about new guidance on dealing with COVID and had hoped for some reprieve and consistency throughout the state.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the district is trying to find a way to keep healthy kids in school and provide parents with as many choices as possible. She asked for some grace as they try to find a balance and navigate working with COVID.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated there is a whole section of the school population that hasn't been able to get vaccinated yet. She stated the younger students would probably not be at as high of a risk as the holder because they are less social.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported as of Friday, there had been only 1 close contact student test positive at the high school, and 8 at the middle school.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the district was offering in-person and virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences this week. She gave a reminder on the parent app that gives parents the ability to log in and check on their child's attendance, grades, assignments, and other information.

President Smith stated the app was really convenient compared to what was available a few years ago.

96. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Melanie Minta questioned district COVID mitigation strategies and communication.

President Smith indicated Mrs. Kronemeyer would inform the Board on the specific situation Ms. Minta referenced.

Allen Wather encouraged the Board to develop a student centered policy on how to operate with COVID based on the district's own statistics. He further stated the Board should receive some sort of pay for their work.

III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS

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

New Hires

Dr. McFarlane presented the following.

1. Lisa Pyle – Playground Supervisor – Washington School

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

Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Lisa Pyle as Playground/Lunch Supervisor for Washington School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Mr. Bill Schomberg presented the following.

2. Steve Nelson – 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach – Sault Area Middle School

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Steve Nelson as 7th grade Boys Basketball Coach for Sault Area Middle School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Mr. Steve Lockwood presented the following.

3. Christopher Carr – Freshmen Boys Basketball Coach – Sault Area High School

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Christopher Carr as Freshmen Boys Basketball Coach for Sault Area High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

4. Scott Church – JV Girls 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 Scott Church as JV Girls Basketball Coach for Sault Area High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

5. Bradley Boven – Assistant Varsity Track & Field Coach – Sault Area High School

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Bradley Boven as Assistant Varsity Track & Field Coach for Sault Area High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Jo Anne Lussier presented the following.

6. Brian Mageski – Paraprofessional – Sault Area Career Center

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Brian Mageski as Manufacturing/Math CTE Specialist Paraprofessional for Sault Area Career Center.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Lucy Carrick presented the following.

7. Rosalie Payment – Bus Driver – Sault Area Public Schools

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Rosalie Payment as part-time Bus Driver for Sault Area Public Schools.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

98. **B. *EDUSTAFF SUBSTITUTE RATES – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

Mrs. Bennin reported the paraprofessional and support positions were on the low end of the pay scale and they needed to be increased from \$10 to \$12 per hour.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the

Board of Education approve the EduStaff contract as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

99. **C. *PLAYGROUND SUPERVISOR***

Mrs. Bennin reported the playground supervisor positions were on the low end of the pay scale and needed to be increased from \$9.87 to \$12 per hour.

It was moved by Member Young, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the wage increase for Playground Supervisors as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

100. **D. *SUMMER TAX COLLECTION – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Mrs. Bennin confirmed this was an annual renewal.

It was moved by member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the resolution and agreement to impose the summer property tax levy for 2022 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

101. **E. *AUDIT – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the unmodified opinion financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2021 audit.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

102. **F. *RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

Mrs. Bennin reported the right-of-way easement would allow Cloverland Electric to access lines and maintain service to the area of the new CTE garage.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the resolution to grant Right-of-Way Easement to Cloverland Electric Cooperative and authorize the Superintendent to sign the necessary documents.

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

103. **G. *POLICIES – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the following policies and confirmed there were no question on them.

Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights
Volume 36 No. 1
Policy 3120 – Employment of Professional Staff
Policy 6114 – Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds
Policy 6152 – Student Fees, Fines, and Supplies
Policy 7450 – Property Inventory
Policy 8310 – Public Records
Policy 8320 – Personnel Files
Policy 8330 – Student Records

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

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

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

1. Diane Leflar donated several handmade hats and mittens for students at the Middle School.

2. Christopher Dierkes of AT&T donated 50 backpacks to be shared between the Middle School Kidz Kloset and other schools to hold food and other supplies for students.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

President Smith indicated how grateful he was when the public steps up and helps the students.

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

President Smith indicated there was not enough data to determine what the rate of student to student transmission was over the last year, but the numbers he saw were very low for in school contact.

President Smith stated 41.32 percent of students had been under quarantine for COVID since the start of school and he agrees with public comment that the Board needs to make a change to its policy.

President Smith indicated he plans to meet with the Superintendent to verify if the district is required by law to continue to provide the additional services and/or data to the health department and district families.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated the district is helping out a bit with the Test to Stay Program but it is also helping school families.

President Smith expressed concern for the extra responsibilities and time placed on the School Nurse and Superintendent in dealing with COVID related work for what appears to be for the health department.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer clarified extra work on COVID was being done by staff in all the buildings.

President Smith indicated the district needs to follow COVID requirements, but it has heard from parents over the past 18 months and members need to rethink how the district should operate and be ready to discuss it for the next meeting.

President Smith asked individual members to run ideas by him prior to next month's meeting so they don't break the Open Meetings Act.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Superintendent Kronemeyer stated despite the passage of the CTE mileage, Career Center students need to follow their specific

site restrictions until further health restrictions are lifted. She indicated her belief that the area will be in a better position in 5-6 weeks.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported that contract tracing is conducted almost every day and people continue to get sick and lose family members to COVID. She hoped everyone would understand that there needs to be some sort of a balance and leniency while our country is dealing with it.

Member Wilson reported according to Public Health Code 368, Michigan pre-Kindergarten through grade 12, child care, and adult/elderly care facilities are required to report communicable disease information but the specifics are not clearly defined.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she is following the health department requests in order to protect the students. She noted information is also reported daily from surrounding health centers and hospitals for close contact tracing.

President Smith reported a change in communicating all of the COVID information to the health department is going to require effort by a lot of people

Upon inquiry from Member Young, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the cumulative in-school transmission by the end of October was 8 at the Middle School and 1 at Sault High but the significant amount of transmission was from close contact of significant others, within families, and due to outside activities. Member Young confirmed there were hundreds placed under quarantine and several, multiple times.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated the increase in Middle School in-school transmission could be because two of the grade levels did not have a vaccine available to them yet. She noted the amount of positive COVID cases at the elementary schools were very small.

Members Young and Smith thanked Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer for getting the Test to Stay Program up and running and for gathering necessary data.

Member Young stated a lot of parents do not want testing mandates and others have said they will not send their children to school if there is a mask mandate. She suggested gathering more data and to consider what the numbers need to be.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there was not enough data after only two weeks of operating the Test to Stay Program to draw a conclusion.

Member Wilson spoke on the new OSHA COVID-19 Workplace Regulation for employers with 100 or more employees. He asked for some data so the Board could see how it might affect the district.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she had been watching the new Federal OSHA Workplace Mandate and whether Michigan was going to adopt it prior to bringing to the Board for discussion.

Upon inquiry from Member Galer, President Smith suggested the Superintendent notify the Board on Test to Stay numbers in the Friday update prior to scheduling a possible special board meeting.

106. V. ***FUTURE PLANNING***

President Smith reviewed upcoming events and encouraged the Board to attend.
November 11 - Veterans Day – 10:00 a.m. – Sault High Gymnasium
November 24 - Fall Feast – 10:00 a.m. – Malcolm School
December 7 - Middle School Christmas Concert – 6:30 p.m. –
December 13 - Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Middle School
December 14-15 - Grades K-1, 2-4 Christmas Program - 5:30, 6:15, 7:00 p.m. –
Sault High Gymnasium
December 16 - Sault High Christmas Concert – 7:00 p.m. – LTD
January 10 - Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Middle School

107. VI. ***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 Wilson, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Daniel L. Smith, President

Lisa A. Young, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary