

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

Minutes – Monday, July 12, 2021

1. ***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/92551700953> Call in: +1 646-876-9923
Meeting ID: 925 5170 0953

2. ***A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD***

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

Absent: None

3. ***B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA***

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

4. ***C. ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD MEETING DATES***

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education adopt the schedule of meetings for 2021-2022.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

5. ***D. DESIGNATION OF PERSON FOR POSTING NOTICES OF BOARD MEETINGS***

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education designate Judy Sirk for posting notices of board meetings.

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

6 ***E. APPROVAL OF FORMAT FOR REGULAR MEETING AGENDAS 2021-2022***

It was moved by Member Young, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the order for regular meeting as listed.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call***
- B. Adoption of Agenda***
- C. Approval of Minutes***
- D. Business Report***

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Reports to the Board***
- B. Superintendent Report***
- C. Audience Participation***

III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS

- A. Personnel***

IV. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES

V. FUTURE PLANNING

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

7. ***F. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION CLERK***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer was appointed to serve as Election Clerk. Secretary Young administered the Oath of Office to Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer.

8. **II. CONTINUE IN SESSION – REGULAR MEETING**

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 14, 2021

Closed Meeting – June 14, 2021

Special Meeting – June 28, 2001

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the June 14 Regular and Closed Minutes and the June 28 Special Minutes with Member DeWitt abstaining from the June 28 Special Minutes.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

9. **B. BUSINESS REPORT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS –
Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin sought approval for the July Bill Lists.

Mrs. Bennin reported the financial statements were reported on the accrual basis and the revenues and expenditures statements, balance sheet and graphs were omitted due to significant changes in those numbers over the next few months.

Mrs. Bennin reported the cash position and fund balance were healthy.

Mrs. Bennin reported the district received the first installment of the \$20,000 MCAN grant for support to promote college readiness, \$19,312.50 from the Mi-Connect grant for student technology items, and \$26,000 from the Native American Heritage Fund to establish a language program and create Ojibwe signage.

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

Mrs. Bennin reported going forward, the general fund statements will break out what is paid out of the Food Service Budget for purchases Chartwells Food Service makes on behalf of the district.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the June General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,457,571.87 and \$53,531.59 for Food Services.

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

10. **III. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Maintenance and Transportation Update – Mr. Tom Nelson

Mr. Nelson reported the district cannot take possession of the new Maintenance and Transportation Building until October, but U. P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. have been secured to draw up plans and apply for permits to install the bathrooms.

Mr. Nelson reported new notebooks were purchased and GPS tracking and student software were being installed to assist the bus drivers and the transportation department.

Mr. Nelson noted the GPS system will notify the driver up to 300 feet prior to each stop.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Mr. Nelson indicated he anticipates having the mechanics move over to the new garage by December.

B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

1. Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the west 16th Avenue property. She indicated she would seek Board approval for the sale once the title search is complete.

2. Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the collective partnership to use 3% ESSER funds to support broadband connectivity throughout the EUPISD region. She noted former Superintendent Hall reported on the possibility of a collective broadband effort last spring.

3. Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the goal of keeping students engaged and learning for the full 175 days of in-person instruction during COVID mitigation.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on SAULT 175 and highlighted the following:

- The comparison of legal mitigation requirements for school years 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- Three levels of guidelines for mitigation based on exposure.

- The possibility of having two different flow charts to follow for student mitigation based on whether a student had been vaccinated or not.
- Preparing and supporting mitigation efforts while educating possible student quarantines.
- Crafting a draft plan for instruction by August 1 based on input from parents, staff, and the community.
- Communicating a Board approved plan by August 9 to give parents time to make the Virtual Blue enrollment deadline if desired.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported non-resident students would need to apply through the Schools of Choice program prior to enrolling in Virtual Blue.

Upon inquiry, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated approximately 20 students had expressed interest in Virtual Blue.

Upon inquiry, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there had not been one student under quarantine in the Summer School Program.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she would like to provide an informational session for families to voice their concern and to share ideas about the district COVID mitigation plan prior to the August 13 Virtual Blue enrollment deadline.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the need to align a healthy blueprint to address student isolation, wellness, and unmet academic goals as the result of previous COVID mitigation.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported students who receive the COVID vaccine are populated in the MICCR system within 24 hours and Mrs. Michaels would have access to that information like the polo vaccine.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Mrs. Michaels would be able to provide a percent of students vaccinated by school.

Upon inquiry from President Smith and input from Member Pingatore, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the Health Department is responsible for contact tracing and it would appropriate for them to notify parents of exposure and mitigation based on vaccine records.

Member Wilson questioned possible classroom quarantines.

President Smith indicated the need to have a well thought out mitigation plan due to the speed of change.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated she would prepare a notice for parent input prior to the August 9 meeting.

Upon inquiry, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported several districts in the region were requiring students to wear masks during their summer school program.

Upon inquiry from Member Galer, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Karen Senkus of the Chippewa County Health Department would be the one to make an announcement if there was a community outbreak and what the mitigation efforts need to be.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the Board needs to approve a plan on how to respond with a recommendation from the health department.

Upon inquiry from Member Pingatore, President Smith indicated the Superintendent did not have to schedule a meeting prior to closing school and the Board could delegate procedures they wanted followed.

Discussion ensued on the possible increase of COVID and the level of authority the county and district now have on making recommendations and mandates to help stop the spread

Member DeWitt inquired on having a vaccine clinic in the high school. Member Pingatore suggested having the SHACC promote the vaccine instead of the school.

Member Young inquired on the level of medication strategy that allows students who wear masks to school to not be quarantined as opposed to those who do not wear masks to school.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the CDC recommends what is most beneficial.

Member Young indicated if it is not mandated by the state, students and staff should not be required to wear masks in school, but all other mitigation strategies should be followed. She noted there has not been any spread of COVID in summer school and students and staff are not wearing masks.

Member Pingatore congratulated Member DeWitt on his appointment to the state dental council.

Member DeWitt thanked Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer for her Friday email Updates.

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

11. IV. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS

A. AUTHORIZE BORROWING – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Benin reported a cash flow analysis was ran and she did not see a need for borrowing. She reported the Thrun note is drafted to help ease a situation should an unforeseen event happen, and the district need to secure short-term borrowing up to \$750,000.

President Smith reported the district prepares a note every year even though it hasn't had to borrow funds in 4 to 5 years. He indicated it enables the district to have access to funds more quickly and with the best interest rate but hoped it wouldn't be needed.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the resolution to enable the district to borrow funds to cover cash flow when necessary and authorize the Superintendent to coordinate the execution of the paperwork.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

12. B. BUS PURCHASE – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Bennin reported MSBO guidelines were followed in requesting quotes for the purchase of a bus.

Mrs. Bennin recommended the purchase of a new gas-powered bus to be purchased out of the transportation general fund budget.

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Mrs. Bennin and Mr. Tom Nelson reported the used bus inventory is very low and when you consider the mileage, rust accumulation, and compare gas to diesel, the new bus should last longer and be more efficient. Mr. Nelson reported a bus typically lasts about 9 years.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of one 2021 seventy-one passenger IC bus for \$84,149 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

13. C. ***POLICIES – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district is catching up on policies that have changes or are new in terms of the law. She noted they had been thoroughly reviewed with the Neola Representative and are being presented for their first reading.

Member DeWitt sought approval to allow the Pool Group to present a proposal to the Board for action.

President Smith reported the pool presentation was postponed last year as the Board was dealing with COVID and the Superintendent indicated he was retiring and wanted to allow the new Superintendent to have input.

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated she would look into having the group report at the August meeting.

Upon inquiry from Member Young, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district would notify parents through Facebook and SchoolMessenger about an informal/town hall meeting to discuss moving forward during the school year with COVID.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated she would like to offer a Zoom meeting prior to the Virtual Blue enrollment deadline to allow for maximum input and options.

Member Young explained the burden placed on Mrs. Micheals for the testing of COVID on student athletes. She inquired on the need to continue testing for the coming year.

Member Wilson echoed Member Young's sentiments and stated the district should not enforce more stringent requirements than it has to.

President Smith indicated Mrs. Michaels reported at a previous meeting if a procedure was not mandatory, only a suggestion, it fell upon the Board to impose the requirement.

Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported the last time she heard about athletic testing, the state wasn't requiring it but the CDC was only recommending it.

President Smith indicated he had read the recommendation for how communities need to function with COVID-19 going forward would be from the local health department instead of by the state.

President Smith welcomed Mrs. Scott-Kronmeyer as new Superintendent.

EDGAR Revisions

Policy 6114 – Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds

Policy 6325 – Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds

Policy 7450 – Property Inventory

Policy 7455 – Accounting System for Capital Assets

Nondiscrimination/Anti-Harassment

Policy 1422 – Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity

Policy 1623 – Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability

Discrimination in Employment

Policy 1622 – Anti-Harassment

Policy 2260 – Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity

Policy 3122 – Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity

Policy 3123 – Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability

Discrimination in Employment

Policy 3362 – Anti-Harassment

Policy 4122 – Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity

Policy 4123 – Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability

Discrimination in Employment

Policy 4362 – Anti-Harassment

Policy 5517 – Anti-Harassment

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Policy 2260.01 – Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability Policy

Policy 5341 – Emergency Medical Authorization

Policy 5342 – Do Not Resuscitate Orders for Minor Students

Policy 5343 – Physician Order for Scope of Treatment

Policy 7440.01 – Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring

Policy 8321 – Criminal Justice Information Security

Policy 8330 – Student Records

Policy 8400 – School Safety Information

Policy 8500 – Food Services

Policy 8510 - Wellness

14. **V. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES**

There was none.

15. **VI. FUTURE PLANNING**

July 21 – Board Workshop – 5:30 p.m. – Sault Area Middle School

President Smith noted the workshop was for the Board and Superintendent to receive training on their roles and how to move forward with a new superintendent as moderated by MLI.

August 9 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Sault Area Middle School

16. **VI. CLOSED SESSION - M.O.M.A. § 15.268 8(c)**

A. MOTION TO GO IN CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education move into closed session in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act §15.268 8(c), for strategy and negotiations.

The Board took a short recessed at 7:55 p.m.

The Board went into closed session at 7:57 p.m.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

17. **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:28 p.m., it was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Daniel L. Smith, President

Lisa A. Young, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary