

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

Minutes – Monday, April 26, 2022

265. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Big Bear Arena Hospitality Room, Two Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie.

266. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

Board Members Present: Melissa S. Pingatore, Daniel L. Smith, Raymond J. DeWitt, Caitlin L. Galer

Absent: Lisa A. Young, Christine M. Curtis, Jay D. Wilson

267. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Pingatore, to adopt the agenda as presented/revised.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Young, Curtis, Wilson

Motion Carried.

268. **C. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CONTRACT – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

It was moved by Member Smith, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the Student Resource Officer Contract as presented and authorize the Superintendent to sign all necessary documents.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the approved contract would allow the district to employ a city police officer effective July 1, if available. She indicated the primary duties of the officer would be to build relationships between the community and the police, foster youth education and initiatives, and be part of the school safety plan. She noted the position would require external training and all schools would be serviced.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported grants written by the district would be used to help reduce the cost to the district.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Abstain: Young, Curtis, Wilson

Absent: Motion Carried.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

270. A. INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented an overview of the Indian Education Program and stated a more detailed report was given on the Impact Aid portion at the January board meeting. She briefly reviewed what the program is designed for, what the components are, and how the funds are used.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer gave an introduction of the program staff by indicating funds are used for the unique cultural, language, and educational needs of the American Indian and Alaska Native students.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the property data on the number of students who live on or whose parents work on federal properties. She highlighted the highest and declining areas noting monitoring will continue for possible changes.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant and indicated it mirrors what the Impact Aid funds are used for. She stated the objectives were to help students become proficient in core content areas, increase the graduation rate, and reduce chronic absenteeism to increase student achievement.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the number of students and Native American students who were enrolled from 2016-17 to 2021-22. She stated overall enrollment is decreasing while the number of American Indian students remains very consistent.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer compared the number of 506 cards to Title VI allocation for years 2014 through 2023. She noted not all Native American students have 506 cards on file due to various reasons.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the district remains committed to having quality staff in Native American support areas for students in all schools.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the 4-year graduation rate by district and state for years 2018 through 2021. She noted the district is continuing to work on graduation within 4 years even though some students take 5 or 6 years.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the Title VI Program Committee and Staff meet the second Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. as a commitment to offer a quality program.

Symantha Morley introduced the elementary portion of the Indian Education Program. She indicated Jessie Bourque works in a similar capacity at Washington School.

Ms. Morley reported on the ways she works with students one-on-one in the areas of academic and attendance for grades 2 through 4 at Lincoln School by proctoring state MAP testing, offering support for daily work and organizational/learning skills, helping with transportation for attendance and appointments, providing positive emotional and social supports using zones, supporting diabetic and epileptic students and those around them, providing students/families in need with food, clothing, and hygiene items, and in teaching and fostering traditional and cultural activities for students and staff.

Ms. Morley presented the elementary reading recovery and literacy report for 31a, 35a, Title IA, and Title IV. There were no questions.

Erika Laitinen-Odbert presented the Middle School Indian Education Program in the areas of academic, attendance, cultural, and other support as needed.

Ms. Laitinen-Odbert reported on the ways she communicates, monitors, and offers support for students and staff. She noted students at the Middle School need a lot of daily reinforcement and incentives are needed for positive behavior.

Ms. Laitinen-Odbert reported on the multiple ways she offers cultural awareness through bulletin boards, youth council meetings, and teaching activities to support Native American culture and awareness.

Ms. Laitinen-Odbert reported she coordinates the Kidz Kloset and food bags, clothing, and hygiene items for students. She reported the SHACC has been a valuable resource for students in the area of medical, dental, and mental health services.

Ms. Laitinen-Odbert reported about 31% of the student population at the Middle School were Native Americans.

There were no questions for Ms. Laitinen-Odbert.

Mrs. Laurie Morley reported on the student progress at Malcolm High School. She expressed excitement in seeing the students learn, grow, and plan for the future.

Mrs. Morley reported the school is lucky to have a social worker on staff to help provide additional support.

Mrs. Morley reported on the multiple ways she provides academic, attendance, cultural, transportation, and other support to encourage students to get to graduation. She indicated all of the staff work multiple jobs to support the students and make them feel proud of their accomplishments.

Mrs. Morley reported on the difficulty of getting some students to school because of anxiety.

Mrs. Morley reported on the communication, respect, and goal setting she tries to teach students.

Mrs. Morley reported she works with homebound students, those in Odysseyware, student council, and in the Malcolm Market. She gave accolades to the community and BIA for their support in helping keep the Malcolm Market stocked for the needs of the students.

Mrs. Morley provided this year's data on student demographics and funding support. There were no questions.

Mrs. Jennifer Blair reported on the support she provides to Sault High Native American students in coordination with the academic counselors and social worker to ensure the needs of the students are met.

Mrs. Blair reported she arranges for Native American students to tour colleges or visit with representatives at the high school.

Mrs. Blair reported Deb Captain did a good job with day-to-day attendance, but now that she is gone and since COVID, it's been difficult getting back to what it was.

Mrs. Blair reported the Native American Student Council was brought back and the students have done a phenomenal job with fund raising, working toward unity, and developing a cultural center within the school so all students have a place to go.

Mrs. Blair reported on several cultural activities that have been offered throughout the year. She commented on how nice it was to see a change of acceptance as recent as two generations back.

Mrs. Blair reported on the number of Native American students in CTE/Pre-vocational and Advance Placement Classes by grade. She noted the number has increased over the past year.

Mrs. Blair reported on the Freshman Seminar that is designed to help students learn what their expectations are and how to navigate school.

Mrs. Blair reported on the number of Native and Non-Native students who receive Intervention Services. She indicated mental health cases have increased and she is thankful for having a social worker in the building to help keep students in school.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated as part of the federal requirements, the district is required to report the number of students who receive intervention services.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the plan to increase student achievement and growth, increase the 4-year graduation rate, and decrease chronic absenteeism.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported she could not say enough about all the good work the Native American advisors and students have done this year. She highlighted the importance of continuing to share and receive input from parents and the community for continued growth of the program.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on supplemental services paid from Title IA, Title IV, 31a At-risk and 35a Early Literacy funds.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the professional development and staff retention for cultural competencies, improvement of the mindset and resilience for students, coaching improvement for math growth and achievement, and teacher leader core for grading and assessment practices in secondary schools.

Mrs. Blair reported on some of the events to regenerate and increase parent involvement by providing a cultural connection. She noted three quarters of high school parents have not been in the building nor met their children's teachers over the past two years. She suggested COVID had a lot to do with it.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated federal law requires the district to present everything it spends federal dollars on. She reported the

district is not making any major changes, but families need to give input and have their voices heard.

Mrs. Blair presented pictures of some of the activities throughout the district were done to help promote Native American heritage.

Per inquiry from Mrs. Blair and Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer, there were no questions from the audience.

Member Galer thanked the advisors for all they do for the students and their enjoyable report.

President DeWitt gave kudos to the advisors.

271. **B. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

272. **III. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer distributed the Pool Committee's sample pool schedule to the Board. President DeWitt asked the Board to review it for future reference.

273. **IV. FUTURE PLANNING**

President DeWitt reviewed the following events and announced he would not be at the May 10 EUPSBA meeting due to another commitment.

Mr. McCready confirmed the Sault High Graduation was slated to take place at the A.J. VanCitters Athletic Field.

May 3 - Evening with the Arts - Sault Area High School – 6-9 p.m.

May 4 - Board Budget Workshop - Sault Area Middle School - 5:30 p.m.

May 5 - Budget Presentations - Sault Area Middle School - Staff 4:30 p.m.,
Public 5:30 p.m.

May 9 - Regular Board Meeting - Sault Area Middle School - 7:00 p.m.

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

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

May 30 - Sault High Graduation – A.J. VanCitters Athletic Field - 2:00 p.m.

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

274. **V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:08 p.m., it was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Smith, that the meeting be adjourned.

Raymond J. DeWitt, Board President

Christine M. Curtis, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary