

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

Minutes – Monday, June 14, 2021

319. **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/95712160526> Call in: +1 646-876-9923
Meeting ID: 957 1216 0526

320. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: None

321. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

322. **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – May 10, 2021

Closed Meeting – May 10, 2021

Special Meeting – May 27, 2021

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the minutes listed above with abstentions of Members Young and Wilson from the May 10 Regular and Closed Minutes and Member DeWitt from the May 27 Special Minutes.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

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

Mrs. Bennin reported the budgeted amounts had been updated on the statements to reflect the second budget amendment.

Mrs. Bennin reported there was an increase in this year’s May fund equity, the cash balance was on trend from the previous month, and budgeted expenditures remain similar to last year’s at this time.

President Smith stated the report had been reviewed by the Finance Committee last week and there were no questions.

Mrs. Bennin reported the auditors are scheduled to be onsite starting September 13 and she was looking forward to working with them in person.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the May General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,674,786.52 and the Food Service Bill List of \$22.80.

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

324. **II. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Recognition

a. Teacher of the Month (Autumn Barr) – Mrs. Diane Chevillot

Mrs. Chevillot reported on STEM teacher Autumn Barr and the additional work she put in to oversee the operation of the greenhouse for the students at Lincoln School.

Mrs. Chevillot will present Mrs. Barr with the Helpful Teacher of the Month tee shirt and a \$50 Parker Ace Hardware gift certificate sponsored by Doug LaPrade Agency MEEMIC Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

President Smith asked Mrs. Chevillot to pass on the Board’s congratulations.

b. Employee of the Month (Terri Ferroni) – Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported on Human Resources Specialist Terri Ferroni as Employee of the Month. She highlighted her 25 years of dedicated service and care for the employees and district. She wished her well in her retirement.

President Smith asked Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer to pass on the board's congratulations as well.

2. New Courses – Mr. Carl McCready and Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer

Mr. McCready briefly reviewed the three new courses.

Mr. McCready noted Mrs. Paulus developed the Native American Literature course and would be incorporating additional literature books such as Firekeeper's Daughter, The Round House, and There, There. He indicated Mrs. Paulus and Mrs. Blair worked to secure the author of the Firekeeper's Daughter to present Native American culture and the process of writing to the class.

1. Computer Science
2. Advanced Placement History
3. Dual Enrollment Native American Literature

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Mr. McCready reported students need to pass the advanced placement test at the end of the class in order to receive college credit for it.

Mr. McCready reported dual enrollment classes require students to obtain an SAT score prior to enrolling.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Mr. McCready confirmed students would ultimately receive credit for dual enrollment courses from the university and high school, and those courses are taught at the university, not at the high school.

Discussion ensued and Mr. McCready reported concurrent enrollment is taught by district staff at the high school and dual enrollment is taught at the university.

Mr. McCready reported dual enrollment is only allowed for non-elective courses that lead toward a degree program that the school doesn't already offer as an advanced placement course. He

indicated there is a whole set of criteria that needs to be met prior to enrolling in this type of class.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Mr. McCreedy noted concurrent and dual enrolled students have the same enrollment requirements, but it is basically where the course is offered that signifies the classification.

Member Curtis thanked Mr. McCreedy for making advanced classes available to students.

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reviewed the Computer Science course for students in grade 9. She noted its integration of math and science and indicated it would be reevaluated after its first pilot year.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer indicated the Computer Science course did not require a special computer endorsement, but two possible teachers and two CTE teachers were scheduled for training in July.

3. Professional Development 2021-2022 – Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the legislative requirement to have the District School Improvement Team (DSIT) approve professional development for student contact purposes.

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported the DSIT consists of administrators, teachers, elementary and secondary parents, student representatives, special education representative, vocational and technical representatives, appointed Superintendent, Director of Student Achievement, School Board Member, and SEA Board Member. She presented the proposed professional development calendar and indicated once it is approved, it is passed on to everyone's desktop for planning purposes.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported Professional Development is typically organized through teacher PLCs so staff have plenty of time to schedule a substitute, but it could be denied based on substitute availability.

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported new teachers are required to have 15 more professional development days.

Superintendent Hall reported prior to Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer working for the district, some teachers would request professional

development for courses unrelated to the courses they teach or their degree but that has become uncommon.

4. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan – Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer presented the May Virtual Blue attendance rates. She noted May was consistent with April and some students had dropped out and others graduated.

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported an assessment was given to students in grades kindergarten through tenth that demonstrated there was less growth in ELA than math. She stated the goal was to have 50% growth in the first semester and 60% in the second.

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported growth was determined by individual student assessment as well as among their grade-level peers.

5. Michigan Reading Law Update – Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district had not received official notice that the Michigan Reading Law had been delayed, so it will comply with the law and report by September 1 in CEPI the actions taken.

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported 9 students were flagged for retention according to the parameters of the law and parents were notified. She noted the district had received 5 parent good cause exemption letters to date.

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer stated the district did not see any reason to retain the students, but it would if families wanted.

Member Wilson stated he was happy with the number of students flagged as there were 26 students prior to COVID.

6. School Nurse Report – Mrs. Mary Michaels

Superintendent Hall introduced School Nurse Mary Michaels as Co-Employee of the Year and indicated she would present a brief summary of the school nurse report they had received in their packet.

Mrs. Michaels indicated she was happy to present the report in June again as it was presented in September last year due to the pandemic.

Mrs. Michaels reported the district met the state's requirement for student immunizations. She indicated 85 students had participated in Kindergarten Roundup via Zoom, and they would be current with immunizations for the start of school. She estimated there would be between 95-103 total kindergarten students and vision and hearing screening would be offered in the fall.

Mrs. Michaels reported she was not able to offer elementary health fairs this year but was looking forward to having the schools open up for guest speakers next year.

Mrs. Michaels reported she was able to represent the district via Zoom meetings for the Community Advisory Committee, Sault Health Adolescent Care Center, and the Chippewa County Health Department Personal & Family Health Advisory Board.

Mrs. Michaels reported Hepatitis B vaccines are available to school staff upon request.

Mrs. Michaels reported all incoming students had been entered in the student software systems and parents had the opportunity to enter health alerts at that time.

Mrs. Michaels reported 43 TB tests had been administered, and the only positive was for a student who has latent (non-active) tuberculosis.

Mrs. Michaels reported she was able to host the 29th Annual School Nurse Conference in October via Zoom and would be obtaining her TB certification over the summer.

Mrs. Michaels reported there were 2 pregnancies where the students attended school online and 1 who attended in person.

Mrs. Michaels reported 7 of the 206 fifth and eighth grade students tested positive for scoliosis or minor spinal deviations. She noted 3 who tested positive followed up with their physician. She thanked Doug Harksma and Kerry Lake for assisting with the screenings.

Mrs. Michaels reported on the number of flu vaccines given to students and staff. She indicated there were minimal flu viruses report.

Mrs. Michaels reported on the January 14 and February 5 Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines administered to 284 district and EUPISD

employees. She noted there were 134 positive COVID-19 cases reported over the year.

Mrs. Michaels reported there were 9 insulin dependent diabetic students, 34 students requiring epi pens for possible anaphylactic reactions, 159 students with history of asthma, and 22 students with history of seizures. She highlighted the importance of having a nurse present in the buildings with the higher amount of diabetic students to assist them in managing the disease.

Mrs. Michaels reported basic medical supplies have been ordered. She noted there is not an abundant supply of masks for schools if another mask mandate is ordered, the supply of Jr.epi/epi pens is good until December 2021/February 2022, Narcan is good until August 2022, and they will be replaced as necessary.

Mrs. Michaels reported the mobile dentist did not visit the elementary schools this year due to COVID.

Mrs. Michaels reported 11 staff who needed to be certified received CPR training.

Mrs. Michaels reported on the status of the AEDs and indicated 4 new ones were placed at Malcolm, Washington, Lincoln, and at Sault High Schools.

Mrs. Michaels reported she continues to be the Chairperson and Secretary for the district Wellness Committee. She reviewed several activities and events it sponsors to encourage healthy lifestyle choices. She noted blood pressure checks were and will continue to be available throughout the year.

Mrs. Michaels reported there were 134 positive COVID-19 cases in the district over the year and several students had to be quarantined up to 3 or 4 times throughout the year. She thanked Superintendent Hall for staying informed on what was going on in the community to keep students and staff safe and to not overburden agencies that were also struggling with COVID surges.

Mrs. Michaels thanked the Board of Education for allowing to implement measures needed to keep the district safe over the year.

B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Hall

Superintendent Hall reported Meg Boucher was the recipient of a MARSP grant to help fund a World Music for Rural Upper Peninsula project for her students.

Superintendent Hall announced Tom Nelson earned his MSBO Facility Director certificate.

2022 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Hall provided a quick review of the 2022 budget starting with the mission statement grounded in a commitment that every child will learn.

Superintendent Hall reported the fall 2020 enrollment was 1,939 students. He reviewed projected enrollment for years 2021 through 2025, and stated the district was budgeting for a decline of 60 students.

Superintendent Hall reported the 2022 budget did not include a change in per pupil allotment as the state had not approved its budget. He reviewed the historical allowance for school years 2014 through 2021 and noted the proposed foundational allowances among the Governor, State Senate, and State House.

Superintendent Hall reviewed the historical retirement rate for school years 2015-2022 and stated the modest increases in foundational allowance did not proportionately increase with district expenses for things like retirement and health insurance costs. He stated, as is customary, the first budget amendment would more accurately reflect the true budget.

Superintendent Hall presented the budgeted percent of revenues of 79% for State Sources, 61% State Aid, 18% Property Taxes, 12% Federal Grants, 8% Other Sources, and 1% Political Sources.

Superintendent Hall presented the budgeted percent of expenditures of 68% for Personnel Costs, 39% for Salaries, 29% for Benefits, 10% for Operations & Maintenance, 5% for Transportation, and 5% for Financing.

Superintendent Hall presented budget and fund equity assumptions. He highlighted the retirement rate increase to 43.05% and the June 30, 2022, fund balance of 18% of total expenditures.

Superintendent Hall reported a lot of input from the principals and the union goes into managing the budget.

Superintendent Hall reported on the “Watch List” districts can be placed on if their fund equity dips to 5%. He suggested the Board discuss authorizing the district to borrow funds as a safety net and for brevity should it be faced with unexpected expenses.

Superintendent Hall reported on the following Points of Pride.

1. One to One Computers
2. National Merit Scholar Finalist
3. Virtual Blue
4. SHACC
5. Career Center
6. Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Superintendent Hall reviewed the top three district goals.

1. Provide a high quality education in a safe environment
2. Improve student achievement
3. Be fiscally responsible

Upon inquiry, the Board did not have any questions.

326. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There were none.

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

A. PERSONNEL – Superintendent Hall

New Hires

Mr. Carl McCready introduced and presented Vincent Gross for the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach position and reported on his wide range of qualifications.

1. Vincent Gross – Head Varsity Volleyball Coach – Mr. Steve Lockwood

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Vincent Gross as Head Varsity Volleyball Coach for Sault Area High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Michelle Bennin presented Jordynn Fountain for the Payroll Specialist position and reported on her expanded qualifications.

2. Jordynn Fountain – Payroll Specialist – Sault Area Public Schools

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Mrs. Bennin reported upon approval, Jordynn would begin training on July 12 as the replacement for retiring Jan Wilson.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Jordynn Fountain as Payroll Specialist for Sault Area Public Schools.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Sandy Sawyer presented the following three recommendations and reported they placed in the top of the skillsets.

3. Anna Wilson – Administrative Assistant – Central Office/Sault Area High School

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Anna Wilson as Administrative Assistant for Central Office/Sault Area High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

4. Kristie Chambers – Administrative Assistant – Malcolm High School

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Kristie Chambers as Administrative Assistant for Malcolm High School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

5. Kerry Bell – Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper – Sault Area Middle School

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Kerry Bell as Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper for Sault Area Middle School.

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

328. **B. EXTENDED CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN – Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer**

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, ended Continuity of Learning Plan as presented.

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

329. **C. DISTRICT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM (DSIT) DESIGNATION – Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer**

It was moved by Member Dewitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education designate the DSIT to approve Teacher Professional Development.

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

330. **D. APPROVAL OF NEW COURSES - Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer**

1. Computer Science
2. AP World History
3. Dual Enrollment Native American Literature and High School Credit

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the new courses as approved by the District School Improvement Team.

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

331. **E. COURSE OFFERINGS – Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer**

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported the proposed course offerings consist of last year's courses plus the 3 new approved courses.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the list of 2021-2022 course offerings for Sault Middle, Sault High, and Malcolm High as approved by the District School Improvement Team.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

332. **F. 2021 TAX RATE REQUEST (Form L-4029) – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reported the tax request was similar to last year's with a cap of 18 mills levied for homestead and 2.40 on debt mills. She noted the debt mills are set by PFM Consultation.

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Mrs. Bennin reported the debt mills levied are based on the district's outstanding debt and it would increase if the district incurred more.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the 2021 Tax Rate Request (Form L-4029) of 18 mills on non-homestead property for school operations, and 2.4 mills on all property for school debt.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

333. **G. FOOD SERVICE PAYMENT PROCESSING SYSTEM – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reported on the need to migrate to the new MISTAR food service management module to link with the MISTAR student information system. She sought approval to execute the necessary documents.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Superintendent Hall stated parents would be notified of the new system in early August.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education authorize the Business Manager to serve as the district contact and execute the necessary documents.

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

334. **H. *OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST – Mrs. Debra Gardner***

Superintendent Hall presented the overnight travel request.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the overnight travel to Novi for the Pom Pon Squad to participate in Summer Dance Camp and Competition.

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

Member DeWitt indicated he was happy to see students return to normal activities.

335. **I. *MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (MHSAA) – Superintendent Hall***

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the resolution for membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association for Sault Area High School and Sault Area Middle School for August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022.

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

336. **J. *MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS MEMBERSHIP – Superintendent Hall***

Superintendent Hall reported the annual membership is based on student enrollment. He noted two of the best services available through MASB is access to training and legal services.

It was moved by Member Young, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the Michigan Association of School Boards

membership and legal trust fund fees for 2021-2022 in the amount of \$4,526.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

337. **K. SET BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR JULY**

President Smith needs to call the July organizational meeting for the 2021-2022 school year.

President Smith set the July 12, 20201 – the 2nd Monday for the organizational meeting.

338. **L. GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

1. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers donated Channel, Plate, Flat bar stick and pipes for use by students in the Career Center welding program.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

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

Member Pingatore acknowledged Superintendent Hall's retirement and thanked him for his dedication and direction. She presented him with a gift of appreciation.

President Smith acknowledged a special meeting was scheduled for June 28.

Member Young strongly recommended the mask requirement be lifted for Summer School.

Superintendent Hall reported the district was following CDC guidelines.

Upon inquiry from Member Young, President Smith stated the Board could wait two weeks to see if the anticipated CDC guidelines change or he could open the meeting up for a formal motion.

Superintendent Hall stated he would like to research the guidelines and provide them with more feedback.

President Smith asked Board members to email Dr. Hall if they had an official articles indicating the guidelines had been lifted.

Member Wilson indicated he was looking forward to getting school back to functioning normal as soon as possible.

President Smith acknowledged he would like to see the school mask mandate lifted, but felt the decision needed to be made by the health department and/or the CDC.

Superintendent Hall reported if the district was given a more flexible route, he would be happy to comply.

Mary Michaels reported she was not aware of any recommended mask mandate changes by the local health department or CDC.

Member Young indicated she believed Alpena Schools dropped their mask requirement. Member Wilson indicated he had thought Kent County did as well.

Member Galer reported she was proud to serve on the Board after attending and hearing back from the public on how many students received awards, graduated, and are doing great things out in the community. She noted several people commented on how they enjoyed the graduation ceremonies. She thanked the principals for all their efforts.

Member Wilson wished happy birthday to Malcolm Principal Sandy Sawyer.

340. V. ***FUTURE PLANNING***

President Smith reviewed future events.

June 28, 2021 – Special Meeting – Sault Middle School – 5:30 p.m.
Member DeWitt indicated he would not be present for the meeting.

July 12, 2021 – Organizational Meeting – Sault Middle School – 7:00 p.m.

July 21, 2021 – Board Workshop – Sault Middle School – 5:30 p.m.

President Smith confirmed the Board would only take action to adjourn the meeting upon returning to open session.

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

A. MOTION TO GO IN CLOSED SESSION

The Board recessed at 8:51 p.m.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 8:55 p.m. in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act §15.268 8(c), for strategy and negotiations.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

The Board returned to open session at 9:38 p.m.

342. **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 9:39 p.m., it was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Wilson, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Daniel L. Smith, President

Lisa A. Young, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary