

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

Minutes – Monday, March 22, 2021

235. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Smith called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. in the Sault Area Middle School, 684 Marquette Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

236. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

Absent: None

237. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

238. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no comment.

239. **D. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

1. Face to Face Learning

Superintendent Hall reported the Board chose to suspend school on Friday and Monday because approximately 125 students were on quarantine between the Middle School and High School. He stated the meeting was called to review current data.

Superintendent Hall reported War Memorial Hospital was currently at 64% capacity with 2 positive COVID patients.

Superintendent Hall reported there were currently 210 (or 11 ½ %) students quarantining throughout the district with the bulk of them being from the Middle School and High School.

Superintendent Hall reported he was not recommending additional closure and would like to keep face-to-face learning as long as possible. He cautioned parents and students to continue following the CDC guidelines as the virus is not out of the area yet. He stated parents have been doing a good job of communicating with the schools when their child has tested positive and many times it's prior to the health department calling because it is so busy.

Superintendent Hall reported the recently revised MDE Pupil Accounting Manual requires a district to have 75% of students in attendance per month as opposed to per day, before forfeiting and pupil funding.

Superintendent Hall reported monthly student attendance at Washington School was between 89% to 94.5%, Sault Middle School between 91% to 97%; Sault High and Lincoln within the 90% ranges, and Malcolm staying strong with only 1 down day.

He announced even though the district had been affected more this week, the district would not have to forfeit any state aid unless the Board chose to suspend face-to-face instruction all together.

Superintendent Hall stated administration is recommending keeping the schools open and if the Board approved, no motion was necessary. He announced had War Memorial Hospital been up to 90% capacity with several COVID patients, another recommendation may have been made.

Member Young indicated she had been contacted by a few parents who would like to send their children back to school because they are not doing well nor keeping up with virtual instruction. She indicated they are also worried about the school's quarantine instructions and wondered if Google Zoom or Google Classroom would be a viable. President Smith reported the teachers' contractual agreement does not allow Google Zoom or Classroom during regular teaching hours.

In reference to inquiry from Member Young, Superintendent Hall reported it was unfortunate that some people have had to quarantine, but our teachers have done Yeoman's work in keeping communication going with parents, and the school is not in the position to force children to do their work just as their parents aren't. He suggested parents contact their child's teacher if they need support.

Upon inquiry from Member Young, Superintendent Hall reported students are unable to join the Virtual Blue program explicitly for reinforcement to their face-to-face instruction because it would require a lot of behind the scene work and the connection flow would not be manageable.

President Smith suggested everyone do what they are supposed to do over Spring Break so the Board does not have to address anything after break.

240. ***II. ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business to come before the Board at 5:55 p.m., it was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Wilson, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Daniel L. Smith, President

Lisa A. Young, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary