

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

Minutes – Monday, April 24, 2023

224. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Curtis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Big Bear Arena, 2 Ice Circle, Cub Court, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

225. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: Kenneth D. Dunton, Amelia Lindsay

226. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

Yeas: Pingatore, Galer, Curtis, Ribant, Odbert

Nays: None

Absent: Dunton, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

227. **II. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Indian Education Program – Dr. Barb Light

Dr. Light thanked Native American Advisors and Counselor Erika Laitinen-Odbert, Laurie Morley, Jennifer Blair, and Symantha Morley for their work with the students.

Dr. Light provided an overview of the federal Impact Aid Program and Title VI Indian Education Program.

Dr. Light reported on qualifications for the Federal ownership property, federally connected students, and students with disabilities components of the program.

Dr. Light reported on how the district's Impact Aid funds were used.

Dr. Light presented a breakout on the number of students accounted for by property category for school years 2021, 2022, and 2023. She noted there was little change in the numbers over the years.

Dr. Light presented an overview of the district's plan to meet the needs of Indian Children in collaboration with input from the community, parents, and student representatives.

Dr. Light reported allowable project funds were used to supplement the culturally related academic needs of Indian children to become proficient in core content and enrichment areas that would otherwise be unavailable.

Dr. Light reported the program's objective was to help American Indian and Alaska Native students score at or above the basic level in reading and math on State Assessments, increase the graduation rate, and decrease chronic absenteeism.

Dr. Light reported on the student enrollment data broken out by White, American Indian or Alaska Native students from years 2014 through 2023. She noted overall enrollment is decreasing, but the percent of students identified as American Indian remains very consistent. Dr. Light stated the data could also be found on the district's transparency site or through myschooldata.org.

Dr. Light reviewed Impact Aid allocations for school years 2015 through the 2023. She noted next year's allocation would be based on five hundred eighty-eight students who submitted 506 cards. She reported on the additional 98 students who had indicated Native American heritage but were unable to qualify.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated additional multi-racial students often do not acknowledge their heritage due to the predominance of one race. She noted this was being discussed at the state level.

Dr. Light reported on the graduation rates for school years 2019 through 2022. She presented percentages and changes broken out by State, District, Native or Non-Native Students who graduated from Sault High and Malcolm School.

Dr. Light reported on the 2022 Literacy and Math Data based on the percentage of proficiency on the MSTEP (Grades 3-7), PSAT (Grade 8), and SAT (Grade 11). She highlighted the data broken out by Native, Non-Native, and Economically Disadvantaged at the District, EUPISD, and State levels. She noted the district's scores were one third of the EUPISD scores.

Dr. Light announced the members and staff of the Title VI Native American Committee and Native American Program.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM – Symantha Morley

Mrs. Morley, Elementary Counselor, reported on the academic one-on-one, small group, and team supports provided for standardized test make ups, daily work assignments, and teaching of organizational skills.

Mrs. Morley reported on the supports provided for developing and reinforcing good individual and group social and emotional behavior through instruction and reinforcement.

Mrs. Morley indicated she assists students with transportation for attendance and appointments as well as addressing food, clothing, and hygiene insecurities to families in need.

Mrs. Morley reported on the assistance and education given to support diabetic students.

Mrs. Morley reported on multiple cultural supports with literacy lessons, visual bulletin boards, historical awareness, and YEA cultural teachings for students in grades kindergarten through fourth grades.

Mrs. Morley provided the student data and reported on the combination of 31a, 35a, Title IA, and Title IV federal funds that were spent for reading supports for Native American and Non-Native students; math support for Native American and Non-Native, and one to one social-emotional support for Native American and Non-Native elementary students.

SAULT AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL – Erika Laitinen-Odbert

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert, Native American Advisor, reported on the academic supports for success that she provides by communicating with parents and students, reviewing Check-In/Check-Outs, and utilizing the SRSS to further identify and assist Native American student needs.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported on her participation in attendance meetings, supports for students who have entered into the truancy protocol, and support with attendance protocols.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported on multiple cultural supports for educating students on the Native American culture, language, heritage, nutrition and curriculum at all grade levels.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported she provides and assists with obtaining additional resources for students who need social and emotional supports.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert indicated she promotes SWPBIS with students and staff in her role as PBIS team coordinator.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported she coordinates the Kidz Kloset to assist students with food, clothing and hygiene insecurities. She noted the numbers grow monthly.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported she provides additional supports such as student safety, supervision, behavior, and SAT plans when needed.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported on the number of Native and Non-Native students who received reading support through the ELA Lab and Reading/Writing/Spelling WIN time for grades 5 through 8.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported on the number of Native and Non-Native students who received math support through Math Lab, Math WIN time, and Co-taught Math for grades 5 through 8.

Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported on the number of students who received social emotional support through social work services, Groups, and SHACC counseling for Native and Non-Native students for grades 5 through 8.

MALCOLM HIGH SCHOOL – Laurie Morley

Principal Sandy Sawyer reported on behalf of Native American Advisor Laurie Morley.

Mrs. Sawyer stated Mrs. Morley provides academic support, advising, and assistance for students who need additional resources, help in completing applications, and utilizes SRSS to confirm and identify additional Native American student needs.

Mrs. Sawyer reported Mrs. Morley provides attendance support by monitoring and addressing student absenteeism and tardiness with students and guardians through multiple communication measures and incentives to keep students in school.

Mrs. Sawyer reported on multiple cultural awareness and teaching supports provided to students and staff. She stated the school promotes Native American days/events and fosters a Native Youth Council.

Mrs. Sawyer reported everyone really works hard on getting students to school.

Mrs. Sawyer reported good behavior goals are worked on with students and assistance is provided when they seek help in acquiring their driver license.

Mrs. Sawyer thanked two volunteers who work on their own time to keep the Malcolm Market well stocked and organized for student insecurities.

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the number of Native American, Non-Native, and African American students in grades 9 through 12. She indicated intervention services were provided to all students in the areas of mentoring and offering academic and social supports.

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the number of Native and Non-Native students who take CTE classes.

Mrs. Sawyer reported BIE and Tribal Support funds assist with paying the salaries of two paraprofessionals who provide math, English, and science support. She indicated BIE funds support the PBIS system, homeless students, and student resources.

SAULT AREA HIGH SCHOOL - Jennifer Blair

Mrs. Blair reported on the goal to provide social and emotional supports with access to additional resources for Native American Students.

Mrs. Blair reported on her weekly review of grades, assistance with missing assignments, and work on improving student organizational skills for at risk students.

Mrs. Blair reported she coordinates and collects data for Tier 2 interventions to assist students with silent mentoring, CICO, Trails Groups, and for the Freshman Seminar.

Mrs. Blair reported she assists students with college and scholarship applications and used grant funds to conduct college visits to NMU, LSSU and Bay Mills Community College.

Mrs. Blair reported she offers support by monitoring attendance, meeting, and making phone calls for students who are flagged, and assists administration at attendance and truancy meetings.

Mrs. Blair reported on the number of students actively participating in the Native Youth Council.

Mrs. Blair reported on multiple cultural heritage teachings events and activities that were conducted to support students.

Mrs. Blair provided data on the number of Native students in advanced classes and CTE/Pre-Vocational classes by grade.

Mrs. Blair provided data on the number of Native and Non-Native students who received intervention in Silent Mentoring, CICO, Groups, Social Work Referrals, Freshmen Seminar, and SAT Prep.

Dr. Light reviewed the 2022-2023 Program Plan by reporting on the pillars to increase student achievement and growth, increase the graduation rate, and decrease chronic absenteeism. She noted multiple ways the program has been working to offer support for its foundation.

Dr. Light reported the cultural competency tools were used to improve the students' mindset and resilience, but the plan was struggling to increase parent involvement.

Dr. Light reported on the supplemental resources and services supported by Title IA, 31 At-risk, Title IV, and 35a Early Literacy funds. She noted Native American students were fully engulfed in the programs.

Member Ribant stated she was impressed with all the reporting and would be interested to know the breakout by the EUPISD.

Dr. Light reported on the Title IIA Professional Development, Staff Retention, Cultural Competencies and PLCs to improve the mindset and resilience for the student, coaching to improve student math growth, and Teacher Leader Core to improve grading and formative assessment practices in secondary schools.

Dr. Light reported on the collaboration with the Sault Tribe Cultural Department and Sault Tribe YEA to support increased parent involvement by holding Ojibwe word week, 7 Grandfather and traditional medicine teachings, offering a Native Youth Council/Mentorship Program and holding family fun nights..

Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert reported on several photos showing many of the teachings and activities throughout the year.

Upon inquiry from Member Ribant, Mrs. Laitinen-Odbert indicated Mrs. Paulus has a master's in English and teaches a Native American Literature class.

President Curtis thanked the presenters for their support in the academic and cultural needs of the students.

228. **B. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

229. **III. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BORD POLICY ISSUES**

There was none.

230. **IV. CLOSED SESSION – M.O.M.A. 15.268 §8(c)**

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Ribant, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 8:02 p.m. in accordance with the Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8(c), for strategy and negotiations.

Yeas: Pingatore, Galer, Curtis, Ribant, Odbert

Nays: None

Absent: Dunton, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

By mutual agreement, the meeting reconvened in open session at 8:36 p.m.

231. **V. FUTURE EVENTS**

President Curtis reviewed the future events.

April 27 – Building & 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 – School Board Meeting – Sault Area Middle School – 7:00 p.m.

232. **II. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:36 p.m., it was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Ribant, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Pingatore, Galer, Curtis, Ribant, Odbert

Nays: None

Absent: Dunton, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

Christine M. Curtis, President

Melissa S. Pingatore, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary