

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

Minutes – Monday, October 11, 2021

63. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Sault Area Middle School, 684 Marquette Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 and via Zoom: <https://eupschools.zoom.us/j/2405014824> or Call in: +1 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 240 501 4824

President Smith introduced student Tim Garland who led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

64. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: None

65. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

66. **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – September 13, 2021

Closed Meeting A – September 13, 2021

Closed Meeting B – September 13, 2021

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Pingatore
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

67. **D. BUSINESS REPORT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS –
Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

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

Mrs. Bennin reported there was a slight decline in cash balance and fund equity mostly due to it being the first full month of current year expenditures. She stated the first state aid payment would not be received on October 20 but the cash balance was sufficient due to higher than expected projected cash amounts last year.

Mrs. Bennin reported the auditors were scheduled to present the 2020-21 audit via Zoom at the November meeting.

Mrs. Bennin reported pending the finalization of the state's budget, she would present a budget amendment at the December meeting.

President Smith stated the September report had been reviewed by the Finance Committee last week and there were no concerns or questions.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the August General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,023,786.25 and the Food Service Bill List in the amount of \$25,336.96.

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

68. **II. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Recognition

- a. Teacher of the Month (Megan Burkitt) – Mrs. Jeanine Sherman

Mrs. Sherman introduced and announced Megan Burkitt as the helpful Teacher of the Month.

- b. Employee of the Month (Anthony Sauro) – Mrs. Jeanine Sherman

Mrs. Sherman introduced and announced Tony Sauro as the helpful Employee of the Month.

President Smith stated the helpful Teachers and Employees of the Month are given a Helpful Teacher or Employee of the Month tee shirt and \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Doug Laprade of Meemic Laprade Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

2. Service Learning Group – Mrs. Tracy Menard

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer introduced Mrs. Menard.

Mrs. Menard reported former teacher Dennis Dougherty established the Rock Park in 2000 with Board approval and amazingly on a meager \$3,000 grant. She indicated the park needed a little TLC and Mr. Dougherty met with her class, mostly underclassmen, for help in pulling weeds, raking, shoveling, and hauling gravel.

Upon request from Mrs. Menard, Mr. Dougherty reported the students worked hard and it was nice to see them volunteer. He stated he hoped the activity would produce a spin off for them to be active in their community and perhaps lead to a desire to work in landscaping.

A student reported the class requires a lot of teamwork but it is also one of the best classes at Sault High.

Mrs. Menard reported the Rock Park enables all schools in the area to utilize it for part of their STEM curriculum and it is often used by the public over the summer.

69. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

1. Operating Schools Safely Update

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the Sault Police would be observing random bus stops over the next week to ensure everyone was operating safely. She reviewed the rules for bus light signaling and confirmed the side arm cameras record. She indicated a couple of drivers had passed a bus with its red lights on and there is a hefty fine if a student is injured. She thanked the police department for making bus safety a priority and indicated it coincides with Bus Safety Week.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there were 3,496 cumulative positive COVID cases in the county this year, 1,175 by

school day 25, 220 were being monitored, 2,798 had recovered, 9 currently hospitalized, and the hospital was at 70% capacity.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the Middle School had been shut down for two days due to the large number of close contacts.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district is required to include CTE area students in its COVID stats and all of the data is viewable online by school at www.saultschools.org.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the four COVID mitigation strategies were masking, quarantining, testing, and vaccination. She stated masks are optional within the district and the use is low.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported grade level COVID cases were rising in areas where students were not yet eligible to receive vaccines and some students have had to quarantine multiple times. She questioned if the Delta variant had peaked. She stated she was happy to partner with the National Guard to provide increased and free opportunities for tests and vaccinations.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Nurse Michaels is doing a good job of handling a lot of phone calls and submitting close contact letters. She reported the letters include the exposure date and the option for non-vaccinated to quarantine for 10 days, test on day 6 or 7, and return to school on day 8 pending a negative test(s) or to quarantine for 14 days.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the district's main goal was to keep school open and to educate kids.

Dr. Catherine Wilkerson introduced herself as the Chippewa County Public Medical Health Director and reported Michigan is one of five states where COVID cases were on the rise. She noted the cycle of the virus gets worse before it gets better. She stated the Health Department's goal is to decrease transmission, keep people alive, keep hospitals from being overloaded, and to protect the health system for everyone. She thanked the Superintendent and Nurse Michaels for their efforts, and stated she was fortunate to work with wonderful staff.

Dr. Wilkerson reported COVID is a public health crisis with over 700,000 Americans succumbing to it thus far. She asked everyone to be respectful and listen to those who are trying to protect them from the terrible virus. She noted kids are 3.5 times higher to contract

COVID if they are not universally masked. She reported the health department wants to work well and have a good working relationship with everyone.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer thanked last year's teaching staff who assisted with 75% of the students taking the spring M-STEP. She noted 95% of those students did very well with the exception of English language arts.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported a Cyber Safety session was scheduled for October 13 at 7 p.m. in the high school. She highlighted its importance due to the recent Tik Tok influence for students to lick dirty surfaces, steal, assault teachers, and post it on the internet. She asked parents to monitor their children's phone for influencers they may not know about. She stated Tik Tok has different challenge every month.

70. **C. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION***

Mary Huyck spoke on her concern for appropriate teaching of students who are home under quarantine.

Chad Amo spoke on requiring a mask mandate.

Brooks Sayer thanked the Board for their service and time especially during this time of deeply divided opinions.

Katie Wood spoke on segregating vaccinated and non-vaccinated students.

Melissa Pancheri spoke on quarantining healthy kids.

Joy spoke on student anxiety for contacting COVID and the need for in-person learning.

Kathryn Hills inquired on the number of quarantined students who test positive.

President Smith thanked the public for voicing their concerns and indicated a lot of the rules and regulations the district has to follow were made at higher levels.

Nurse Michaels asked parents to contact her if they receive a close contact letter with a date when their child was not at school. She stated she was trying to help parents, not make things confusing.

President Smith thanked Nurse Michaels for all her hard work.

71. **III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS**

A. PERSONNEL – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

New Hire

Dr. McFarlane presented the following.

1. Chandler Davis – Playground Supervisor – Washington School

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Chandler Davis as Playground Supervisor for Washington School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Mrs. McCarthy presented the following.

2. Melinda Dancz – Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional - Sault Area Middle School

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Melinda Dancz as Special Education Resource Room Paraprofessional for Sault Area Middle School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

72. **B. METS CONTRACT – Superintendent Amy Scott-Kronemeyer**

Mrs. Bennin reported the third party METS contract includes an hourly wage increase to align with the state rate of \$18.21 for the first year and \$19.11 for the following year.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the METS contract as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

73. C. **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER CURRICULUM – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she was seeking two curriculums for ESL students, one from McGraw-Hill and the other from Imagine Learning.

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported English language learners were on the rise with 8 students currently enrolled in the district who have a home language other than English. She noted the curriculum includes over 400 lessons, textbooks and online learning resources that teach English from its basic level onward and not from the individual’s home language.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Young, that the Board of Education approve the English Language Learner curriculum and materials as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: DeWitt

Motion Carried.

74. D. **POLICIES**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported this was the first reading and asked that all questions be brought to her prior to taking action at next month’s meeting.

Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights

Volume 36 No. 1

Policy 3120 – Employment of Professional Staff

Policy 6114 – Cost Principles – Spending Federal Funds

Policy 6152 – Student Fees, Fines, and Supplies

Policy 7450 – Property Inventory

Policy 8310 – Public Records

Policy 8320 – Personnel Files

Policy 8330 – Student Records

75. E. **GIFTS AND DONATIONS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

1. On behalf of the Class of 1971, Gwen Worley and Marilyn Sillers donated \$1,700 to the High School Food Pantry.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education accept the above donation with thanks and appreciation.

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

76. **IV. CLOSED SESSION**

President Smith announced the Board was going into closed session and the public was welcomed back for open session where there would be a couple of action items.

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

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education move into closed session after a short break at 8:05 p.m. in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8 (c), for strategy and negotiations.

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

The Board went into closed session at 8:06 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:08 p.m.

B. MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION M.O.M.A. 15.268 §8 (h)

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education move into closed session at 8:08 p.m. in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act 15.268 §8 (h), to consider security planning.

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

The Board went into closed session at 8:08 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:38 p.m.

President Smith inquired about having a public address system to hear public comment.

77. **V. APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

1. Cooks

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the Cooks contract for years 2022 and 2023 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

2. Paraprofessional

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member DeWitt, that the Board of Education approve the Paraprofessional contract for years 2022 and 2023 as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

78. **VI. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES**

President Smith concurred with Member Curtis that there was a lot of good comment and hoped COVID matters would improve going forward.

Member Curtis thanked the Superintendent for the bus light follow-up and the Sault Police Department for making bus safety a priority.

79. **VII. FUTURE PLANNING**

President Smith reviewed future events.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the October 28 EUPSBA meeting was a semi-annual event originally held at different schools throughout the region.

October 28 – EUPSBA Meeting – 6 p.m. - Zoom

November 8 - Regular Board Meeting - 7 p.m. - Sault Area Middle School

80. **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:51 p.m., it was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Daniel L. Smith, President

Lisa A. Young, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary