

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

**Minutes – Monday, September 12, 2022**

28. **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 led by Margaret Kapuscinski and Kenzie Dovick

29. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: None

30. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

President DeWitt announced the removal of III. A. 3. Aryianna Dickensheets from the agenda.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

31. **II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS**

**A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

1. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Bennin presented the August General Fund and Food Service Bill Lists. She reported it was the first month of full financials and the first week for the auditors.

Mrs. Bennin reported after the adjusting 2022 entries, the fund equity balance will be \$453,803.91 more than projected on the final amendment.

Mrs. Bennin reported on substantial differences in receipts compared to revenues and total expenditures and noted both month end balances were financially healthy.

Mrs. Bennin reported the first state aid payment would be received in October.

## 2. Building Reports - Principals

### a. Washington School – Dr. Sheri McFarlane

Dr. McFarlane presented her recommendation to hire Kathy Jennings as first grade teacher.

Dr. McFarlane reported there were currently 254 students enrolled in 5 Kindergarten and 6 First Grade classrooms. She reported there was 98 percent attendance at the August Kindergarten assessments, the Lions Club assisted with eye exams, and a local Optometrist offered to follow up with students as needed. She thanked volunteers from Students United who helped provide after school information.

Dr. McFarlane reported 84% of student families attended the August Open House, the Boy Scouts were on hand to welcome new members, and Maggie Twining played orchestra music while a hotdog meal was being served to help pique interest in playing an instrument.

Dr. McFarlane reported the teaching of the 4 B's was off to a good start, and the only glitch in the first week of school was in busing.

### b. Lincoln School – Mr. Carl McCready

Mr. McCready reported there were 340 total students enrolled in grades second through fourth, 3 in Virtual Blue, and 11 in self-contained.

Mr. McCready reported 290 students and their families, the Boy Scouts, and a musician were at the Open House.

Mr. McCready reported students were starting to take their MAP tests and the building had begun conducting emergency

drills. He noted the children liked the shiny floors, they have assigned seating, and many know their 4 B's.

Mr. McCready indicated he is enjoying his new building, and upon inquiry, there were no questions.

c. Sault Middle School – Ms. Jessica Rondeau

Ms. Rondeau reported Drew Paquin had replaced former Social Studies Teacher Pat Bennin, most of the students know him, and it is nice to see him back in the classroom.

Ms. Rondeau reported she was excited to have Sara Perfetti as the new Music Teacher for grades 5-12.

Ms. Rondeau reported the total enrollment is 539 students with 173 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade (two in Virtual Blue), 122 in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 119 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and 125 in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Ms. Rondeau reported there were 73% of students in attendance at the Open House (up 64 % from last year), and 71% in attendance at the Grade 5 Boot Camp (up 66% from last year).

Ms. Rondeau reported the Cross Country and Volleyball teams were well established and underway.

Ms. Rondeau reported the following extracurricular teams were available: Native Youth Council, Grade 5 LINKS, Student Council, 4-H Journalism Club, SHACC Student Advisory Group for wellness support, Boys & Girls Club CAMP, E-sports.

Ms. Rondeau reported assemblies and emergency drills were conducted during the first week of school.

d. Malcolm High School – Mrs. Sandy Sawyer

Mrs. Sawyer reported on the helpfulness of retired science teacher Patti Ewing working at Malcolm.

Mrs. Sawyer reported there were another 20 students in the building with 8 enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 20 in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 25 in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 41 in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She noted Virtual Blue had a total of 8 students.

Mrs. Sawyer reported Mrs. Morley was the advisor for the MSOS student volunteer group and asked for people to contact the school if there was a project the students could help with.

Mrs. Sawyer reported students had begun preparing their platform to run for student council.

Mrs. Sawyer reported VIP lunches would continue throughout the year for students, and the school was looking forward to Orange Shirt Day on September 30.

e. Sault Area High School – Mrs. Jeanine Sherman

Mrs. Sherman reported on the hiring of former English Teacher Scott Menard as Assistant Principal and Albert Odbert as the new Automotive Technology/Manufacturing Instructor with over 15 years in the industry.

Mrs. Sherman reported there were 179 students enrolled in Grade 9, 191 in Grade 10, 189 in grade 11, 167 in grade 12, and 68 area students were enrolled in CTE classes/programs.

Mrs. Sherman reported the Freshman Bootcamp went well with 63% of the students in attendance.

Mrs. Sherman reported 190 students were in attendance at this year's Open House compared to 41 the previous year. She noted the increase may have been because it was held prior to the start of school and on the same day as the other schools.

Mrs. Sherman reported they had conducted freshmen class meetings to share information and discuss expectations. She thanked the technology staff for helping to get enough student Chromebooks ready for the first day of school.

Mrs. Sherman reported the public announcement emergency button had been connected and they have begun practicing their emergency drills.

Mrs. Sherman reported Mr. Bennin and the Booster Club had been working on increasing community athletic engagement and the support has been good.

32. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the transportation department had reduced the number of daily bus routes by 2 ½ which resulted in a

little upheaval for Washington School the first week of school. She noted new routes, a new person at the radio, and family schedule changes throughout the day makes for a challenging day. She thanked Tymberlee Goff and Jenny Gerrie for their grace in working through all of the changes.

Superintendent Kronemeyer reported a couple of charter buses had been secured for other activities, but it would be too costly to continue throughout the year. She indicated the district had been working to secure more bus drivers for over a year, but it's been a struggle as with other districts throughout the state.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer provided an update on the Blackboard mass communication system. She indicated communication would start with the elementary school parents.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer provided an update on the student handbooks and the desire to have Sault High's handbook posted to its website on Tuesday. She noted the Employee Handbook was being reviewed by the schools attorney for policy compliance in hopes of having it completed in October.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the GOFAN App used to purchase tickets for athletics and plays. She stated the App did not have to be bought in order to use it, and in special circumstances, passes had been printed for older fans. She thanked student volunteers who have helped fans with the GOFAN migration.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district was back to parents paying for school meals indicative to the free and reduced lunch application.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she was super honored to present the following teachers for tenure: Tim Hall, Gerry Sciacca, Rex Engle, Christina Sizemore, Heidi Lehmkuhle, Kelly Beaumont, and Brad Boven. She thanked the administrators for their recommendations and the teachers for their contributions.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer thanked Medilodge staff, Old Mission Bank, Buzz Bash Softball Teams, Algonquin Methodist Church, and Lance Brown of Continental Automotive Systems for their donations to support students.

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

33. C. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Upon inquiry from President DeWitt, there was no comment.

34. **III. BOARD ACTIONS**

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

President DeWitt reviewed the following items:

1. Minutes - Regular and Closed Meeting - August 8, 2022
2. August General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,318,219.33 and Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$9,550.34.
3. New Hires
  - a. Kathy Jennings - First Grade Teacher - Washington School
  - b. Drew Paquin - Social Studies Teacher - Sault Area Middle School
  - c. Sara Perfetti - Music Education Teacher - Sault Area Middle School and Sault Area High School
  - d. Patricia Ewing - Science Teacher - Malcolm High School
  - e. Albert Odbert - CTE Automotive Teacher - Sault Area Career Center
4. Tenure
  - a. Timothy R. Hall - Washington School Teacher
  - b. Gerry Sciacca - Lincoln School Teacher
  - c. Rex Engle - Lincoln School Teacher
  - d. Christina Sizemore - Middle School Teacher
  - e. Heidie Lehmkuhle - Middle School Teacher
  - f. Kelly Beaumont - Middle School Teacher
  - g. Bradley Boven - High School Teacher
5. Gifts & Donations
  - a. Medilodge staff donated school supplies to Lincoln School.
  - b. Old Mission Bank donated \$6,000 for the Middle School Scoreboard.
  - c. The Buzz Bash Softball Tournament Teams donated \$2,000 for Washington, Lincoln, Sault High, and Malcolm High Schools
  - d. Algonquin United Methodist Church donated \$242 to the Malcolm Market Food Pantry.
  - e. Continental Automotive Systems donated a Horizontal Band Saw, Dayton 12-inch Disc Sander, Drill Press, Spindle Sander, and Table Saw to the CTE Machine Tool and Woodworking programs.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

President DeWitt asked the tenured teachers in the audience to stand as he congratulated them for their dedication and commitment to teaching on behalf of the Board.

**B. *NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

1. Assistant Principal – Scott Menard – Sault Area High School and Career Center

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the hiring of Scott Menard as assistant Principal for Sault Area High School and Career Center.

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

Nays: Wilson

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

**C. *DIGITAL BUSINESS DESKS – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 15 Workrite recessed desks with labor and installation from National Office Products for the CTE Digital Business course for a total purchase price of \$47,107.50.

Mrs. Bennin reported the bid was obtained through the Tips USA National Co-op purchasing program for governmental entities, and \$38,943.38 would be paid by the CTE Millage and the remaining \$10,164.12 from the CTE operating budget.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

**D. *MACHINE TOOL LATHE – Mrs. Michelle Bennin***

It was moved by Member Young, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a conventional lathe for the CTE Machine Tool Technology Program from Sierra Victor at the low bid price of \$29,858.00.

Mrs. Bennin reported the new lathe was needed to update existing older manual equipment. She noted \$25,379.30 would be paid from CTE Millage dollars and the remaining \$4,478.70 would be paid out the CTE operating budget.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

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

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer suggested the possibility of having existing staff in non-busing positions fill-in for extra runs, move to private transportation - like many downstate schools, or possibly checking in with Community Action to see if they have drivers. She indicated the district is still looking to recruit drivers from within the area as well as for paraprofessional positions.

Member Smith suggested offering a descent sign-on bonus or reaching out to truck driver schools for more bus drivers. Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated she is monitoring the situation.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer noted the district's Bus Driver Trainer was now driving bus full time, and there are more students on buses.

Upon comment from Member Smith about online communication, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer confirmed the district had reduced the number of bus runs by 2 ½ because of the lack of drivers, not because of budget cuts.

Member Wilson thanked Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer for her preparation in rolling out the school year as flawless as possible. He noted it was his fourth year serving on the board and hoped the positive momentum continues.

Member Young announced she attended the Washington School and Lincoln School open houses and was impressed. She stated she was super excited for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Links program to begin.

36. **V. FUTURE PLANNING**

President DeWitt announced the next school board meeting.

October 10 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Sault Area Middle

37. **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 7:53 p.m., it was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Wilson, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Wilson, Galer, Smith, DeWitt, Pingatore, Young, Curtis  
Nays: None

Absent: None  
Motion Carried.

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Raymond J. DeWitt, Board President

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Christine M. Curtis, Board Secretary

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Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary