

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

Minutes – Monday, August 8, 2022

17. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President DeWitt 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.

18. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

Board Members Present: Caitlin L. Galer, Christine M. Curtis, Daniel L. Smith, Raymond J. DeWitt, Lisa A. Young, Jay D. Wilson, Melissa S. Pingatore

Absent: None

19. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

Yeas: Galer, Curtis, Smith, DeWitt, Young, Wilson, Pingatore

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

20. **II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Bennin presented the July General Fund and Food Service Bill Lists. She reported a full set of financials would be available next month after all trial balance adjustments were made. She noted there was a slight decline in cash balance due to July being a three pay month, and payment was made for fiscal year insurance renewal. She stated drawdowns would be receipted in August and everything was operating as planned.

Upon inquiry, there were no questions.

2. SHACC

Mrs. Karen Senkus Chippewa County Health Officer and Director of the Student Health Adolescent Care Center (SHACC) introduced Cara Haapapuro MSN FNP-BC as the new SHACC Nurse Practitioner. Mrs. Senkus reported the SHACC services students from age 5 through high school but primarily those in the Middle and High School in the areas of physicals, hearing screenings, vision screenings, immunizations, mental health therapy, and primary care. She indicated the SHACC was continuing to look for a dental provider.

3. Transportation & Facilities Update – Mr. Tom Nelson

Transportation

Mr. Nelson reported the transportation department was working to update and condense bus routes with two less drivers than last year. He expressed concern for the district but noted bus driver shortage was state-wide.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer thanked Tymberlee Goff and the Transportation Department for working with parents on submitting their transportation interest surveys to ensure the bus routes would be as efficient as possible.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Mr. Nelson confirmed the busing coverage area was not going to change.

Sault High School

Mr. Nelson reported the high school siding was on schedule and replacement windows were installed in the cafeteria and some in the lobby. He noted replacement windows for above the lockers and classrooms were slated to arrive later in the month and would be installed as soon as possible.

Mr. Nelson reported the classroom electric door locks were completed and the door strikes were on schedule to be installed.

Mr. Nelson reported the upstairs hall flooring was almost complete.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the contractors were further ahead in Phase 1 than anticipated.

Mr. Nelson reported the contractors have been working after hours and would continue as long as possible.

Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported the outside courtyard siding was completed but it is not visible from the road.

Middle School

Mr. Nelson reported work was being done on the wiring for the electronic door locks and the installation for the strikes and readers would be next.

Lincoln School

Mr. Nelson reported the electronic door strikes were installed and awaiting the readers to arrive.

Mr. Nelson reported the bathrooms were painted and the gym floor stripped and refinished.

Malcolm School

Mr. Nelson reported the wall mounted lunchroom tables were removed and replaced with new standalone ones, and the gym floor was repainted.

Mr. Nelson reported asbestos abatement was done in three classroom and awaiting new flooring.

Mr. Nelson reported three classrooms were being painted.

Mr. Nelson reported the electronic door strikes were installed and awaiting the readers to arrive.

Washington School

Mr. Nelson reported three classrooms had received new flooring and electronic door strikes were installed and awaiting the readers. He stated a lot of work had been done and more was needed prior to the start of school.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Mr. Nelson reported the drain spouts were cleaned, ditches lowered, drain tile replaced, and heathers placed in the drains. He indicated there were no water issues last year.

Member Young stated she was excited to hear about all of the building updates and that they were looking nice.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Mr. Nelson reported he had been in contact with D.M. Burr to ensure the buildings would be ready for school.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the High School had contractors in the building over the summer and the Summer School Program was held in the Middle School, so there had not been an opportunity for a deep cleaning. She indicated Mr. Nelson and she had been inspecting the buildings to ensure they would be ready for the start of school.

4. Summer School Report – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer noted she was presenting the report on behalf of Mrs. Chevillot, Summer School Coordinator.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the number of students enrolled by grade. She noted there were 280 total students enrolled, the highest in several years, and she was happy with the positive comments made by students and parents on the services they received.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the different positions and number of employees who worked for the Summer School program. She gave kudos to the 42 staff members.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the number of students enrolled and the credits received for High School Credit Recovery. She noted some students were really struggling to stay on track to graduate.

Mrs. Menard reported on the 8 member Vista Team that worked at the Summer School program. Two of the members spoke on what the program meant to them. Mrs. Menard stated Mrs. Morley had worked directly with the team.

5. New Hires

Superintendent Kronemeyer presented and introduced Jeanine Sherman for the Sault High Principal position.

Mrs. Sherman presented and introduced Heather Mitchell for the Sault High and Malcolm High Health Teacher position.

On behalf of Mr. Bennin, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on Stephanie Lynn for the Varsity Volleyball Coach and Kali Apelt for the JV Volleyball Coach.

Ms. Rondeau reported on Emily Darling for the Middle School Volleyball Coach.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the administrative assistants returned today for training, teachers will have access to their classrooms on Monday, and the schools would be ready for the students by the first day of school.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Mrs. Love had been tirelessly working on the district-wide Blackboard communication system that would be used for all information communicated to parents and throughout the district.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the freshmen and grade 5 Bootcamps were scheduled for August 25.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she was happy that all of the schools were holding their open house prior to the start of school. She noted information about Title I would also be available at that time.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported central administration was working on green initiatives and would be using Acrobat Sign for teacher contracts, open insurance enrollment, and trainings. She noted it was a huge project and Athletics was working on it as well.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer invited the Board to the welcome back meeting scheduled for August 29 at 8 a.m. She noted Doug Laprade of Laprade Meemic Insurance was sponsoring the breakfast and United Way would also be there.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the District School Improvement Team had generated a lot of lists prior to COVID. She noted the team along with members of the community wanted to build on it and restart the process for the Portrait of a Graduate. Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported CTE Teacher Kellie Greener worked on producing the survey and Chamber Director Tony Haller sought community input that garnered 490 responses. Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the survey results produced a large cross section on what we wanted for our students, but the number one vision for all K-12 students was to attend to their wellness along with strong core academic knowledge and skills. She indicated it was determined this could happen by students practicing healthy habits that impact themselves and the greater community; exhibiting mindfulness - which includes hope and gratitude; contributing to mutual respect thorough open dialogue, and to deeply understand the importance of their social, emotional, physical, and mental health.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer further reported the four main competencies of the vision were to be: 1. Adaptable Collaborators exhibiting the flexibility to adjust to change in a cooperative manner to

reach workable solutions. 2. Critical Thinkers applying creative and disciplined thinking that is informed by evidence. Sault students identify, prioritize, implement, and reflect on solutions within complex situations. 3. Engaged Communicators articulating thoughts and ideas in oral, written, nonverbal, and technological forms. Sault students listen purposefully to decipher meaning and use communication for a range of purposes and audiences. 4. Responsible Citizens acting honestly and demonstrating care for the interests of the larger community and greater good. Sault students honor commitment and own outcomes. They display a positive work ethic to earn and trust and respect of others. They take initiative and act with purpose.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the process for developing the Portrait of a Graduate was very detailed and she was only a silent observer. She thanked everyone involved for their time and input.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Kat D. of Kids Company created the specific graphic for the Portrait of the Graduate. She stated the freighter further represents the uniqueness of our area where 90% of steel passes over our waters.

Member Young reported it was one of her neatest experiences working on the Portrait of the Graduate, and the Superintendent was very quiet.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the donations made by the Chippewa County Credit Union, Dafter Lions Club, and Rita Savola and family of the Mike & Kathy Williams Memorial Golf Tournament.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported it costs around \$2,000 to purchase the book-vending machine and Jesselyn Bourque, Washington School's Intervention Specialist, had presented the idea and is continuing to work on it.

It was reported an article on the Washington School book-vending machine was in the Soo Leader.

22. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Upon inquiry from President DeWitt, Dr. Barb Light stated she was enjoying her new beginnings as Director of Student Achievement.

23. **III. BOARD ACTIONS**

A. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

President DeWitt reviewed the following items:

1. Minutes – July 11, 2022
2. July General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,714,523.57 and Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$14,151.72.
3. New Hires
 - a. Jeanine Sherman – Principal – Sault Area High School
 - b. Heather Mitchell – Health Education Teacher – Sault Area High School and Malcolm High School
 - c. Stephanie Lynn – Varsity Volleyball Coach – Sault Area High School
 - d. Emily Darling – Volleyball Coach – Sault Area Middle School
 - e. Kali Apelt – JV Volleyball Coach – Sault Area High School
4. Gifts & Donations
 - a. Chippewa County Credit Union donated \$500 for the Washington Elementary Book Vending Machine.
 - b. Dafter Lions Club donated \$500 for the Washington Elementary Book Vending Machine.
 - c. Rita Savola and Family donated \$5,000 from the Mike & Kathy Williams Memorial Golf Tournament to support students in need.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Caitlyn, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Yeas: Galer, Curtis, Smith, DeWitt, Young, Wilson, Pingatore

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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

Member Smith reported the new agenda format did not allow for individually welcoming new hires.

Member Smith and President DeWitt acknowledged the new hires in the audience.

Member Galer encouraged fellow members to take part in online or in-person MASB courses/conferences. She noted members can become certified in different levels of training and the Board can be part of its Honors Board. She stated it would be a good goal for the Board to keep in mind. President DeWitt agreed and stated it allows for proper board training and the ability to meet other members in the state. Member Galer stated the new round of MASB classes begin in October.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported school lunches were back to full pay and parents could submit a free and/or

reduced lunch application through an app on their cell phone or by submitting paper application found at any building.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the district saw a decline in free and reduced lunch applications over the COVID timeframe due to everyone receiving free school meals. Mrs. Bennin confirmed full pay would return the first day of school.

Member Wilson reported a few years ago, Malcolm School was just shy of having 100% free or reduced meals for students. Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported parents can pay for their children's meals by sending in a check of paying online through the parent portal.

Upon request from President DeWitt, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she would schedule a date for the Board to tour the school buildings.

Upon inquiry from President DeWitt, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer suggested district enrollment was flat.

25. **V. *FUTURE PLANNING***

August 29 – Staff Welcome Back – Sault Area High School – 8:00 a.m.
September 6 – First Day of School
September 12 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Sault Area Middle

President DeWitt reviewed future events and explained adjournment would be the only action item coming out of closed session.

26. **VI. *CLOSED SESSION – M.O.M.A. 15.268 §8(a)***

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Smith, at 7:51 p.m. the Board of Education go into closed session in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8(a), to consider a periodic personnel evaluation.

Yeas: Galer, Curtis, Smith, DeWitt, Young, Wilson, Pingatore
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

At 8:06 p.m., Members Wilson and Smith acknowledged the Board was going into open session.

27. **VII. *ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:06 p.m., it was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Curtis, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Galer, Curtis, Smith, DeWitt, Young, Wilson, Pingatore

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Raymond J. DeWitt, Board President

Christine M. Curtis, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary