

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

Minutes – Monday, October 10, 2022

45. **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 Colette and Paige Boucher

46. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: Lisa A. Young

47. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

A motion was made and supported by Member Smith, that the Board of Education adopt the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Motion Carried.

48. **II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Bennin reported on the monthly fluctuations, noted state aid is not receipted in until next month, and stated the district was financially sound.

There were no questions.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the tuition rates presented later in the agenda. She noted the amounts were set by the Michigan School Aid Act which are calculated on the previous year's general fund expenditures less any disallowable deductions.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the DM Burr Custodial Contract presented later in the agenda. She noted the last rate increase was approved in February, the company is fully staffed, and the district would like to continue with their services.

2. Helpful Teacher of the Month (Corrie Rath) – Dr. Sheri McFarlane

On behalf of Dr. McFarlane, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on Corrie Rath as the Helpful Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Rath will be presented with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency, MEEMIC Insurance recognition for her accomplishments.

3. Helpful Employee of the Month (Tymberlee Goff) – Mrs. Lucy Carrick

Mrs. Carrick reported on and introduced Tymberlee Goff as the Helpful Employee of the Month. Ms. Goff was presented with \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parkers Ace Hardware and Doug Laprade Agency, MEEMIC Insurance for her accomplishments.

4. PA-25 Report – Dr. Barb Light

Dr. Light presented the 2022 PA-25 Annual Academic Achievement Report by stated its purpose was to share academic data with context for comparison, highlight interesting data, and ask and respond to questions.

Dr. Light provided student count numbers from 2013 through 2022.

Dr. Light indicated the total number of students in 2022 was 1,978. She presented their racial data as indicated by being White, Native American, Black, Hispanic/Latino, two or more races, Asian, or Pacific Islander. She further defined the number of students who were in subgroups of: District 301 Students with Disabilities, EUPISD Students with Disabilities, Michigan Students with Disabilities, Students who are Economically Disadvantaged, EUPISD Early Delayed, and Michigan Early Delayed.

Dr. Light noted students were assessed in the areas of Literacy, ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies by testing in either the MSTEP, PSAT, or SAT based on the requirements for students in third through eighth and eleventh grades.

Dr. Light reported the district's goals were to have all students be competitive in college, the workforce, and in civic life with literacy and STEM skills; all students have the knowledge and skills to be responsible citizens and aware of cultures in the changing world; all students be engaged in the full creative process.

Dr. Light stated the Literacy Target of having 85% of students be proficient in Literacy skills on the MSTEP. She referenced the Third-Grade Reading Retention Law and highlighted improvements from 2021 to 2022 of 8 to 1 not meeting the threshold.

Dr. Light compared the third grade MSTEP data for years 2021 and 2022 among the District, EUPISD, and Michigan.

Dr. Light stated the MSTEP Literacy/ELA Target of having 85% of students in grades 4-7 be proficient, and 85% of students in grade 8 be proficient in the PSAT. She compared the mean percentage of proficiency for students in grades 4-7 and the percent of proficiency for students in grade 8 among the District, EUPISD, and Michigan for years 2021 and 2022.

Dr. Light highlighted significant district proficiency in the 2022 ELA data for Students with Disabilities in grade 5 and Female students in grade 11 compared to those in the EUPISD and Michigan.

Upon inquiry from President DeWitt, Dr. Light indicated the grade 11 increase was for female students only. Discussion ensued on the interesting possibilities for significant district proficiencies.

Dr. Light reported the STEM Target of having 85% of students be proficient in math skills on the MSTEP and PSAT for grades 3-8.

Dr. Light highlighted progress in grade 3 Early Numeracy on the MSTEP from 2021 to 2022, but not yet meeting the target. She contrasted the percent of proficiency with the EUPISD and Michigan data. She noted a considerable increase with comparative groups.

Dr. Light presented the 2021 and 2022 mean percent of proficiency in Math on the MSTEP for grades 4 through 7 to that of the EUPISD and Michigan. She noted the district scored better with the comparative groups both years.

Dr. Light presented the 2022 Math percent of proficiency on the PSAT for grade 8 and on the SAT for grade 11. She noted the district had scored better than compared to the EUPISD and Michigan.

Dr. Light presented the 2022 MSTEP Science data by percent of proficiency for grades 5, 8, and 11. She compared the data to that of the EUPISD and Michigan. She noted grade 5 was in line with the comparisons, grade 8 showed a positive gap, and grade 11 dipped below the comparatives.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there was no prior year science data because the district was operating under a pilot program.

Dr. Light noted the interesting data between males and females in the STEM Math data for students in grades 3 through 8.

Dr. Light presented the 2021 and 2022 MSTEP Social Studies data for students in grades 5, 8, and 11. She noted an increase in proficiency from 2021 to 2022 for grades 5 and 8, and an overall increase in comparison to the 2022 EUPISD and Michigan data.

Dr. Light stated she wants the momentum to keep moving forward for all grades and comparisons.

Dr. Light reported the goal of having all students be fully engaged in a creative process was not measurable with the current student academic achievement data, but the progress toward that goal includes the following:

- Maintaining K-12 Vocal Music
- Maintaining Middle School and High School Band
- Maintaining K-12 Visual Arts
- Maintaining High School Drama
- Scheduled two-hour ELA block in 2022 for grades 5-7
- Continue CTE and Classroom Project Based learning

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer noted the district data was a third percent of the EUPISD data, so that should be considered when making comparisons.

Dr. Light summarized the 2022 data as not meeting the 85% goal but heading in the right direction. She suggested the possibility of rethinking the matrix parallel structure to measure and factor in creative engagement in the classroom and with extracurricular activities.

Upon inquiry from President DeWitt, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated the 85% school accountability was over a 10 year period which is close, but that was prior to the COVID break.

Dr. Light reported the grade level data is reviewed with teachers in their PLCs. She noted she is a huge believer in working toward continued improvement.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported it takes a long time to get through curriculum material updates, and the next updates should probably be made with the elective courses.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported a lot of intervention work has begun within the district.

Upon inquiry from President DeWitt, Dr. Light indicated she would be surprised if any of the other schools in the EUPISD had reached the 85% goal.

President DeWitt questioned if school improvements could be better met in smaller districts compared to larger ones. Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated there are a lot of different variables within districts and 85% can be a very high goal.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district was operating at the 85% goal on the MSTEP and MEAP prior to the last test change.

Dr. Light stated she appreciated the questions as it shows interest.

49. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer provided the Board with a depiction of the Portrait of a Sault Graduate. She stated everyone needs to support and align to its rubric.

Superintendent Scott Kronemeyer reported it is best to promote and sustain supervised in-person learning, but there are some unique circumstances that require virtual education. She indicated there were less than 30 students enrolled in the Virtual Blue Program.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated there is a very small number of students who are homebound learning.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported student growth updates are reported in February and June.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the need to have community, parent, and student engagement for optional growth.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated she supports hiring, training, and retaining for exemplary staff. She indicated the district opened an account with Indeed to help reach out and secure more candidates. She reported the district is always working to train staff and those who want to transition into next leadership roles as others get close to retirement. She stated the district tries to support and monitor employee wellness and provide opportunities to interact with each other.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on a multi-tiered system of support and monitoring for the whole school community.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on preparing for effective communication and services. She referenced following the guidance of the Chippewa County Health Department to minimize communicable diseases and to follow, execute, establish and ensure emergency procedures are followed.

Superintendent reported on the school meal program and supporting growth goals in reading and math at all levels.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there is a lot of information for supporting the Portrait of a Graduate. She asked the Board to review the informational graphic and let her know of any concerns they have as it will be reviewed every 6 months.

President DeWitt thanked Dr. Light for providing a lot of information in the PA 25 Report. He confirmed there were no questions.

50. **C. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION***

Trisha Kiczenski spoke on her concern for additional recess time, grade 5 students switching classrooms and teachers for each subject, understanding how the school day operates, and the need for a snack break during the day.

Sabrina Nevue of EUP Well reported on the importance of mental health resilience in the face of trauma and toxic stress. She reviewed a series of free movies and their bios offered to the community at the LSSU Arts Center over the next 6 months. She noted the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services was sponsoring the first movie on October 17.

51. **III. *BOARD ACTIONS***

A. *CONSENT RESOLUTION – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer*

President DeWitt reviewed the following items:

1. Minutes – September 12, 2022
2. August General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,013,320.71 and Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$8,060.73.
3. New Hires
 - a. Kristina Amend – Paraprofessional – Washington School
 - b. Jennifer Matthews – Playground Supervisor – Washington School
 - c. Ashley Pietrangelo – Support Specialist – Lincoln School
 - d. Morgan Hilgendorf – Paraprofessional – Sault Area Middle School
 - e. Sarah Tomlinson – Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Curriculum/Sault Area High School

4. District Policies

Policy 6108 – Authorization to Use Electronic Fund Transfers and Automated Clearing House Arrangements

Policy 6460 – Vendor Relations

Policy 6700 – Fair Labor Standards Act

Policy 7440.03 – Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Policy 9150 – School Visitors

5. Gifts and Donations

a. Central Savings Bank donated \$7,500 toward the AJ VanCitters Sound System.

b. ETNA donated \$7,500 toward the AJ VanCitters Sound System.

c. Taco Bell and Kentucky Fried Chicken donated \$4,000 for the Soccer canopy and tent.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Motion Carried.

52. **B. APPROVAL OF TUTION RATES – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

President DeWitt announced the following state foundational tuition rates.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Per Capita Rate | \$11,189.59 per year |
| Elementary Tuition | \$13,986.99 per year |
| Secondary Tuition | \$14,476.53 per year |
| Vocational Tuition | \$ 3,244.98 per year (\$1,622.49 per semester) |

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Smith, that the Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 tuition rates at the per capita cost.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Motion Carried.

53. **C. DM BURR CONTRACT – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the three-year contract extension with DM Burr for custodial services.

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

Nays: None
Absent: Young
Motion Carried.

54. **D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported ESSER requires the district to have a Continuum of Services Plan and to allow the public to weigh in on it.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education accept public comment on the Continuity of Learning Plan.

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

55. **E. CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the Continuity of Learning Plan.

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

56. **F. EMERGENCY OPERATING PLAN – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Chief Berling, Chief Miller and the School Resource Officer had reviewed the plan. She stated it is a dynamic plan that continually requires updating.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Smith, that the Board of Education approve the Emergency Operating Plan.

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

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

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Ms. Rondeau indicated grade 5 students have a 15 minute recess in the morning, and one within the 30 minute lunch time.

Member Curtis indicated the district needs to operate as stipulated to ensure public trust.

Member Pingatore indicated when her child was in grade 5, he had two academic and one elective teacher every day. She stated it was 7 different teachers in a week, not daily. Member Curtis stated she though up to 7 per day was a lot.

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district cannot contractually allow more than 32 students per class and 175 students per teacher.

Member Galer suggested checking with other schools in the area to see how they operate recess as 3 times per day is a bit too much.

Upon inquiry from Member Galer, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer provided a brief overview of the Early Childhood Programs planned for the Soo Township School Complex. She noted it takes a cohesive approach to work through all of the logistical regulations and safety measures of the different funding sources. She stated registration applications were being developed.

Upon further inquiry from Member Galer, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated there needs to be full child inclusion, multiple funding sources, and specific regulations need to be followed based on the age of the child.

Member Curtis gave kudos to the administrators who worked on deploying the Back to School Backpacks. She stated she was impressed with the organization, speed, and was thankful for their support.

President Dewitt noted it would be nice if board members were given advance notice so they could volunteer for things like the backpack deployment.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer inquired on Board members riding in the Homecoming Parade. President DeWitt expressed interest. Member Pingatore indicated it was a good idea because some people are not aware of who is on the Board. Member Smith stated he tried to have a float several years ago, but there was no interest.

Member Pingatore indicated the Board might be able to volunteer at athletic concessions once in a while. Member Galer indicated they could possible volunteer at the elementary schools for Popcorn Fridays.

58. *V. FUTURE PLANNING*

President DeWitt announced the next school board meeting.

59. **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:23 p.m., it was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Smith, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Motion Carried.

Raymond J. DeWitt, Board President

Christine M. Curtis, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary