

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

Minutes – Monday, September 13, 2021

45. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Sault Area Middle School, 684 Marquette Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 and via Zoom: <https://eupschools.zoom.us/j/2405014824> or Call in: +1 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 240 501 4824

46. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: Melissa S. Pingatore

47. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

48. **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting minutes correction to page 5, paragraph 4, replace “collage” with “college”.

Regular Meeting – August 9, 2021

Closed Meeting – August 9, 2021

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the August 9 Regular and Closed Meeting Minutes.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

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

Mrs. Bennin sought approval for the general fund and food services bill lists. She indicated the report includes a full set of financial statements and the numbers will be confirmed pending audit completion.

Mrs. Bennin reported the auditors were working off-site and the business office would continue to work on the audit.

Mrs. Bennin reported minimal cash receipts were coming in from last fiscal year which was typical for this time of year.

Mrs. Bennin reported cash flow was healthy and she did not see a need to borrow funds.

President Smith reported the business report was reviewed by the finance committee last week and there were no major questions or concerns.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the August General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$1,372,662.48 and the Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$21,084.04.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

50. **II. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. First Week Update

a. Washington School – Dr. Sheri McFarlane

Dr. McFarlane stated there were 7 Kindergarten classrooms and 5 First Grade classrooms for a total of 249 students. She reported the first week was busy with teaching and reinforcing the MiBLSi expectations for being respectful and safe. She indicated how pleased she was with how quick the students learned their routines and how nice it was to see the returning first grade students remember the zones.

b. Lincoln School – Mrs. Diane Chevillot

Mrs. Chevillot stated there were a total of 357 students and a lot of new faces at Lincoln. She reported the school reviewed what the expectations were for learning and behavior during the first week. She indicated former students were helping new students understand the routine and everyone was trying to keep the students as safe as possible.

c. Sault Area Middle School – Mrs. Jessica Rondeau-McCarthy

Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy reported there were currently 509 students enrolled, the 5th Grade Bootcamp was well attended at 66%, the self-guided open house went well with 67% of the students being represented by one or two parents, and grade-level assemblies were conducted to share information and communicate expectations.

Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy reported students were continuing to master their schedules and locker combinations and the staff had done a great job in getting the first week of school off to a great start.

d. Sault Area High School – Mr. Carl McCready

Mr. McCready noted many of the high school students were also working on mastering their lockers. He stated there were 770 students enrolled and an additional 79 in CTE Programs.

Mr. McCready reported the high school offers a total of 42 courses including dual enrollment through LSSU and Bay Mills. He noted college Chemistry and Native American Literature (Humanities Credit) were being taught by Gene Wicks and Amanda Paulus at the high school. He stated there was a total of 147 concurrent enrollment classes taken by multiple students.

Mr. McCready reported there were a total of 301 advanced placement courses taken by multiple students.

Mr. McCready reported the freshmen computer elective course was offered for students who had a rigorous workload or needed additional services and Miss Badinski was available during lunch hour for students who want additional help.

Mr. McCready reported a PBIS video was presented to students during the first week of school to ensure they were aware of expectations.

Mr. McCready reported he met with the administrative team and then later with the freshmen class to explain the GPA system, semesters, and all about transcripts.

Mr. McCready reported he met with the senior class to discuss what they could expect their last year and what it meant to be a senior.

Mr. McCready reported a video was being presented to students to explain homecoming activities.

Mr. McCready reported the first school dance had taken place, homecoming activities were being finalized, tardy sweeps had begun, and three emergency drills had been conducted. He welcomed everyone to the open house on Thursday.

Mr. McCready indicated the staff was working through a new student computer software system and doing well.

e. Malcolm High School – Mrs. Sandy Sawyer

Mrs. Sawyer reported there were 5 out of 10 new employees in the building and everyone was off to a great start and adjusting as well.

Mrs. Sawyer reported students continue to enroll and withdraw, and estimated 80 students were enrolled.

Mrs. Sawyer reported Career Readiness, Computer Science, and Weight Lifting were new classes to the school. She reported there was a large senior class and her goal was to prepare all of them for graduation.

Mrs. Sawyer reported she oversees 19 Virtual Blue high school students.

51. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

1. Operating Schools Safely Update

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she conducted school walkthroughs on day 5 of 175, and the students were amazing.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there were just under 40 Kindergarten through grade 12 students enrolled in the Virtual Blue program compared to 259 last year.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she briefly met with Karen Senkus of the Chippewa County Health Department regarding COVID-19

statistics. She indicated the county was just shy of having 50% of people be fully vaccinated. She indicated 38% of students' ages 12-19 had received their initial vaccination. She stated Mrs. Senkus indicated the department has been swamped with work but was actively monitoring mandates and doing their best.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the internal process of how positive COVID cases are communicated between the health department and the district, what the quarantine procedures are based on contact data outlined by MDHHS procedures, and where to look to view the transparency data on the district website.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated last year at this time there were no vaccines and now everyone who can, has an opportunity to receive one. She acknowledged additional considerations were being used to make quarantining more situational and hopefully easier to understand.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the live COVID-19 data and transparency box the district updates on its website within 24 hours of notice from the local health department. She noted the data is broken out by student and staff numbers in each building and a new chart will be displayed for each month.

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported wearing a mask would not in itself alleviate the need to quarantine. She reported it takes 15 minutes after taking a COVID test to receive the results, but the logistics of who will conduct the test, pay for it, and if home tests will be counted have not been determined. She stated the health department has the right to quarantine students.

Member Young indicated there wasn't enough close data taken to see if students got sick when they were under quarantine last year, so she is curious to learn what the results will be this year.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported enrollment is currently up 80 students from last year's spring count and the district had budgeted to be down 60. Member Wilson reported this was the first year enrollment increased since he had been on the Board.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported everyone had developed routines on how to deal with the pandemic and the district was focusing on keeping students in school for the full 175 days. She indicated how pleased she was to allow students the option to return to school compared to last year.

Upon inquiry from Members Galer and Wilson, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported regardless of the dividers used in Kindergarten last

year, students would still be considered in close contact but in smaller groups.

52. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Community member Kelly Tuomikoski spoke on her belief of requiring adults/staff and students to wear masks at school to help prevent the spread of COVID for the common good of all.

53. **III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS**

A. PERSONNEL – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

New Hire

Mrs. Chevillot presented the following.

1. Erica Preston – CI Paraprofessional – Lincoln School

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Erica Preston as CI Paraprofessional for Lincoln School

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

2. Stefanie Tetzlaff – Paraprofessional/After School Tutor – Lincoln School

It was moved by Member Young, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Stefanie Tetzlaff as Paraprofessional/After School Tutor for Lincoln School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

3. Susan Rambo – Paraprofessional – Lincoln School

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Susan Rambo as Paraprofessional for Lincoln School.

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

Dr. McFarlane presented the following

4. Terri LaPointe – Junior/Kindergarten Teacher – Washington School

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education hire Terri LaPointe as Junior/Kindergarten Teacher for Washington School.

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

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the following.

5. Shad Miller – English/Language Arts Teacher – Sault Area Middle School

It was moved by Member Wilson, Supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education hire Shad Miller as English/Language Arts Teacher for Sault Area Middle School.

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

6. Emily Darling – Social Studies Teacher – Sault Area Middle School

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Emily Darling as Social Studies Teacher for Sault Area Middle School.

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

7. Amy Wilds – Title I 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 Amy Wilds as Title I Paraprofessional for Sault Area Middle School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Sawyer presented the following.

8. Laurie Morley – Native American Advisor – Malcolm High School

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Laurie Morley as Native American Advisor for Malcolm High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

9. David Graham – Science Teacher – Malcolm High School

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire David Graham as Science Teacher for Malcolm High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

10. Stephanie McLeod – Administrative Assistant - Sault Area Career Center

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Stephanie McLeod as Administrative Assistant for Sault Area Career Center.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

Mr. McCready presented the following.

11. Faith Cryderman – Freshman Volleyball Coach – Sault Area High School

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Faith Cryderman as Freshman Volleyball Coach for Sault Area High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated she was reinstating/bringing back Tenure to the Board because of its importance. She presented the following.

Tenure

1. Daniel Plummer

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education grant tenure to Daniel Plummer as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

2. Virginia King

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education grant tenure to Virginia King as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

3. Lisa Hockersmith

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education grant tenure to Lisa Hockersmith as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore
Motion Carried.

54. **B. *STUDENT REINSTATEMENT REQUEST – Superintendent Amy Scott-Kronemeyer***

President Smith indicated student reinstatement was probably new to most board members and a possible change to the policy could be discussed during the Board Governance section.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the current policy requires Board approval for students seeking reinstatement after an expulsion. She stated three students had initially requested reinstatement, but based on conduct, she was presenting two. She reported she was confident with the Malcolm staff and additional check-ins, the two would be successful for graduation.

1. Jane Doe #1 20/21

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to reinstate Jane Doe #1 20/21.

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

2. Jane Doe #2 20/21

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to reinstate Jane Doe #2 20/21.

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

55. **C. *OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST - Ms. Heather Hopkins***

Ms. Hopkins presented the request for 32 students who missed the opportunity to go to Washington DC in 2021 as eighth graders be allowed to go in October with additional safety requirements.

Ms. Hopkins reported all travelers were required to have a negative COVID test 2 days prior to departure, home tests would be accepted by the travel company, and a doctor would be on call 24 hours as is customary for the company. She acknowledged parents of all 32 students were in agreement with the procedures put in place. Ms. Hopkins reported the group will ride a bus to Detroit with only their pod of students and then they will fly from Detroit to Baltimore. She noted chaperones include Mr. Bennin, Mr. Lake, Mrs. Dale, and herself, and the group would stay in its own pod and wear masks indoors as is the requirements in D.C. She noted the groups is allowed to unmask outdoors at this time, but if at any time a situation is not safe, an alternate site is provided by the tour company to such places as Williamsburg and Gettysburg. Ms. Hopkins reported Facebook is used to update parents and post pictures on and the kids are really excited to comply with whatever is necessary to go.

Ms. Hopkins reported there are currently 30 kids in 8th grade social studies who are looking forward to a trip in the spring.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Ms. Hopkins confirmed it was the travel company's requirement to have a negative COVID test not the airline company, and the group is not required to have a negative test prior to their return home. Upon further inquiry, Ms. Hopkins reported a home test can be taken to LSSU or wherever the parents want to take them for the results.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Ms. Hopkins confirmed the students are currently in 9th grade. She noted the only grade that got missed was the sophomore class which includes her son. She confirmed Principal McCready is okay with the trip.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the Overnight Travel Request to Washington D.C. as presented.

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

56. **D. APPROVAL OF TUITION RATES – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reported the tuition rate was based on the previous year's fiscal expenditures.

President Smith confirmed this was an annual request

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 tuition rates at the per capita cost as presented.

For students eligible for state foundational allowance:

Per Capita Rate \$11,060.85 per year

Elementary Tuition \$13,826.06 per year

Secondary Tuition \$14,309.97 per year

Vocational Tuition \$ 3,207.65 per year (\$1,603.83 per semester)

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

57. ***E. SALE OF VACANT LOTS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Former Superintendent Hall signed a contract agreement to sell vacant lots down by the athletic field to the Sault Tribe and she is seeking authorization to sign the closing documents.

President Smith indicated he was aware of the lots but not how the district came into possession of them.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for the sale of vacant lots and allow the Superintendent to sign the necessary paperwork.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

58. ***F. GIFTS AND DONATIONS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

1. Tractor Supply donated automotive electrical supplies to the Sault Area Career Center Automotive Technology Program.

2. Chippewa County Correctional Facility donated a Jointer and various hand tools for use by students in the Career Center Woodshop.

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

President Smith acknowledged appreciation for donations by the community.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

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

President Smith raised for discussion the possibility of amending the policy for student reinstatement to grant authority to the Superintendent.

President Smith indicated due to the laws of privacy and after thorough review and recommendation by the Superintendent, it might be unnecessary for the Board to act upon student reinstatement requests.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the policy could be modified to remove “upon approval by the Board”.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer will place the policy on next month’s agenda for its first reading.

Member DeWitt raised a motion to mandate students and staff to wear a mask while on campus. The motion failed due to lack of support.

President Smith spoke about his concern for being misquoted in a statement he allegedly made to Miss Worsham 6 weeks prior to it being printed in The Sault News. He stated at that point the Board as a whole was against mandating masks and a decision would be based on information the Superintendent gathered from a town hall meeting of parents, the health department, and others who were most affected and had the data. He indicated the Board wanted to start the year off in a positive light. He indicated if at any time the data suggested something different, the Board would be contacted by the Superintendent for a change in a motion.

Member Curtis thanked Kelly Tuomikoski for her comment during audience participation, and indicated the Board takes their position very serious. She noted it can be difficult to make decisions for all students but they do want all students to be safe in school.

Member Curtis stated the Superintendent knows how the Board feels and would contact them if she thought the district may have to move in another direction due to quarantine numbers and such. She also confirmed the Board reads their email.

Member Wilson stated he wanted to touch base on the elected official part of the school board and gave a friendly reminder that their position is nonpartisan and politics does not belong on the table.

Member Curtis thanked the principals for their time and information in providing their school report.

60 **V. *FUTURE PLANNING***

President Smith reviewed future events.

October 11 - Regular Board Meeting - 7 p.m. - Sault Area Middle School
November 8 - Regular Board Meeting - 7 p.m. - Sault Area Middle School
December 13 - Regular Board Meeting -7 p.m. - Sault Area Middle School

61. **VI. *CLOSED SESSION***

A. *MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION M.O.M.A. 15.268 §8 (a)*

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education go into closed session after a short break at 8:18 p.m. in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8 (a), to consider a periodic personnel evaluation.

The Board went into closed session at 8:19 p.m.

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

The Board returned to open session at 8:49 p.m.

B. *MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION M.O.M.A. 15.268 §8 (h)*

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education go into closed session in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8 (h), to consider security planning.

The Board went into closed session at 8:49 p.m.

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

Motion Carried.

The Board returned to open session at 9:06 p.m.

62. **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 9:06 p.m., it was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Wilson, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Pingatore

Motion Carried.

Daniel L. Smith, President

Lisa A. Young, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary