

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

Minutes – Monday, May 9, 2022

290. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Students Savannah Proulx and Gianna Sayer lead the Board in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Sault Area Middle School, 684 Marquette Avenue and via Zoom.

291. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: Lisa A. Young

292. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Smith, supported by Member Galer, to adopt the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Motion Carried.

293. **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April 11, 2022 – Regular Meeting

April 26, 2022 – Annual Meeting

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the above minutes with Members Wilson and Curtis abstaining from the April 26, 2022 minutes.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Abstain: Wilson, Curtis (from the April 26, 2022 Minutes)

Motion Carried.

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

Mrs. Bennin presented the April financial statements and indicated she had completed the ESSER drawdowns.

Mrs. Bennin reported the April overall balance was the same as last year at this time.

Mrs. Bennin reported she would present the 2022 budget amendment at the June meeting along with the proposed 2023 budget.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Curtis, that the Board of Education approve the April General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,314,120.37 and the Food Service Bill List of \$68,247.93.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Motion Carried.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

295. **A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD
1. Recognition**

- a. Teacher of the Month (Meg Boucher) – Mrs. Diane Chevillot

Mrs. Chevillot reported on the exceptional teaching skills that Mrs. Boucher brings to her classrooms. She noted the outstanding grade-level Grandparents' Day music events she presented with the students.

Mrs. Boucher was presented with the Ace Helpful Teacher of the Month tee shirt and \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug LaPrade Meemic Insurance Agency.

Mrs. Boucher thanked everyone for the recognition.

- b. Employee of the Month (Mrs. Jody Kapuscinski) –
Mrs. Diane Chevillot

Mrs. Chevillot reported Mrs. Kapuscinski keeps students her main priority, and she appreciates all her work in the office.

Mrs. Kapuscinski will be presented with the Outstanding Employee of the Month tee shirt and \$50 in Chamber Bucks sponsored by Parker Ace Hardware and Doug LaPrade Meemic Insurance Agency.

- c. Rotary-Poppink Distinguished Teachers of the Year (Elementary: Jackie Line, Secondary: John Twichel) - Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Mrs. Line and Mr. Twichel exemplify the alignment of the 4 B's and the Rotary four-way test by demonstrating the attitude, works well with student, parents, and the community, gives extra time and effort beyond what is expected daily, and demonstrates a commitment to the teaching profession in such a way that truly makes a difference.

Mrs. Chevillot reported Mrs. Line has been a shining light in the building and presented her with the Poppink award.

Ms. Rondeau reported on Mr. Twichel's organizational skills and dedication to students he values. She commented on the long term affects he will have on his students.

Mr. Twichel thanked administration and the board for his award and stated it was all due to the hard work of his students.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer introduced a video of Mr. Twichel's 7th grade STEM classes participating in the Square One underwater vehicle competition at LSSU.

Mr. Twichel reported the middle school students used high school technology, analogue and digital signals to compete in the Square One competition. He highlighted the students' dedication, speed, communication skills, and willingness to learn new things.

Middle School students Piper, Savannah, and Eiley reported on how the competition was used to help teach science, to trust, communicate as a team, collaborate, problem solve, and adapt to overcome.

- d. District Employees of the Year (Tracy Menard and Tony Sauro) – Superintendent Kronemeyer

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer announced Tracy Menard and Tony Sauro were chosen by their co-workers first and then administration. She reported on the dedication and commitment

they bring to the students and staff and noted they would receive their award at the EUPSBA dinner scheduled for tomorrow.

e. Michigan Alternative Education Organization School of the Year

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer announced Malcolm High School had received the 2022 Michigan Alternative Education School of the Year Award.

Mrs. Sawyer reported the main reason for the award was because of the hard work of the students and staff.

Upon inquiry from Member Scott-Kronemeyer, Mrs. Sawyer reported Malcolm High School is a separate education program that provides approximately 100 youth with options for in person and/or virtual classes whose needs were not met in the traditional school setting. She stated there are over 369 alternative education programs in the state that serve approximately 25,000 or 5% of the secondary student population. Mrs. Sawyer indicated Malcolm was one of four alternative programs in the Upper Peninsula.

Mrs. Sawyer reported there were 22 students graduating from Malcolm this year. She thanked the community and board for giving the students and staff the opportunity to participate in the community and in supporting their needs.

2. Math Lab – Mrs. Heidie Lehmkuhle

Mrs. Lehmkuhle introduced three students who along with her reported on the Stanford University online math lab class taught by Dr. Jo Baler founder of the youcubed.

Mrs. Lehmkuhle reported it is a self-paced college class for students and teachers in grades 6-8 that teaches strategies to approach math and correct misconceptions rather than encourage speed.

The students reported on their excitement in learning how to approach math problems and the relevance to real world situations.

Mrs. Lehmkuhle read some student letters written to Dr. Baler about how they have enjoyed learning math with a different mindset.

Mrs. Lehmkuhle reported she was hoping to send students home with a book called Limitless Mind written by Dr. Baler so they can continue to learn how brains grow and how they can be the best math student.

Upon inquiry, Mrs. Lehmkuhle reported it would cost approximately \$500 for the student books.

3. **FIRST Robotics Team – Jeanne Shibley**

Sault High sophomore Gavin Aikens reported on what FIRST stood for and the work that went into 14 weeks of learning the game, rules, designing, building CAD models, using 3D printers, and competing.

Mrs. Shibley reported the team missed state competition by 2 points and were looking to improve next year. She thanked the volunteers who worked with the team and stated they are constantly seeking more from the community.

Upon inquiry, Mrs. Shibley reported the team’s annual budget is around \$15,000 and they fundraise, receive grants and community sponsorships to help offset the expenses.

Upon inquiry, Gavin indicated he learned a lot about programing and real world skills like business planning, public speaking, social media, marketing and financial responsibilities.

President DeWitt thanked Mrs. Shibley and Gavin for their nice presentation.

Mrs. Shibley provided the Board with a team brochure for additional inquiry.

296. **B. *SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Superintendent Hall***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there was not much to report on since the May 4 budget meeting.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the year in review with high-quality instruction in a safe and orderly environment. She noted the recent uptick in COVID and the vaccine testing and inoculation scheduled. She thanked everyone for their help over her first year of employment.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported there were two 6-year positions for the school board starting January 2023. She stated the filing deadline with the County Clerk is Tuesday, July 6, at 4:00 p.m. and the election is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

297. **C. *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION***

There was none.

III. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS

298. **A. PERSONNEL**

New Hires

Ms. Rondeau reported it was a busy time of year and she is being proactive in hiring the following individuals for next school year.

Ms. Rondeau presented the following recommendations.

1. Genise Hoornstra – Playground Supervisor – Sault Area Middle School

It was moved by Member Curtis, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Genise Hoornstra as Playground Supervisor for Sault Area Middle School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Motion Carried.

2. Michelle Bullian – Grade 5 Teacher – Sault Area Middle School

Ms. Rondeau reported on her recommendation for hiring Michelle Bullian. She the additional Grade 5 teacher was due to an increase in grade 5 students next year.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Michelle Bullian as Grade 5 Teacher for Sault Area Middle School.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Young

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Bullian thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to teach at the Middle School.

3. Sydnie Dumas – ELA Teacher – Sault Area Middle School

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Wilson, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Sydnie Dumas as ELA Teacher for Sault Area Middle School.

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

299. **B. 2022-2023 USED BUS – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education award the 2022-2023 used bus bid to Midwest Transit for a total purchase price of \$77,464 as presented.

Mrs. Bennin reported the bus would be paid out of the 2022-23 transportation budget and was being purchased now due to inventory shortages and availability for the start of next school year.

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

300. **C. HIGH SCHOOL FLOORING BID – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reported the district received one bid for the high school flooring that is being paid with ESSER II funds. She indicated replacement of the flooring is to be completed by the start of school.

It was moved by Curtis, supported by Wilson, that the Board of Education award the High School Flooring bid to Builders First Source at the cost of \$45,434.06 as presented.

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

301. **D. COMPUTER LAB PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reported the computer lab was the combination of reducing seventh hour riders, moving the Work Based Learning hours to a CTE Teacher, and implementing the required Computer Science curriculum.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 30 Dell Optiplex computes, keyboards, mice, and three-year onsite warranty through REMC Device Purchasing Bid Program for a total cost of \$29,220 to be paid by this year's state aid vocational education program dollars.

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

302. **E. *OVERNIGHT TRAVEL REQUEST – Ms. Kathleen Moore***

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the overnight travel request was for one senior student who made it to BPA Nationals. She stated competition was on June 26 after she graduates and with the accompaniment of her parents.

Upon inquiry, Mrs. Lussier reported the cost of registration would be paid out of the BPA budget and there was no cost to the district.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the overnight travel for the Health Sciences ILC qualifier student to attend the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Nashville as presented.

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

303. **F. *GIFTS AND DONATIONS – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

1. Masonic Bethel Lodge 358 donated \$500 for student expenses to the National BPA competition in Dallas.
2. Masonic Bethel Lodge 358 donated 6 bicycles to the Bikes for Books reading incentive program. Bikes will be delivered at events later this month.
2. Old Mission Bank and Norris Contracting donated scoreboards for the Middle School gym.

Member Smith acknowledged Mr. Huyck from Norris Contracting was in the audience and could be thanked for the donation.

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

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

Motion Carried.

304. **IV. FUTURE PLANNING**

President DeWitt reviewed the following.

May 10 – EUPSBA Dinner Meeting - Sault Area High School - 5:30 p.m.

May 26 - Malcolm Graduation – Sault Area High School - 7:00 p.m.

May 29 - Sault High Graduation – A.J. VanCitters Field - 2:00 p.m.

June 13 - Regular Board Meeting – Sault Area Middle School - 7:00 p.m.

Mr. McCready indicated Sault High graduation would be held at the A.J. VanCitters Athletic field pending weather conditions, and then it would be held in the high school gym.

305. **V. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES**

Upon inquiry from Member Wilson, Mrs. Lussier reported three BPA students performed very well and placed in Nationals.

306. **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:09 p.m., it was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Pingatore, that the meeting be adjourned.

Raymond J. DeWitt, Board President

Christine M. Curtis, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary