

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

Minutes – Monday, March 20, 2023

188. **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.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer introduced Haydn Jones and reported on his national recognition as recipient of the 2023 Military Child of the Year for the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Haydn Jones.

189. **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, Amelia Lindsay

Absent: None

190. **B. OATH OF OFFICE**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Member Amelia Lindsay.

191. **C. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

192. **II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Helpful Teacher of the Month (Amber Smith) – Jeanine Sherman

Mrs. Sherman introduced Amber Smith, Sault High Special Education Teacher, and reported on multiple ways Amber has incorporated general and special education students in activities that support learning and inclusion.

Mrs. Sherman presented Amber with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency Meemic Insurance.

2. Helpful Employee of the Month (Brandie Schmitt) - Carl McCready

Mr. McCready introduced Brandie Schmitt, Washington and Lincoln School Paraprofessional. He reported on Brandie’s self-starter attitude and how she fosters a love for reading.

Mr. McCready presented Brandie with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency Meemic Insurance.

3. Robotics – (LSSU Competition) – Mrs. Jeanne Shibley

Mrs. Shibley provided an update on the Robotics Team. She referenced the overnight travel request to Saginaw Valley State University in anticipation of the team’s participation at the FIRST Robotics State Championship.

Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported the team was still seeking volunteers for the district competition at LSSU over Spring Break and anyone interested should contact the high school and plan to pass a background check.

4. Spelling Bee – Mr. Carl McCready

Mr. McCready reported on the district, regional and U.P. Spelling Bee and participants. He introduced 6th grade winner Gavin Armentrout and 8th grade U.P. winner Yuhan Hu.

5. Middle School Math PLC – Dr. Barb Light

Dr. Barb Light reported on the Middle School Math Night events and introduced teachers Scott Love and Heidi Lehmkuhle.

Mr. Love and Mrs. Lehmkuhle reported on how they applied their Stanford Graduate School of Education class to their teaching of mathematics at the Middle School. They noted their students also took a math class through Stanford by Dr. Jo Boaler that helped supplement their work at school.

Mr. Love and Mrs. Lehmkuhle reported on the growth of a mindset, neuroplasticity, brain research, and best practices of patterns versus procedures.

Mr. Love and Mrs. Lehmkuhle reported on the next Stanford graduate level course, Mathematical Mindsets, which aims to help educators inspire and boost math achievement for their students.

President Curtis thanked Mr. Love and Mrs. Lehmkuhle for taking on the extra course to supplement their teaching.

6. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Bennin requested approval for the February general fund and food service bill lists.

Mrs. Bennin reported the monthly revenues were larger than normal due to the influx of winter tax collections, the initial Impact Aid payment and the State Aid payment that included monies from the School Safety and Mental Health Award.

Mrs. Bennin reported the cash flow was healthy and business was operating as usual.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the proposed, new Wheel Loader for the Maintenance Department. She indicated the lowest bid came from Alta Equipment Company for \$86,500 and the department's existing tractor would be sold to help offset the cost prior to any remaining amount to be paid from the 2022-23 Maintenance Department budget.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the request for two, 2024 International 77 passenger gasoline buses to offset the district's aging fleet from Zaremba Equipment for a total price of \$121,365 each. She indicated one would be purchased in and paid out of the 2022-23 budget, and the other would be purchased in and paid out of the 2023-24 budget. Mrs. Bennin noted this year's bus purchase would be paid out of the transportation budget with any additional expenses to be paid out of fund equity.

193. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the three overnight travel requests.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reviewed three monthly gifts and donations.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported once the assessing of the safety and security of the schools, students, and technology is complete and the money has been received from the state, a work order would go for the updates.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported a team from Teach for America was holding a social event for teachers who want to learn more about developing their leadership skills starting in the fall of 2023.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the posting of three Paraprofessional positions.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the posting and duties of a Technical Operations Manager.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the CTE Early Childhood Program and Early Childhood Supervisor position that would be funded through the CTE program, EUPISD GSRP, and Community Action Head Start Program.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the bond proposal cost estimating meeting scheduled for tomorrow. She projected the total funds available to be \$26,000,000 to \$28,500,000.

194. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Terry Schram inquired on new software protocols for student computers to safeguard them from going to sites they shouldn't.

Terry Schram addressed the need to change the district mascot from being a devil/the devils.

Nancy Sawruk addressed concerns about the handling of the "Jen Cares" t-shirt situation at the high school, the privately owned golf course the Boy's Golf team uses, and her dismay with the hockey coach. She suggested forming an Athletic Board that is made up of community members, not administrators who have a conflict of interest.

Beverly Eavou inquired on district policies or procedures that address transgender students using the restrooms and how to address students who want to be called by whatever pronoun they want, to help alleviate the worry other students have about trying to handle those situations.

III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS

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

1. Minutes – Regular February 13, 2023; Closed February 13, 2023; Special February 23, 2023; Special February 27, 2023.
2. February General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,037,268.47 and Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$81,971.80.
3. Gifts and Donations
 - a. Lisa Young donated 8 pairs of new pants to Washington School.
 - b. Members of the U.S. Buckthorn donated over \$3,500 from recycling to the Washington Schools’ food pantry.
 - c. The Ponce family donated clothing, shoes and boots to Washington School.
4. Overnight Travel Request (Robotics) – Jeanne Shibley
5. Overnight Travel Request (BPA-National) – Heather Suggitt and Kellie Greener
6. Overnight Travel Request (HOSA-State) – Kathleen Moore

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

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

196. **B. WHEEL LOADER – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a Wheel Loader as presented.

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

197. **C. *BUS PURCHASE – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Dunton, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of two, 2024 International 77 passenger gasoline buses from Zaremba Equipment at a purchase price of \$121,365 each as presented.

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

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

President Curtis opened the meeting for comment from individual board members.

Member Pingatore thanked the Booster Club for their positive support and efforts for all the sporting events thus far. She gave accolades to the students who played instruments at the athletic events and in competitions, to the Career Center and Robotics students who participated in competitions, and the drama students who perform in plays. She encouraged others in the audience to help support the Robotics team by volunteering over the weekend at their competition at LSSU and by working the concession stands for athletic events as it helps support students and give them a safe place to go.

Member Galer reported on her volunteer activities during Washington School's March is Reading Month. She indicated she enjoyed her interaction with the students and teachers and how impressed she was with their work.

199. **V. *FUTURE PLANNING***

President Curtis announced the next two board meetings were scheduled.

April 10, 2023 – School Board Meeting – Middle School – 7:00 p.m.
April 27, 2023 – Buildings & Grounds – Administration – 4:00 p.m.
May 3, 2023 – Finance – Admin. Bldg. – 5:00 p.m.
May 8, 2023 – School Board Meeting – Middle School – 7:00 p.m.
May 24, 2023 – Baccalaureate
May 25, 2023 – Malcolm Graduation
May 28, 2023 – Sault High Graduation

VI. CLOSED SESSION

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

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education move into closed session after a short break starting at 7:57 p.m. in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8(a) and (c), to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of an employee, to consider a periodic personnel evaluation, and for strategy and negotiations.

Member Dunton announced that a motion may be made after coming out of closed session and prior to adjournment.

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

The Board went into closed session at 7:59 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:15 p.m.

201. **VII. STAFF DISCIPLINE**

In accordance with Board Policy 4139-Staff Discipline, it was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education discharge Anne Marie Askwith from her paraprofessional position.

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

202. **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 9:19 p.m., it was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Galer, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

Christine M. Curtis, Board President

Melissa S. Pingatore, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary