

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

**Minutes – Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

191. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Sault Area Middle School, 684 Marquette Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 and viewable via Zoom: <https://eupschools.zoom.us/j/93223365953> Meeting ID: 923 2336 5953 or Dial In: +1 646-876-9923

192. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

Board Members Present:

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

Absent: None

193. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Curtis, to adopt the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

194. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

**II. ACTION ITEMS AND BOARD REPORTS**

195. **A. BID AWARD – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reported the district contracted with U.P. Engineers & Architects to design and prepare the request for proposal for the removal and replacement of all metal siding, upper windows, above locker windows, and exterior doors at Sault Area High School. She reported the

work was scheduled in 5 phases with phases 1 & 2 to be completed by the end of summer 2022 (the north and east main entrance of the building), phases 3-5 to be completed by September 2023.

Mrs. Bennin reported there was a non-mandatory pre-bid meeting on December 15 and several contractors attended and toured the building, but only Nomad Construction submitted a bid.

Mrs. Bennin reported Nomad's bid of \$3,490,000 was for all phases of the project with an Alternate #1 deduct of \$50,000 and a prevailing wage deduct of \$67,100.

Mrs. Bennin reported the first budget amendment allowed for \$1.5 million to be rolled into the capital projects account to cover the scope of wages. She noted federal taxes would not be assessed on those dollars. She stated the remaining labor costs of just over \$2.3 million would be covered by ESSER funds.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Mrs. Bennin and she had met with Kevin Walters of MDE who reviewed the district's request for ESSER funds and to use a portion of it for project wages. She stated Mr. Walters indicated the request should be approved as long as all documents were submitted. She indicated the district was just waiting on the final state review.

Upon inquiry from Member Galer, Jeremy Gagnon of EUP Engineers and Architects suggested the facility review presented earlier in the month may have been off due to wages.

Members Smith and Pingatore commented on the difficulty in hearing comments made by Member Galer.

Member Smith expressed concern for using ESSER funds prior to receiving final approval and noted some state funds had historically been taken back even after approval.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated she had asked Mr. Walters to review the ESSER grant application so the district would have the best possible outcome for awarding ESSER funds.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated she was confident the district was following all of the procedures and the process wasn't new to her.

Member Smith stated he was seeking clarification so the public could understand everything.

Upon inquiry from President DeWitt, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the state is not issuing confirmation dates.

Scott-Kronemeyer confirmed the narrative submitted matched the spending outline.

Member Smith questioned the project's scope of work as it wasn't available at the Facility meeting a few months ago.

Mr. Gagnon presented a sample of the mid-grade, tongue and groove R23 insulated metal panel with concealed fasteners selected to replace the high school's current rusted exterior panels. He noted the color chosen was a slate gray and delivery was 20 weeks out.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Mr. Gagnon stated the panels had a 40 year warranty. He noted the aluminum on the panel was to keep the foam insulation intact.

Mr. Gagnon reported the single pane windows would be replaced with a better quality aluminum window.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated not all of the exterior doors were badge readers.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Mr. Gagnon reported the sidewalk removal/replacement was minimal and the project was being done in phases based on the most visible and with minimal disruption.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Mr. Gagnon reported the window soffits were in good shape and R24-27 spray foam and flat galvanized steel would be installed under the windows to ensure a good thermal value. Mr. Gagnon confirmed the specifications included a warranty.

Member Smith expressed concern for the lack of additional communication prior to board action.

Member Wilson inquired on the cash on hand should ESSER funds fall through.

Mrs. Bennin reported Mr. Gagnon quoted \$1.4 million for siding and insulation and the contractor buys the materials.

Mr. Gagnon acknowledged he is overseeing the project, designed the plans, and proposed the best value and matter for the specifications. Upon further inquiry, Mr. Gagnon reported Nomad is using qualified independent subcontractors for the roofing, and windows. He referenced page three of the proposal for specifications.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Mr. Gagnon indicated he would look into the possibility of condensation with the proposed soffit panels and report back on.

Member Smith suggested other educational areas in which to spend ESSER funds on.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she had sought community input on how to best spend ESSER funds through a survey. She noted if funds were spent on staffing, it would only be for a one-time activity and not to an ongoing infrastructure for all. Upon further inquiry, she reported ESSER funding would be received in through December 2024.

Member Smith stated he would not continue with ESSER concerns.

President DeWitt indicated he was concerned about allocating specific funds the district did not have at this time.

Member Smith stated the project should have been done 20 years ago, he appreciates all the work Mr. Gagnon has done, Nomad Construction is fully capable of doing the job, but he is concerned because of the historical budget cuts the district has had to make over the years and would prefer to wait until the money is in the bank before moving forward.

Member Curtis reported on the general fund dollars that could be allocated to cover phases I and II and the use of ESSER funds for the remainder of the project.

Upon comment from Member Galer, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported if the process had to be halted, grant funds would need to be reviewed. She confirmed the district applies for grants every year.

Member Wilson reported on his concern for having one proposal. Mr. Gagnon reported the request went out on SIGMA state-wide, Marquette Builders Exchange, and two contractors advertised throughout the state. He noted it wasn't uncommon to receive one or two bids for larger projects in the area, and the bid came within the projected estimated costs.

Member Smith indicated the project should be tabled until it could go before the voters in the form of a bond, and ESSER funds should be spent on students and staff because there are too many unknowns.

It was moved by Member Smith, that the Sault High Bid Project be tabled until the district could run a bond or secure funding.

President DeWitt confirmed there wasn't a second to the motion.

The motion died for lack of support.

Member Wilson indicated he would have liked more communication on the process prior to it coming before the Board, but he was excited to be able to make the necessary repairs and offer students a warm dry building.

Upon inquiry from Member Young, Mr. Nelson reported he had given the project a number “3” in the Facilities Report, but it would only enable more water damage and especially on the south side of the building if it was postponed.

Upon inquiry from Member Smith, Mr. Gagnon reported the bottom soffit of the windows was made with untreated wood. He stated they would eventually rot and the angle iron rust if exposed to water where the panels are fastened. Mr. Gagnon reported there is a \$25,000 allowance for rust and the panels can only expand so far before extra support is needed.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district has been making upgrades to curriculum, supplies, summer school supports, and paraprofessional supports over the past two years.

Mr. Gagnon and Mrs. Bennin reported the phase I base bid was budgeted for \$1.2 million.

Upon inquiry from Member Pingatore, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported ideas were discussed with Tom Nelson and reviewed over the summer, the committee met with Mr. Gagnon in the fall, UPEA worked with administration to prepare the information, a community input survey on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds went out in November, and a quorum was confirmed in December for this meeting and the reason for it. She noted timeframes had to be considered due to student learning, and there is only about 20 weeks over the summer to get work done.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Mrs. Bennin delayed her budget amendment until January so the Board would have the most current information as possible.

Upon inquiry from Member Galer, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the ESSER application was reviewed by MDE and its process was the same as she had previously followed for other grants.

Member Wilson stated he was ready to make a motion.

It was moved by Member Wilson, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education award the Sault High Siding Project Bid to Nomad Construction for a total cost of \$3,372,000 as presented.

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

196. **III. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 6:24 p.m., it was moved by Member Young, supported by Member Curtis, that the meeting be adjourned.

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