

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

**Minutes – Monday, April 10, 2023**

210. **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-Kronmeyer 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 Space Shell 6 Student Leaders Siri Olson, Claire Parks, Cierra Aikens, Zahraa Mahmud, and Evelyn Webber. They reported on the research project they submitted through Higher Orbits and Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association on to the International Space Station through a partnership between Higher Orbits and the.

Opened by a solo from Olivia Martin on her oboe and followed by an ensemble with Katie Anderson, and Molly Wolfe, the trio introduced themselves and performed a piece they played at the State Band Festival.

211. **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

212. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

## **II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS**

### **213. A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

#### **1. Helpful Teacher of the Month (Sara Perfetti) – Jeanine Sherman**

Mrs. Sherman introduced Sara Perfetti Music and Band Teacher. She reported on multiple activities Sara arranges for students to compete and experience cultural activities.

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

#### **2. Helpful Employee of the Month (Laurel Hopf) – Sandy Sawyer**

Mrs. Sawyer reported on Academic Advisor Laurel Hopf. She highlighted her amazing work in scheduling audits, ensuring compliance, and being a huge advocate for at-risk students.

Mrs. Sawyer will present Laurel with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency Meemic Insurance.

#### **3. Winter Athletic Report – Patrick Bennin**

Mr. Bennin reported on the participation numbers and conference champions in winter sports (wrestling, hockey, girls' and boys' basketball, and swimming). He noted the season was outstanding and the energy was felt in the building.

Mr. Bennin reported several businesses had sponsored student theme nights, t-shirts, and fan buses. He gave kudos to the Booster Club for its hard work in supporting the students.

Mr. Bennin announced the spring athletes had begun practicing outside, and he would like to host an event if the weather would cooperate.

#### **4. New Courses – Dr. Barb Light**

**Early Childhood Development**

**Early Childhood CTE and Early College Program**

Dr. Light reported on the Early Childhood Development course for students in grades 11 and 12. She noted students can earn the basic credentials for a Child Development Associate (CDA) or may choose to earn an associate degree in Early Childhood Education through the Early College Program from a local college. Dr. Light reported the program would be housed at the Soo Township School Complex.

### **Student Leadership**

Dr. Light reported the Student Leadership course would be available for students in grades 9-12 who want to develop their group and leadership skills to initiate a change. She indicated the prerequisite would be for the student to submit an application and a teacher's recommendation.

Dr. Light indicated Megan Burkett would be paring Leadership course with Student Council.

### **AP Computer Science A**

Dr. Light reported on the AP Computer Science A course to be taught by Deb Gardner. She noted the course would involve coding using Java and programming language offered at an AP level and count as a senior math requirement when taken in grade 12.

## **5. Summer School Plans – Dr. Barb Light**

Dr. Light reported Summer School would begin a week out from regular school and run 5 weeks (not during the week of July 4), Monday through Thursday, on half days. She indicated 55 elementary students, 15 middle school students, and 14 high school students were enrolled but anticipated more interest closer to the end of school.

## **6. Summer Maintenance Plan – Mr. Tom Nelson**

Mr. Nelson reported among numerous maintenance, cleaning, and yard work duties, some of the interiors and the Career Center shops would be painted, gym floors refinished, lighting and plumbing repaired, and the bleachers at Lincoln School replaced with portable ones.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Summer School would be held in the Middle School while all of the other buildings are off line for summer maintenance.

## **7. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin requested approval for the March general fund and food service bill lists and noted expenses were typical for the month.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the significant source of revenue collected from winter tax payments.

Mrs. Bennin reported on a one time MPSERS retirement payment to help reduce the state's retirement liability.

Mrs. Bennin reported the cash and fund balance had increased and was higher than that of the past four years.

214. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the Middle School request to hire Elise Keith and Kelly Beaumont.

Heather Hopkins reported on the overnight travel to Washington D.C. for 8<sup>th</sup> grade student to travel to Washington D.C.

Upon inquiry, Heather reported the total self-funded cost per student was \$1,700 and the travel company had scholarship applications for students based on family need and done confidentially.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported area superintendents provided input on the EUPISD budget allocations.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the open EUPISD board seat that was included in her memo.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the nation-wide class action lawsuit with France Law Group to seek compensation lost to social media giants that are marketing to students.

215. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

**III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS**

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

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, there were no requests to remove an item from the consent resolution.

1. Minutes – Regular March 20, 2023; Closed March 20, 2023.

2. March General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,437,797.83 and Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$73,456.79.
3. New Hire
  - a. Elise Keith - Paraprofessional - Sault Area Middle School
  - b. Kelly Beaumont - Track Coach - Sault Area Middle School.
4. Overnight Travel Request (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington D.C. - Heather Hopkins

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

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

217. **B. *APPROVAL OF NEW COURSES – Dr. Barb Light***

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the Early Childhood Development, Student Leadership, and AP Computer Science A courses a presented.

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

218. **C. *EUPISD BUDGET PROPOSAL 2023-2024 – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Ribant, that the Board of Education support the proposed EUPISD budget for 2023-2024 and submit the resolution.

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

219. **D. *SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the resolution to join the nationwide litigation against social media platforms specifically in California Case No. 22-MD-3047-YGR and allow the Superintendent to sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract on behalf of the district as presented.

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

220. ***E. FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY EXTENSION – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Lindsay, that the Board of Education approve a one-year contract extension with Chartwell’s Food Service Management Company with a 4 percent increase as presented.

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

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

Member Odbert read the April 11, 2022 Land Acknowledgement Agreement and sought approval to place it on the May 8 agenda to have it read at every board meeting.

President Curtis acknowledged the agreement had been read at special ceremonies, assemblies, and graduation, but questioned its impact if it was read at every meeting.

Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported the Land Acknowledgement Agreement was approved almost a year ago with the intention to have it read at more formal events when the drum was present.

Upon consideration from President Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer indicated she would notify the EUPISD of Christy’s interest in running for the board.

222. ***V. FUTURE PLANNING***

President Curtis announced the meetings.

April 24 - Annual Board Meeting - Big Bear Cub Court - 7:00 p.m.

April 27 - Buildings & Grounds - Administration - 7:00 p.m.

May 3 - Finance - Administration - 5:00 p.m.

May 8 - School Board Meeting - Sault Area Middle School - 7:00 p.m.  
May 24 - Baccalaureate - 6:00 p.m.  
May 25 - Malcolm Graduation - 7:00 p.m.  
May 28 - Sault High Graduation - 2:00 p.m.  
June 12 - Regular Board Meeting - Sault Area Middle School - 7:00 p.m.

223. **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 7:51 p.m., it was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Odbert, that the meeting be adjourned.

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