

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

Minutes – Monday, June 12, 2023

268. **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 and via Zoom.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Land Acknowledgement was recited by Member Odbert.

269. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: Michelle M. Ribant, Amelia M. Lindsay

270. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS

271. **A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

1. Teacher of the Month (Gene Wicks) - Mrs. Jeanine Sherman

Principal Sherman reported on Dr. Wicks' supportive demeanor to students and staff, his willingness to take on additional work, being a leader in PCCs, and having the biggest heart.

Dr. Wicks will be presented with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency, MEEMIC Insurance in recognition for his many accomplishments.

2. Employee of the Month (Elizabeth Foster) - Mrs. Jeanine Sherman

Mrs. Sherman reported on the extra work Elizabeth does to help out in the library, with online students, assisting with testing, and anything to help students who need a little extra help.

President Curtis asked Christine, Elizabeth's sister to pass on the Board's appreciation.

Ms. Foster will be presented with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency, MEEMIC Insurance in recognition for her accomplishments.

3. Building Reports – Principals

a. Washington School – Dr. Sheri McFarlane

Dr. McFarlane reported on the following fourth quarter activities:

- Camping themed Family Literacy Night
- Incubated eggs project with 4H and STEM teacher Mrs. Demarest
- Honors assembly combined with library presentation
- Bayliss Library Literacy Programs presentation by Shelia Hatch
- End of year trip to Garlyn Zoo.
- Field Day
- Previous Washington Student Graduates visit

b. Lincoln School – Mr. Carl McCready

Mr. McCready reported on the following fourth quarter activities:

- Successful M-STEP and MAP testing
- Applebee's Lunch for Students of the Month
- Special Persons Day organized by Meg Boucher
- Positive Health Fair organized by School Nurse Mary
- Evening of the Arts student work
- Acknowledgement of Previous Lincoln School Graduates
- Book Fair organized by Brandi Schmidt
- A through Z themed Alphabet Days
- Field Day organized by Ed Chevillot

c. Sault Middle School – Ms. Jessica Rondeau

Ms. Rondeau presented the following fourth quarter activities:

- Student Move-up Day for incoming 5th grade students
- Eight Grade Mackinaw Island Trip
- Eighth grade Awards Assembly (173 moving on to 9th grade)
- Masonic Lodge donated bicycles for the Bikes for Books incentive
- Native American Cultural Day in St. Ignace
- PTO Pancakes
- Track participation
- SHACC Youth Advisory Group participation

d. Malcolm High School – Mrs. Sandy Sawyer

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the following fourth quarter activities:

- Teacher Appreciation Week with a lot of community donations
- Presentation and Attendance at the Alternative Education Conference
- Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- Senior trip to Mackinac Island
- Incubated Eggs Activities
- Scavenger Hunt and activity with Judge Blublagh organized by Lisa Schulte and in collaboration with Symantha Morley
- Graduation events

e. Sault Area High School – Mrs. Jeanine Sherman

Mrs. Sherman reported on the following fourth quarter activities:

- Incubated eggs activities associated with the sex education
- Student recognition, CTE Awards, Academic Awards, Native American Senior Awards, EUP Principal Recipients, and Graduation Activities
- Evening with the Arts - Choir and Band
- Student Appreciation Cook Out
- Band Students Overnight Travel Activities

Mrs. Sherman thanked the DM Burr staff for their helpfulness in setting up and cleaning for the end of the year activities.

4. 2022-2023 School Nurse Report – Mary Michaels, RN, BSN

Nurse Michaels thanked the principals for their support in getting 95% of all student immunizations up to date by February 1.

Mrs. Michaels thanked Dr. Light for organizing Kindergarten Round Up. She reported the Chippewa County Health Department provided vision and hearing screening, student services provide assistance with the Mistar software, and Lynda Gregorini of U.P. Superior Smiles provided dental evaluations as a registered dental hygienist.

Mrs. Michaels reported on scoliosis screening for students in grades 5 and 8, student pregnancy, flu clinics offered to students and staff.

Mrs. Michaels reported students and staff followed the CDC guidelines when testing positive for COVID, but it wasn't monitored. She stated the teachers were very good about working with the students.

Mrs. Michaels reported Maria Farney would continue to work for the health department at the Sault Health Adolescent Care Center (SHACC) as the COVID grant had been extended and communication was needed because the type of variant circulating posed a threat for high risk people.

Mrs. Michaels reported on the number of students who had hand-foot-mouth disease, viral and bacterial conjunctivitis, strep throat, GI and cold viruses, and lice.

Mrs. Michaels reported on the school health fairs and thanked the U.S. Coast Guard, Maxine Anderson, Sault Tribe Nutritionist, City Police Officer Mayer, Barb St. Peter, for their presentations and community teaching. She noted students were taught about dangerous situations and consequences to their actions.

Mrs. Michaels reported on CPR and AED training provided to students in 7th grade. She noted the building AEDs had been checked on a monthly basis throughout the year.

Mrs. Michaels reported on Mental Health Day organized by Tracy Menard for Sault High students.

Mrs. Michaels provided an inventory of medical supplies and Narcan kits at the buildings.

Mrs. Michaels reported on her attendance at the "Stop the Bleed" School Nurse Conference in Iron Mountain. She noted next year's training would be in Escanaba.

Mrs. Michaels reported Steve Carlson from My Michigan Trauma Management provided in service training and emergency kits for each school. She noted the kits would be available for before and after school events.

Mrs. Michaels reported on the percent of staff broken out by groups who helped meet the Heart Safe School status.

Mrs. Michaels provided a brief report on the following committees she serves on: SHACC Advisory Board, Sex Education Advisory Board and Wellness Committee.

Mrs. Michaels spoke on the annual training she provides to the building secretaries in the fall. She gave kudos to them for their assistance and willingness to support the students and staff in their buildings.

5. Health Committee Update – Dr. Barb Light

Mrs. Michaels reported on the return to active status of the Sex Education Advisory Committee due to the disruption of COVID and some retirements.

Upon inquiry from Member Dunton, Mrs. Michaels reported Dr. Barb Light approves who sits on the Sex Education Advisory Committee given the required parameters of the program.

Dr. Light submitted a two-year report on Reproductive Health including background information, approved goals, objectives and curricula for grades 4-6, 7-8, and 10, an evaluation and report on the implementation of the program, an analysis of the rates for sexual activity, pregnancy and transmitted infections available through the MiPHY survey.

Dr. Light indicated the evaluation report compared MiPHY Sault Area Public Schools' data with the national data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

Dr. Light indicated clear goals, measurable objectives, and curriculum would be reviewed in depth for updates next fall.

President Curtis thanked Dr. Light for her report.

6. MAP Data – Dr. Barb Light

Dr. Light reported on the end of the year growth data and the goal to have 60% of students meet their reading and math target.

Dr. Light reported the growth assessment based on NWEA's MAP indicate teachers in grades 1, 3, and 7 were doing well.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Dr. Light reported student supports are available for both elementary and middle school students, but the method of delivery is different; the Middle School delivers supports through WIN time. She noted the schools continually try to

reach more students and determine what specific pieces work better than others.

Dr. Light presented student percentages in reading and math for grades K-10 based on fall to spring growth in the following demographics: female, male, White, and Native American.

Dr. Light reported there were big discrepancies in 5th and 6th grade student percentages and she needed to review more areas to learn why.

Dr. Light reported grade 7 English content data reveals it is more easily understood for one gender than the other.

Dr. Light reported there were reading and math discrepancies in grades 9 and 10 and she had shared that with the teachers last winter.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Dr. Light reported she is looking across as much data as possible, compared 3 years of MSTEP data, and noticed some trends between grades 4 and 5 for improvement.

Dr. Light reviewed reading data for students in grades K-10. She noted the growth data was higher than the proficiency data.

Dr. Light reported overall math data indicates student growth was higher than student proficiency and there needs to be a way to smooth out the oscillating data.

President Curtis thanked Dr. Light and noted she was looking forward to some meaningful change in the data.

7. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Bennin sought approval for the May General Fund and Food Service Bill Lists.

She reported recognized expenses were higher than revenue due to the purchase of a new bus in May and there being no draw downs, but cash flow was healthy.

Mrs. Bennin reported this was the last full set of financial statements for the fiscal year until the audit was complete.

272. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the hiring of the six new employees listed in the consent agenda and the return of special education busing from the EUPISD.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer confirmed Mr. Tim Hall was contracted through the EUPISD as Special Education Supervisor.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the annual MHSAA and MASB membership renewal.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the gifts and donations made by the Sunrise Rotary, Masonic Lodge, and the list of donors presented Principal Sawyer of Malcolm High School.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer asked the Board to review the policies and let her know of any concerns.

Upon inquiry, there were no questions.

273. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

President Curtis acknowledged the importance of public comment and sought any participation. There was none.

III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS

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

President Curtis asked the board if there were any requests to remove items from the consent agenda.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the list of policies were being presented for their first read. She asked the Board to contact her with any questions as they would be brought back to the board for action.

1. Minutes – Regular May 8, 2023; Workshop May 12, 2023; Special May 22, 2023 5:30; Special May 22, 2023 6:30
2. May general fund bill list in the amount of \$2,472,463.87 and food service bill list in the amount of \$78,878.73
3. New Hires
 - a. Deborah Maleport – Bus Driver – Sault Area Public Schools
 - b. John Merlo – Bus Driver – Sault Area Public Schools
 - c. Jessica Kinney – Paraprofessional – Lincoln School

- d. Diane Chevillot – Second Grade Teacher – Lincoln School
- e. Lindsay Rowland – First Grade Teacher – Washington School
- f. Marielle Sirk – Science Teacher – Sault Area High School
- 4. Michigan High School Athletic Association 2023-2024 Membership
- 5. Michigan Association of School Board 2023-2024 Membership
- 6. 2023-2024 Board Organizational Meeting for July 10, 2023
- 7. Gifts and Donations
 - a. Christine Foster of Sunrise Rotary donated American Chiller Books to third grade students at Lincoln School.
 - b. Masonic Bethel Lodge 358 donated bicycles to Lincoln School and Sault Area Middle School for the Bikes for Books reading incentive program.
 - c. Donations for the Malcolm Senior Trip were provided by the following:
 McDonald’s, Monocle Jewelers, Central Savings Bank, Total Outlook, Madam Michelle’s, UP North Wilderness, Guido’s Pizza, Parmer’s Market, Superior Styling Salon, Bins Ahoy Overstock, China Cate, and Neville’s Superette
- 8. District Policies – First Read
 - 1615 - Use of Tobacco by Administrators
 - 2623 – Student Assessment
 - 3215 - Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff
 - 4215 - Use of Tobacco by Support Staff
 - 5512 - Use of Tobacco by Students
 - 6325 - Procurement Federal Grants/Funds
 - 7434 - Use of Tobacco on School Premises
 - 7540.02 - Web Accessibility, Content, apps, and Services
 - 7450.03 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety
 - 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety
 - 8300 - Continuity of Organizational Operations Plan
 - 8305 - Information Security
 - 8315 - Information Management
 - 8400 - Revised School Safety Information
 - 9700.01 - Advertising and Commercial Activities
 - 9160 - Public Attendance at School Events

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

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

275. **B. 2022-2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin presented the second and final 2022-2023 budget amendment for the General Fund, School Service Fund, and Fiduciary Fund. She reported on the original budget amounts, estimated to actual changes, appropriations, expenditures, revenues, and the percent of fund balance remaining.

Mrs. Bennin presented the implementation of a new concept to assign funds to the technology budget over a 5 year period to build up a savings for the purpose of replacing student devices.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the allocation of ISD Special Education Millage funds for in house Special Education Programs.

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

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the second general fund 2022-2023 Budget Amendment.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: Ribant, Lindsay

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

276. **C. PROPOSED 2023-2024 BUDGET HEARING – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education accept public comment on the 2023-2024 budget.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

There was none.

277. **D. PROPOSED 2023-2024 BUDGET – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin presented the 2023-2024 budget including the 2022-23 end of year general fund appropriations and fund balance additions. She reported on the Food Service Fund, Activity Fund, Categorical Changes, reduction in the 2017 debt payoff, estimated reduction of 54 students, and with a zero increase in state funding to estimate a proposed beginning fund balance of \$6,851,843.

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

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Odbert, that the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 budget as presented.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

278. **E. 2023 TAX RATE REQUEST (Form L-4029) – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reported on the annual tax rate request and noted the financial advisors recommend the number of mills to set.

Upon inquiry from Member Bennin, there were no questions.

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the 2023 Tax Rate Request (Form L-4029) of 18 mills on non-homestead property for school operations and 2.32 mills on all property for school debt.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

279. **F. ARROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR PRELIMINARY QUALIFYING APPLICATION TO TREASURY - Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the Application for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds and reviewed the Application for Bonds Certificate, Bond Proposal, Financial Summary, Enrollment Projections by grade, Series 1 Project Sheet, Building Utilization, Space Program, Aerial Sample of 2-story Elementary Site, Series 2 Project Sheet, Facilities (missing storage) Sheet, and Cost Summary. She further asked the Board to review the Calendar Timeline handed out at the previous meeting.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the resolution was to approve the Bonds Certificate which includes the components previously presented to Treasury.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the shared ballot language that had previously been worked on with the Finance Committee to accurately depict the Series 1 and 2 bonds.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district followed the lead from the focus groups and survey responses to keep the mill increase down as much as possible and split the bond into two series. She noted it was important for people to realize how long it will take to complete the projects with the Series 1 new elementary not be ready to move into until the end of June 2026, and the Series 2 high school renovation not complete until the end of June 2028.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer referenced the district's Facility Summary Sheet that lists all of the buildings and property the district owns with dates of construction. She indicated the life of a typical building is 40 years, but the district's elementary buildings were 70 years old.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated the two older maintenance buildings were include with the AJ VanCitters site.

Upon inquiry from Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer, there were no questions.

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the Preliminary Qualifying Application resolution to Treasury for a November 2023 bond millage.

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

280. **G. *APPROVAL OF AREA PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH MESSA – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated the request to join the U.P. Area Purchasing Agreement with MESSA stemmed from an area EUPISD Superintendents meeting last fall to help drive down the cost for insurance. She reported the district had been authorized to join the group and was seeking final Board approval. She noted the district would continue to offer a hard cap to its employees and the agreement would tremendously save staff money.

Upon inquiry from Member Galer, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported everyone would be excited to join the group because the amount of money employees have to pay for insurance would significantly decrease.

It was moved by Member Odbert, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the Area Purchasing Agreement (APA) for collectively purchasing insured medical benefits and coverage provided by MESSA.

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

281. **VI. CLOSED SESSION**

A. MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION M.O. M.A. 15.268, §8c

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education go into closed session in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8c, for strategy and negotiations.

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

Member Dunton announced there would be some action items after the Board returned from closed session.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:54 p.m.

282. **VII. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION – Ms. Melissa Pingatore**

Member Pingatore reported the Superintendent’s evaluation consisted of the March numbers, Amy’s data in Domain 1, the Achievement Growth Goals in 1 through 4, and the Establishment and Continuing of the Continuity of Service Plan goal.

Member Pingatore stated the continuous Academic and Fiscal Domain 1 was 40% of the evaluation and Domains 2 through 5 were 60%.

Member Pingatore reported due to their always being room for growth, the Superintendent was rated Highly Effective with 3.58 out of 4.0 points and was doing a great job.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated she appreciated the Board’s advice and support through the year’s changes and challenges.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Odbert, that the Board of Education approve the final Superintendent evaluation as presented.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

283. **VIII. APPROVAL OF GUIDES/CONTRATS/AGREEMENTS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

A. APPROVAL OF COMPENSATION GUIDES – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

1. Superintendent

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent Compensation Guide.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

2. Chief Financial Officer

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the Chief Financial Officer Compensation Guide.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

3. Director of Student Achievement

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the Director of Student Achievement Compensation Guide.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

284. **B. EDUSTAFF NURSING SERVICES CONTRACT – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Nurse Michaels continues to provide a great resource for the district. She recommended adding 2% to the EDUStaff contract for her compensation for the next two years.

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Dunton, that the Board of Education approve two, one-year contract extensions at an increase of 2% each year with EDUStaff for nursing services.

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

285. **C. SUPPORT GROUP AGREEMENTS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

1. Support Group
2. Student Services Support Group

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the Support Group and Student Services Support Group agreements.

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

286. **VIII. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES**

There was none.

287. **IX. FUTURE PLANNING**

July 10 - Proposed Board Organizational Meeting - 7:00 p.m. – Middle School

288. X. *ADJOURNMENT*

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:59 p.m., it was moved by Dunton, supported by Member Galer, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Galer, Pingatore, Curtis, Odbert, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: Ribant, Lindsay

Motion Carried.

Christine M. Curtis, Board President

Melissa S. Pingatore, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary