

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

**Minutes – Monday, February 13, 2023**

158. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Curtis 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 CTE students.

159. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: Daniel L. Smith

160. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Odbert, to adopt the agenda.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Motion Carried.

161. **II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS**

**A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

**1. Helpful Teacher of the Month (Hillary Taylor) – Carl McCready**

Mr. McCready introduced Hillary Taylor as the district's Helpful Teacher of the Month. He reported on her outstanding attributes and positive leadership. He presented her with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency Meemic Insurance.

Ms. Taylor commented on Lincoln being a helpful and positive place to work.

**2. Helpful Employee of the Month (Erika Chevillot) - Carl McCready**

Mr. McCready introduced Erika Chevillot as the district's helpful Employee of the Month. He presented several examples of how Erika provides the care and support for the students and staff. He presented her with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency Meemic Insurance.

Ms. Chevillot indicated she couldn't do what she does without the leadership from Mr. McCready and staff.

**3. CTE Month - Jo Anne Lussier**

Mrs. Lussier reported on the positive effects of students with exposure to CTE programs in the areas of industry recognized credit, higher graduation rate, attendance, and soft skills.

Mrs. Lussier reviewed the CTE and Middle College programs, the state-wide articulation agreements, and the individual program agreements.

Mrs. Lussier presented the following CTE students. Students: Andrew MacDonald, Alexandra Miller, and Kenedy Hagan.

Andrew MacDonald a senior at Sault High reported on his experience with CTE classes starting with his freshman year. He noted you have to learn the equipment for welding and then work to perfect your techniques you need to first learn how to use the equipment and then like art, you work to improve your technique. He reported the automotive class teaches how everything functions together

Alexandra Miller reported on CTE Introduction to Manufacturing, Welding, Machining, and Business Administration classes. She noted it is good to learn about the different programs and see how they interrelate with the others regardless of what you ultimately choose to pursue after high school.

Kenedy Hagan reported on CTE Health Sciences and Business Administration classes. She noted multiple certifications available through the programs and their application to real world jobs.

On behalf of Morgan Brow, Kenedy Hagan reported HOSA is similar to BPA where students practice and test in skills that they compete in to help deepen their understanding of what they are most interested in.

Mrs. Lussier reported Andrew, Alexandra, and Kenedy were shining examples of several students who take CTE classes/programs and she is proud that Andrew also applies his skills by working Soo Motors.

#### 4. Building Reports – Principals

##### a. Sault Area High School and Career Center - Jeanine Sherman

Mrs. Sherman reported on the following activities at Sault High:

- Peer to Peer Powder Puff Game ending Snow Coming Week
- Student Government sponsored a Staff versus Student Lip Sync Battle
- Athletic Department sponsored Rivals versus Cancer Game

Mrs. Sherman reported the following new classes for next year: Early Middle College - Law Enforcement and Early Childhood Development, Advanced Placement Computer Science #2, and an active Student Leadership class.

Mrs. Sherman reported on student accountability for online classes, scheduling, and projected enrollments for incoming students.

##### b. Malcolm High School - Sandy Sawyer

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the following activities at Malcolm School:

- Student Fashion Show
- Student Appreciation Day at the Big Bear
- Volunteering with the United Way
- Monthly drawings for BPIS
- Student volunteers to help with the GRSP

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the possibility of having students work a couple of hours a day for the Early Childcare Program next year.

##### c. Sault Middle School - Jessica Rondeau

Ms. Rondeau reported on the following activities at Sault Middle School:

- Tubing for Winter Family Night
- Heart Smart Month promoted by the SHACC Student Youth Council
- In support of the POG, student affirmations for Bucket Filling
- Native Youth Council promoting Thankful Thursdays
- Second Semester Students of the Month sponsored by Chippewa

- County Credit Union
- SAIL students volunteering at Hearthside, Salvation Army, and United Way-Get Ducked
- Spirit/Kindness Week
- PBIS – apples from Alpine Chocolate Haus

Ms. Rondeau thanked Applebee’s, Domino’s, Roy Electric, The Merch, and Wicked Sister for supporting the Super Student Lunch Bunch.

d. Lincoln School - Carl McCready

Mr. McCready reported on the following activities at Lincoln School:

- Social Studies Fair for students in grades 3-5
- Winter Fun Day
- The Enormous Egg book, a visit by PaleoJoe, and Amped up bikes for March is Reading Month
- Falcon Fridays
- Family Literacy Night at Washington School
- Popcorn Fridays sponsored by local businesses
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Mr. McCready reported on the second Lunch with the Principal and thanked Albert’s Heating and Cooling for this month’s sponsorship.

e. Washington School – Sheri McFarlane

Dr. McFarlane reported on the following activities at Washington School:

- Assessments for report cards
- Friday Fun Day with the use of snowshoes loaned by Mr. McCready
- Volunteers in the building – a lot of Grandparents
- LSSU teacher education partnership assistance
- Kindness week with bucket filling and the importance of remembering 3 good things that happen each day
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Reading Month
- Welcoming incoming Kindergarteners through a 3-part process

President Curtis thanked the principals for taking the time to report on their building.

**f. Growth Data – Barb Light**

Dr. Light explained what “bucket filling” is and the positive impact it has on adults and kids. She indicated it is being implemented across the district and some teachers have read the book on it.

Dr. Light reported on the difference between a student’s growth and proficiency. She noted both measures are important when evaluating teaching and learning.

Dr. Light reported the Middle of the Year Reading and Math Goal is to have 50% of students meet their projected growth from Fall 2022 to Winter 2023 on the NWEA test.

Dr. Light presented the percent of students in grades Kindergarten through 10 who met the growth target in reading and math on the NWEA. The results were further broken out by Female, Male, Native American, and White. She indicated she tries to understand the reason and support needed if there is a 10 percent discrepancy between two sub populations.

Dr. Light gave kudos to the teachers whose student numbers met or exceed the 50 percent growth target and indicated she offers improvements to the individual teachers whose students have not met the goal.

Dr. Light reported on the fluctuation of student proficiency in reading during the middle years. She indicated she likes to see the results at 60 percent or above by the end of the year as it is an indicator they will pass their MEAP data.

Upon inquiry from Member Ribant, Dr. Light stated she would compare last year’s data to this year.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the growth data is based on the student against themselves. She indicated other factors are considered when comparing the student data such as the student not having the opportunity to attend preschool so they may come in at a lower threshold.

Upon inquiry from Member Ribant, Dr. Light indicated the low proficiency but high growth rate in grade 3 is typically because students come into the district low and the teachers have not been able to reach them up to the grade level. She indicated those students could move up over time.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Dr. Light confirmed Virtual Blue student data was included in the report. Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district is required to report on all student data twice a year due to COVID funding requirements.

#### 5. School Resource Officer Update - Officer Trevor Adkins

Officer Adkins reported he had applied for several grants and received funding from the School SRO and School Safety grants. He indicated some funds would help with the cost of his expense and the others would go toward critical incident mapping and building assessments.

Officer Adkins reported on the need and companies involved in the mapping and building assessments

Officer Adkins reported on the elementary classroom presentations and investigation-themed activity to support prevention and education.

Office Adkins reported on the increased number of social media and cell phone incidents at the Middle School and High School. He is working with administration to implement strategies to combat it.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated to the best of her knowledge the district blocks students at school from having access to outside sites, but it cannot block the use on personal cellular data.

Officer Adkins reported on the daily challenges of trying to protect the educational environment when students are using cell phones during the day. He stated the law is clear that it is not in our jurisdiction to monitor the phones purchased by the parent, it is the parent's responsibility.

Office Adkins reported on the formation of a task force to help develop policies and procedures to minimize the effects of online bullying at school.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Officer Adkins reported the vast majority of negative online activity is conducted on personal cell phones and half of the activity spills over into the school environment.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Office Adkins reported the district has been doing a really good job of working to get ahead of incidents.

**6. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Benning sought approval for the January General Fund and Food Service bill lists. She reported on the overall cash and fund equity increase due to winter tax collections and receipting in first drawdowns.

Mrs. Bennin noted with the upcoming state budgeting season, the district is in good shape for planning its fiscal 2023-2024 budget.

Mrs. Bennin reported the next budget amendment will be presented in May.

**Banking Resolution – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reported the banking resolution approves the bank accounts since January 2022 under the district's tax identification number to the current building administrators.

162. **B. *SUPERINTENDENT REPORT***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on being selected to partner with Teach for America. She indicated the district is one of three outside the Detroit area.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the \$10,000 scholarships for the Early Career Educator afforded to existing certified teachers.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the National Board Certification program that provides up to \$35,000 for teachers who have applied and been selected to generate all-inclusive ongoing improvement in schools.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the Aspiring Leaders cohort program for experienced teachers in grades Kindergarten through 12 that assists in developing core competencies and leadership roles to help accelerate student outcomes.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the T.E.A.C.H. Michigan alternative route to certification program designed to help begin a teaching career and keep teachers in Michigan.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there are three interested in the program and it is in addition to the Grow Your Own grant. She noted the Grown Your Own is for non-certified teachers and she gave Dr. Light accolades for applying for that grant.

Member Ribant indicated the T.E.A.C.H. Michigan was epic with a three year state allocation.

Upon inquiry from Member Ribant, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated she thought there was a state-wide number of districts that could participate in the Teach for America program.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the grant submission for building air purifiers and filters. She indicated Tom Nelson would be collecting data to ensure there is enough electrical support to sustain them.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the rigorous schedule for the incoming RFPs and board meetings scheduled for March 23 and 27.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the hiring committee has made a recommendation for the Special Education Supervisor references are being called.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the Sault Early Learning Center opportunity for all income levels and its growing partnerships with Tri-Share and Michigan Works. She indicated the center was progressing through the licensing process and would provide more updates when available.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Superintendent Kronemeyer indicated Jessica Savoie, Vicky Thomas, and she were behind the research for the extended care learning center.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the overnight travel request for the High School Band trip in May. She indicated the request was needed early to secure tickets to the musical “Wicked”.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the March 2 overnight travel request for the Robotics Team to compete in Escanaba.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the March 9 overnight travel Request for BPA students to compete in Grand Rapids.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Mrs. Lussier reported there would not be an overnight travel request HOSA as the conference was a day trip.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer gave a shout-out to CTE students Lauren Smith and Aurora Corbiere who did a fantastic job of reaching out and being persistent in the latest publication of the Spotlight on Education.



Superintendent Scott reviewed the list of gifts and donations for the month and thanked the community for their support.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on and indicated her appreciation for the return of the Handle with Care Program.

163. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Allen Walther offered some advice on conducting business, planning the budget, retaining employees, and improving the district's infrastructure. He addressed the need to fix the high school pool.

President Curtis thanked Mr. Walther for his comments.

**III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS**

164. **A. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

1. Minutes – Regular January 9, 2023; Special January 11, 2023; Special February 1, 2023.
2. January General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,550,220.18 and Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$48,547.37
3. Gifts and Donations
  - a. ADC Dance Studio LLS donated \$600 to the Washington School Food Pantry/Kids Closet.
  - b. Les Townsend of Island Books & Crafts donated a children's book entitled Boats Can't Jump: The Story of The Soo Locks.
  - c. The United Way donated several pairs of hand knitted mittens to Washington School.
  - d. St. Mary's Church donated winter hats and gloves to Washington School.
  - e. The Oliver and Anna Turner family donated 15 new books to the Washington and Lincoln Elementary School Libraries.
  - f. Chippewa County Health Department Employees donated \$212.75 from dress-down funds to the homeless youth program.
4. Overnight Travel Request (Robotics) - Ms. Jeanne Shibley
5. Overnight Travel Request (Band) - Mrs. Sara Perfetti
6. Overnight Travel Request (BPA) – Mrs. Kellie Greener, Mrs. Heather Suggitt, Mrs. Katie Watchorn
7. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Goal Report - Dr. Barb Light

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Odbert, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda items.

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

Nays: None  
Absent: Smith  
Motion Carried.

165.        **B.        *BOARD BYLAW 0144.1***

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education omit the first line of Bylaw 0144.1.

Member Dunton indicated he felt the position was that of a volunteer and that does not mean a paid position.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer confirmed board members do not have to accept compensation, but they do need to sign off that they do not want it for auditing purposes.

Member Ribant reported on consideration for some members who may have to drive a distance or pay a ferry to attend the meetings.

Member Galer indicated the Bylaw/Policy had been in place for several years and arose last year when someone came across it online.

Member Dunton indicated the policy was active but not followed when he had previously been on the board.

Member Galer reported last year previous Member Young and she had discussed it would be a financial disadvantage for a member who has young children or a child with a disability in need of childcare or a shift worker who needs someone to work their shift in order to be able to attend a board meeting. Member Galer estimated it cost her \$1,100 in childcare for her first year on the Board, and to some people a stipend would be important for them to participate.

Member Dunton indicated you cannot say you are volunteering when you receive compensation, and he had a young son at home when he first served on the board.

Upon inquiry from Member Galer, Member Dunton confirmed the bylaw/policy had been adopted for a while and was unsure if there had been any revisions to it since 1994.

Member Galer stated a little compensation would help offset the cost for ferry tickets or a baby sitter.

Members Curtis and Pingatore indicated they had the same feeling about the position on the board being a volunteer position.

Yeas: Galer, Odbert, Ribant  
Nays: Dunton, Pingatore, Curtis  
Absent: Smith  
Motion Split, Not Carried.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer confirmed the policy remains with a split vote.

166            **C.     *BANKING RESOLUTION – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Ribant, that the Board of Education approve all the current accounts and signers under the District’s tax ID number.

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

There was no comment.

167.           **D.     *MASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported incumbent Kurt Perron and former member Brad Baltensperger were candidates for one position on the MASB Region 1 Board of Directors. She indicated the Board had received the candidates’ bio sheet in their packets.

Member Galer reported she doesn’t know Brad very well as he’s on the western end, but when she tried to reach out to Kurt about district concerns he had posted out on rants and raves, he never contacted her and later removed some things off the site. She further reported inquiry into Kurt’s attendance at EUPISD meetings found him to have only attend 6 out of 12 monthly meetings and heard there were some issues with his attendance at the MASB meetings. She stated she has some in trepidations about him continuing to serve as Region 1 Director.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Ribant, that the Board of Education cast its vote for Brad Baltensperger for MASB Region 1 Board of Director.

Member Dunton stated Member Galer made some general complaints and nothing from the ISD to back up him not doing his job, he is a local person who served on the Brimley School Board, and he is not going to vote for

someone from the western U.P. who would not have the best interest of the eastern U.P. in mind and he doesn't know.

Member Ribant reported she doesn't know Mr. Perron but does Mr. Baltensperger, and when he worked for the Michigan Tech Teacher Education Program, he was a positive force in building up the Science Center. She stated he would do a good job representing the whole region.

Upon inquiry for additional comments by President Curtis, Member Dunton indicated he assumed all of the EUP would be voting on the same thing.

Upon inquiry from Member Ribant, Members Curtis and Pingatore indicated they had received additional emails from the candidates, but the newer board members had not.

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Pingatore, to vote for Kurt Perron as MASB Region 1 Director.

Yeas: Dunton, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert

Nays: Ribant, Galer

Absent: Smith

Motion Carried.

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

President Curtis thanked volunteers of the U.S. Coast Guard, local Restaurants, teachers, administrators and all of the people involved in helping to support students.

Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported on the Board's desire to make their meetings more accessible to hear in a non-acoustically pleasing room. She indicated the Board had received a copy of a quote that did not meet the threshold for a vote, for microphones and speakers and those along with the owl, could be used to record the regular meetings through Microsoft Teams and then be uploaded to YouTube. She indicated the Middle School Paraprofessional would ensure the system is operating efficiently.

Upon inquiry from Members Odbert and Galer, Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported the system could be portable, but was scheduled only to be tested for use in the library. She noted the system could be used for summer school, student presentations, Science and Social Science fairs, or for whatever else there was in the room.

Member Galer noted it had been a struggle to hear each other during board meetings.

Member Ribant reported she attended a good MASA virtual training January 17 on School ADvance.

169. **V. *FUTURE PLANNING***

President Curtis indicated the March 13 meeting needed to be rescheduled due to prior commitments.

It was moved by Member Ribant, supported by Member Odbert, that the Board of Education rescheduled the March 13 meeting to March 20.

Upon inquiry from Member Dunton, President Curtis indicated Member Galer and she had other obligations.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Motion Carried.

President Curtis reviewed the following events.

February 23, 2023 – Special Board Meeting – Middle School – 5:00 p.m.

February 27, 2023 – Special Board Meeting – Middle School – 5:30 p.m.

March 20, 2023 – School Board Meeting – Middle School – 7:00 p.m.

April 10, 2023 – School Board Meeting – Middle School – 7:00 p.m.

**VI. *CLOSED SESSION***

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

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education move into closed session after a short break starting at 8:48 p.m. in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8(a), to consider a periodic personnel evaluation.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

Motion Carried.

The Board went into closed session at 8:51 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:16 p.m.

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

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Dunton, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 9:17 p.m. in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8(c), for strategy and negotiations.

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

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:40 p.m.

172. **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 9:40 p.m., it was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Odbert, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

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Christine M. Curtis, Board President

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Melissa S. Pingatore, Board Secretary

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Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary