

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

Minutes – Monday, January 9, 2023

126. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Galer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Sault Area Middle School, 684 Marquette Avenue.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the following students.

Student Leaders: Caitlyn Stevens, Eliot Cymbalist, Clar Bidleman, Zach Seward, and Taylor Smart were recognized for their talents in Tracy Menard's Drama Class. They reported on their role and experience in the Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

Student Honors: Kenzie Dovick was recognized for her first place in the EUP Science Fair. She presented her project findings on The 5 Second Rule and answered Board questions.

127. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

Board Members Present: Christine M. Curtis, Melissa S. Pingatore, Caitlin L. Galer, Kenneth D. Dunton, Michelle Mary Ribant, William E. Odbert

Absent: Daniel L. Smith

128. **B. OATH OF OFFICE BY NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer administered the Oath of Office to elected and appointed Board Members Missy S. Pingatore, William E. Odbert, Kenneth D. Dunton, and Michelle M. Ribant.

129. **C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following officers were elected.

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Ribant, to nominate Christine Curtis as President.

There were no other nominations.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Galer, Curtis, Pingatore, Dunton

Nays: None
Absent: Smith
Motion Carried.

President, Christine Curtis

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Ribant, to nominate Caitlin Galer as Vice President.

There were no other nominations.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton
Nays: None
Absent: Smith
Motion Carried.

Vice-President, Caitlin Galer

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Dunton, to nominate Missy Pingatore as Secretary.

There were no other nominations.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton
Nays: None
Absent: Smith
Motion Carried.

Secretary, Melissa Pingatore

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, to nominate Ken Dunton as Treasurer.

There were no other nominations.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton
Nays: None
Absent: Smith
Motion Carried.

Treasurer, Ken Dunton

130. **D. BOARD COMMITTEES**

Appointments were made to the following committees with unanimous support.

2023 Facilities and Grounds Committee

Daniel Smith, William Odbert, and Caitlin Galer were appointed to the Facilities and Grounds Committee.

2023 Finance Committee

Christine Curtis, Caitlin Galer, and Ken Dunton were appointed to the Finance Committee.

2023 Superintendent Evaluation Committee

Melissa Pingatore and Michelle Ribant were appointed to the Superintendent Evaluation Committee.

2023 Athletic Advisory Committee

Christine Curtis and Caitlin Galer were appointed to the Athletic Advisory Committee.

2023 District School Improvement Committee

Michelle Ribant was appointed to the District School Improvement Committee.

131. ***E. LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS NETWORK DESIGNATION***

Ken Dunton accepted the position of Representative for the Michigan Association of School Boards Legislative Relations Network.

132. ***F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA***

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education adopt the agenda.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Motion Carried.

133. ***II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS***

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Helpful Teacher of the Month (Megan Causley) – Mrs. Sandy Sawyer

Mrs. Sawyer reported on Megan Causley being selected as the Helpful Teacher of the Month.

2. Helpful Employee of the Month (Steven Thoresen) – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on Steve Thoresen being selected as the Helpful Employee of the Month. She noted administration appreciates his positive attitude and helpful work.

President Curtis asked administration to pass on the Board's appreciation and congratulations to Ms. Causley and Mr. Thoresen.

3. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Bennin sought approval for the December general fund and food service bill lists.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the state aid payment adjustment to reflect a decrease of 7.47 FTEs from the fall 2021 blended account.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the update to revenues and expenditures and the percent of year to date budgeted expenditures with the 14-month fiscal year budgeted expenditures.

Mrs. Bennin reported despite December being a 3-pay month, there was a slight increase in cash and fund equity balances due to federal drawdowns. She reported on the significant year to date increase in the MILAF accounts as interest rates received in were just over \$34,000.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the RFP for the Sault High CTE painting in the classrooms and shops. She noted the cost was approved in the CTE Millage for a not to exceed cost of \$110,000.

Upon inquiry from Mrs. Bennin, there were no questions.

134. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the Board with a certificate of appreciation for their service on behalf of Michigan School Board Recognition Month.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reviewed the consent agenda items and stated Caitlin Coon was being recommended for the JV Softball Coach.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the softball Overnight Travel was being presented because the Varsity Softball group was leaving for a more extended time, during the year, out of state.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reviewed the extensive list of gifts and donations.

Member Dunton sought confirmation that the softball overnight travel request was on the consent agenda.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on what federal Impact Aid is, what it is designed for, and what data is accepted to meet the requirements.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district works with the local Tribe on Impact Aid IPPs and typically holds three open hearings a year to learn of any adjustments that need to be made to best meet the needs of the students.

The Board opened the meeting up for comment on Impact Aid. There was none.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the excellent work Angela Love does in processing Impact Aid documents. She presented a graph on the number of students by property boundary and noted the increase in students from last year to this year.

The Board opened the meeting up for public comment on the Continuity of Services plan.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported accepting ESSER II and ESSER III funds requires districts to have a defined plan on how to use the funds. She indicated last year's plan was called Continuity of Learning, and this year's plan is called Continuity of Services. She stated this year's plan is to promote and sustain high impact, in-person learning.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported COVID funds were used to establish Virtual Blue learning and to reduce communicable diseases. She noted at the height of the program there was 250 students and now it is less than 100.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on homebound instruction and its purpose to serve at-risk students.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the need to use ESSER funds to hire, train, and retain exemplary staff. She reported a Professional Development Day for Staff Wellness was planned for January 23.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported school employees need to continue to work on engaging parents and the community, prepare for the future, support students, and to continuously learn to be better for the students.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the unique opportunity to pursue a no-mill referendum in November 2023 for specific bond allowable expenditures.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer invited Jesse Nelson CPA and Partner of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC to introduce the company and explain how it could assist the district in capital improvement planning and filing for a no-mill referendum.

Upon inquiry from Member Dunton, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the existing bonds expire with the July 2025 tax bill and those were used for the Middle School improvements.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented a spreadsheet on the dates the district's buildings were built or last remodeled. She noted their maintenance costs continue to rise.

Upon inquiry from Member Dunton, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Moore Trosper assists districts in working with focus teams to narrow down project needs, and the referendum would be for another 25 years.

There were no further questions.

135. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no one.

136. **D. OPEN HEARINGS**

1. Impact Aid

Upon inquiry from Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer, there was no comment on Impact Aid.

2. Continuity of Services

Upon inquiry from Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer, there was no comment on the Continuity of Service Plan.

III. BOARD ACTIONS

137.

A. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

President Curtis reviewed the consent agenda items and sought confirmation that the Board did not want to remove any item.

1. Minutes – Special December 17, 2022, Closed 15.268 §8(a) December 17, 2022, Closed 15.268 8(c) December 17, 2022, and Special January 5, 2023.
2. December General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,895,412.32 and Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$79,514.01.
3. New Hires
 - a. Katelynn Coon – JV Softball Coach – Sault Area High School
4. Gifts and Donations
 - a. Meijer donated \$5,000 to Kidz Klosets/Pantires
 - b. Chippewa County Sunrise Rotary donated \$500 to the Middle School Kidz Kloset.
 - c. Old Mission Bank donated \$150 to Middle School Student Initiatives.
 - d. Soo Co-op Credit Union donated \$100 to the Middle School Kidz Kloset.
 - e. Dr. Flickinger donated clothing, boots, and coats to the Middle School Kidz Kloset.
 - f. LSSU Gear-UP Program donated 36 boxes of sustainable food packets to the Middle School Kidz Kloset.
 - g. Doug LaPrade Meemic Insurance Agency sponsored the Staff Welcome Back Breakfast and continues to co-sponsor Chamber Bucks for the Teachers/Employees of the Month Recognition with Michael Lynn of Parker Ace Hardware.
 - h. International Antique Auto Club Inc./Twin Sault Cruisers donated \$400 for students in transition and \$400 to the Middle School Kidz Kloset.
 - i. Overnight Travel Request – Softball Team – Lisa Schulte

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the consent resolution.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Motion Carried.

138.

B. IMPACT AID – Superintendent Scott Kronemeyer

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the Indian Policies and Procedures and accept any open hearing comments.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton
Nays: None
Absent: Smith
Motion Carried.

There was no comment.

139. **C. *CONTINUITY OF SERVICES – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the Continuity of Services Plan as presented and to accept any open hearing comments.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton
Nays: None
Absent: Smith
Motion Carried.

There was no comment.

140. **D. *CTE PAINTING – Mrs. Michelle Benning***

It was moved by Member Ribant, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the bid for Nomad Construction to do the painting in the Career Center for an amount not to exceed \$110,000.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton
Nays: None
Absent: Smith
Motion Carried.

There was no comment.

141. **E. *PARTNERSHIP FOR REFERENDUM – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer virtually presented Moore Trosper, C2ae, and Bake-Tilly in moving forward with the no-mill increase referendum.

Upon inquiry from Member Dunton, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Thrun would review the documents prior to her signing them.

Upon inquiry from Member Dunton, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there is no cost for the preliminary work until a positive vote is

received, and then the fee for Moore Trosper is expected to be about \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported if the projected moves forward, the construction manager would be on site for at least a year and then based on the scope of work.

It was moved by member Galer, supported by Member Ribant, that the Board approve the superintendent to sign the engagement letters with Moore Trosper, CZAE, and Baker-Tilly LLC. for the referendum as presented.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Motion Carried.

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

Supervisor Scott-Kronemeyer reported school board members have the opportunity to attend MASB conferences, events and classes in person or online. She suggested they contact her office for registration.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer suggested new board members attend the MASA School ADvance training for use with the superintendent evaluation tool.

Member Dunton reported he would not be available for training February 14 through March 12.

Member Galer reported MASB offers great educational tools with the ability to earn different certification levels.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported MASB and MASA may reach out to board members but they should contact her office for registration. She noted the district is eligible for reimbursement with some classes.

President Curtis notified new board members of their opportunity to raise any comment, question, or concern during the Board Governance section of the meetings.

143. **V. FUTURE PLANNING**

President Curtis reviewed future events.

January 11, 2023 – School Board Meeting – Middle School-Room 601 – 5:00 p.m.

February 13, 2023 – School Board Meeting – Middle School – 7:00 p.m.
March 13, 2023 – School Board Meeting – Sault Middle School – 7:00 p.m.

144. **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 7:54 p.m., it was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Galer, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Ribant, Odbert, Curtis, Galer, Pingatore, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Motion Carried.

Christine M. Curtis, Board President

Melissa S. Pingatore, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary