

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

Minutes – Thursday, August 20, 2020

51. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Smith called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. in the Sault Area High School Cafeteria, 904 Marquette Avenue, electronically via Zoom at <https://eupschools.zoom.us/j/99085582997> and with Dial-in at +1-646-876-9923, Meeting ID: 990 8558 2997

A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD

Board Members Present: Jay D. Wilson, Lisa A. Young, Daniel L. Smith, Martin R. Wolski, Christine M. Curtis

Board Members Virtually Present: Melissa S. Pingatore, Joseph A. Cochran

Absent: None

52. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

Remove Item III. E. and replace it with Item F.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore, Cochran

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

53. **A. REPORTS TO BOARD**

1. Virtual Blue Update – Superintendent Hall

Dr. Hall thanked the SEA representatives, administrators, counselors and teachers who have been working on the development of the Virtual Blue

Program. He noted the scheduling of students, teacher assignments, and compensation was a major undertaking.

Dr. Hall reported the district had originally estimated 10% of the student body would enroll in the program, but it is closer to 5%, and the results show that the majority of the families are generally comfortable with sending their children to school.

Superintendent Hall reported the majority of teachers were comfortable teaching a Virtual Blue class inside or outside of the work day.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Dr. Hall reported he will report back on actual student numbers by subsections closer to the start of school.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Dr. Hall reported the majority of teachers volunteered to teach Virtual Blue classes, but 5 or less were assigned.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Dr. Hall reported not all teachers were certified in the area or comfort level, but are working toward that.

Upon inquiry from Member Wolski, Dr. Hall reported some of the teacher assignments took into consideration the number of in person students in a class period and the need for a virtual teacher. He noted none of the teachers would teach in person and virtual at the same time.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Dr. Hall reported teachers would be compensated extra if they took on an extra class outside of their existing full-time schedule.

Dr. Hall reported he had hoped that one teacher on lay off would be willing to return, and there was possibly one new retirement.

54. **B. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

III. ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Hall reported it was rewarding and affirming to recognize the district is doing what it can to support its employees during difficult circumstances. He thanked the Board for their support in securing all of the compensation agreements, guides, and contracts.

55.

A. APPROVAL OF LETTERS OF AGREEMENT – Superintendent Hall

1. Bus Drivers

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the Bus Drivers one-year letter of agreement as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore

Nays: Cochran

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

2. Cooks

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Wolski, that the Board of Education approve the Cooks one-year letter of agreement as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore

Nays: Cochran

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

3. Food Servers

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Wolski, that the Board of Education approve the Food Servers one-year letter of agreement as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore

Nays: Cochran

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

4. Maintenance

It was moved by Member Young, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the Maintenance one-year letter of agreement as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore

Nays: Cochran

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

5. Paraprofessionals

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the Paraprofessionals one-year letter of agreement as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore
Nays: Cochran
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

6. Secretaries

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Wolski, that the Board of Education approve the Secretaries one-year letter of agreement as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore
Nays: Cochran
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

7. Sault Education Association

It was moved by Member Wolski, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the Sault Education Association one-year letter of agreement as presented.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Superintendent Hall reaffirmed the SEA agreement included teacher steps, a one time off-scheduled payment of approximately 1% of their base, and a 2% cap on insurance.

Yeas: Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis
Nays: Cochran
Abstain: Wilson, Pingatore
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

56. **B. APPROVAL OF COMPENSATION GUIDES – Superintendent Hall**

1. Administrators

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Wolski, that the Board of Education approve the Administrators Compensation Guide as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore

Nays: Cochran
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

2. Mid-Management Support Group

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the Mid-Management Compensation Guide as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore
Nays: Cochran
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

57. C. ***APPROVAL OF INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS - Superintendent Hall***

1. Superintendent

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Wolski, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent contract as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore
Nays: Cochran
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

2. Director of Student Achievement

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the Director of Student Achievement contract as presented.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore
Nays: Cochran
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

3. Business Manager

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Wolski, that the Board of Education approve the Business Manager contract as presented.

Yeas: Pingatore
Nays: Cochran
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

58. **D. FACILITY USAGE – Superintendent Hall**

Dr. Hall reported there were several internal discussions surrounding the use of facilities while living through the pandemic. He indicated the following topics were of concern: keeping students and staff safe, allowing enough time to clean the buildings, additional costs for extra cleaning, and a vast amount of health and safety concerns.

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to prohibit non-school related groups from using district facilities for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Hall noted that programs such as our after school program, and the program run by the Boys and Girls Club, that provide academic support for students will go on as scheduled.

After discussion on inside versus outside usage, notifications and considerations of the guidelines, and the uncertainty of local restrictions, the following motion was made.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to prohibit non-school related groups from using district buildings for first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore, Cochran
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

59. **F. GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

Superintendent Hall presented the following donation.

1. Soo Coop Credit Union donated \$1,500 for the purchase of student masks.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education accept the donation from Soo Coop Credit Union with thanks and appreciation.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore, Cochran
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

60. **IV. BOARD GOVERNANCE & BOARD POLICY ISSUES**

Upon inquiry from President Smith and Member Wilson, Superintendent Hall indicated he is concerned about the district's responsibility for cleaning the playground equipment. He said ultimately the decision is that the district will not do extra cleaning on the equipment.

President Smith reminded the audience to please contact the Board or Superintendent if they had any questions or concerns, especially with rumors that don't seem right. He indicated it's best to get the story straight before posting opinions on social media.

Members Cochran and Wilson indicated they understand the public's concerns as everyone is getting frustrated with dealing with the pandemic.

Member Young suggested additional communication to the public on the facility use guidelines, the Virtual Blue program, and what the expectations are for parents of students who will be returning in person.

61. **V. FUTURE PLANNING**

President Smith reviewed the following.

September 8 - First Day of School

September 14 - Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 p.m. – Location TBD

62. **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 6:17 p.m., it was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Cochran, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Wilson, Young, Smith, Wolski, Curtis, Pingatore, Cochran

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Daniel L. Smith, President

Melissa S. Pingatore, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary