

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

**Minutes – Monday, May 10, 2021**

291. **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.

292. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

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

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

293. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

Move Item VI. Board Governance and Board Policy Issues to IV. and Item IV. Closed Session to VI.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young

Motion Carried.

294. **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – April 12, 2021

Closed Meeting – April 12, 2021

Special Meeting – April 14, 2021

Annual Meeting – April 27, 2021

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the minutes listed above as presented.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young

Motion Carried.

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

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the April General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,249,740.56 and the Food Service Bill List of \$6,421.72.

Mrs. Bennin reported a slight dip in fund equity but indicated the anticipated collection of tax payments, final grant collections, and the CTE millage payments.

President Smith stated the report was discussed in depth at last week’s finance meeting.

There were no questions.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young

Motion Carried.

296. **II. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

**1. Recognition**

- a. Teacher of the Month (Kelly Beaumont) – Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy

Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy reported on the outstanding qualities Kelly Beaumont provides to the district as 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher for face-to-face, virtual, and Literacy Reading Lab instruction. Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy stated she was grateful for the many talents Mrs. Beaumont brings to her classes to make them in-depth and engaging.

Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy will present Mrs. Beaumont with the Helpful Teacher of the Month tee shirt and a \$50 Ace Hardware gift certificate sponsored by Doug LaPrade Agency MEEMIC Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

On behalf of the Board, President Smith asked Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy to give Mrs. Beaumont the Board’s congratulations.

- b. Employee of the Month (Erika Laitinen-Odbert) – Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy

Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy reported on the extra areas and care Erika takes on to ensure all kids in the district receive the resources they need. She noted in her spare time, Erika has been pursuing Native American Studies at BMCC.

Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy will present Ms. Laitinen-Odbert with the Helpful Employee of the Month tee shirt and a \$50 Ace Hardware gift certificate sponsored by Doug LaPrade Agency MEEMIC Insurance and Parker Ace Hardware.

On behalf of the Board, President Smith asked Mrs. Rondeau-McCarthy to give Ms. Laitinen-Odbert the Board's congratulations.

- c. Rotary-Poppink Distinguished Teachers of the Year -  
(Ann Hammock and Jennifer France) – Superintendent Hall

In conjunction with the local Rotary Club, Superintendent Hall acknowledged Jennifer France as Elementary Teacher of the Year and Ann Hammock as Secondary Teacher of the Year in memory of long time Rotarian and former Superintendent William Poppink.

Dr. Sheri McFarlane reported on the rave reviews she has received from parents and colleagues about Ms. France. She stated she is a phenomenal teacher, a leader in the building, and a pleasure to be around.

Mr. Carl McCready reported on the accolades received about Mrs. Hammock from students and teachers. He noted her excellent teaching skills and the time and attention given in helping recognize students for the National Honors Society and awards ceremony. He stated she had been involved in the SEA leadership group and is very helpful to have around in the building.

- d. District Employees of the Year (Symantha Morley and Mary Michaels) – Superintendent Hall

Superintendent Hall reported on the need to select two employees of the year.

Superintendent Hall stated Mrs. Michaels had been with the district for over 5 years and had always gone above and beyond in serving student and staff medical needs and wellness. He stated over the COVID-19 pandemic, she took on tracking, documenting, placing quarantine phone calls, and writing policies which help make everyone's job a little better.

Superintendent Hall reported Symantha Morley was the final recipient of the Employee of the Year.

Superintendent Hall reported Mrs. Morley had been teaching in multiple capacities throughout the district since 1991. He stated she stepped into the position of elementary school counselor when the district really needed her, and serves in multiple areas of the homeless program, the before and after school program, and has a true dedication and concern for students.

On behalf of the Board, President Smith congratulated all of the outstanding recipients.

Superintendent Hall reported he would release the notices on social media in the next couple of days.

2. Michigan History Day – Mrs. Diane Chevillot

Mrs. Chevillot reported on the annual Michigan History Day events that gave elementary students an opportunity to go above and beyond, work hard, and participate in the celebration of history. Mrs. Chevillot reported this year’s topic was “Communication in History: The Key to Understanding” and all of the projects were fun and interesting. She noted the seven students who earned the opportunity to compete regionally, three took 1<sup>st</sup> place, one earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and one earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

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

Superintendent Hall reported due to his absence at the April 27 board meeting, he wanted to respond to the Middle School antigen testing of spring athletes. He indicated after a long discussion with the principals, he supported their decision to conduct the testing due to the high number of students under quarantine at that school and the concern for the transfer of the virus from student to student as had been the case earlier in the year with the JV football team. He reported the district had well over 150 students in the district out on quarantine and is down to 16. He stated he hoped the number continues to decline and the school year end unscathed.

298. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

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

**A. PERSONNEL – Superintendent Hall**

## **New Hires**

Superintendent Hall presented the following recommendation on behalf of Mrs. Lussier.

1. Craig MacDonald – CTE Automotive Teacher – Sault Area High School

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation to hire Craig MacDonald as CTE Automotive Teacher for Sault Area Career Center.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Mrs. Lussier reported the Career Center did a good job of keeping students moving forward without having a certified automotive teacher for most of the year. She stated some of the students had been working in the industry through co-operatives.

Superintendent Hall reported Mr. MacDonald was looking forward to familiarizing himself with the students and program during his May 24 visit.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young

Motion Carried.

300. ***B. SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT – President Smith***

President Smith reported on the Board's hiring of Amy Scott-Kronemeyer as Superintendent due to the retirement of Dr. Hall on June 30. He confirmed the Board was aware of the proposed contract and there were no questions.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Dunton, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent contract effective July 1, 2021, as approved by the Finance Committee.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young

Motion Carried.

301. ***C. EXTENDED CONTINUITY OF LEARNING PLAN - Mrs. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer***

Superintendent Hall reported there were no major changes to the ECOLP and the recommendation is to continue with face to face instruction for the remainder of the school year.

Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported attendance was staying pretty much consistent.

Upon inquiry from President Smith, Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported the district was planning to offer Virtual Blue next year and would be seeking an enrollment commitment from families in the near future.

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Mrs. Scott-Kronemeyer reported she anticipates a decline in Virtual Blue from 250 to 120 (post pandemic) and the majority of students being in grades 9-12.

It was moved by Member Dewitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education affirm the current Extended Continuity of Learning Plan.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young

Motion Carried.

302. **D. 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT – Mrs. Michelle Bennin**

Mrs. Bennin reviewed the proposed 2020-2021 general fund budget amendments and resolution.

Mrs. Bennin reported on the revenues, expenditures, and fund balance for the school service fund and fiduciary/building fund.

Mrs. Bennin reported on five major changes to the general fund. She highlighted a decrease in property tax collection, an increase in state funding from the Digital Literacy Assessment Grant, an increase in federal revenue due to the 2019-2020 carryover, adjustments to actual CTE tuition and millage payments, and the decrease in the Virtual Blue budget to reflect actual amounts.

President Smith reported the Finance Committee reviewed the proposed budget amendment in depth at its meeting last week. He confirmed the district had to have an approved budget in place by July 1.

Upon thorough review of the budget amendment, President Smith confirmed there were no questions from the Board.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education approve the second budget amendment for 2021 as presented.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None  
Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young  
Motion Carried.

303. **E. *EUPISD BUDGET PROPOSAL 2021-2022 – Superintendent Hall***

Superintendent Hall reported high points of the budget was reviewed by local superintendents at their tri-county meeting and they had not expressed any concern about it.

President Smith confirmed there were no questions.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education support the proposed EUPISD budget for 2021-2022 and submit the resolution.

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

304. **F. *ATHLETIC HANDBOOK – Mr. Steve Lockwood***

Superintendent Hall indicated Mr. Lockwood was present to answer any questions.

Mr. Lockwood reported on the diverse group of people who reviewed the student athletic handbook to consider making an increase to the minimum GPA for student athletes.

Superintendent Hall stated Mr. Lockwood presented the athletic review committee's findings at the regular April meeting and there were only a few changes in language and to the due process scenario, but no increase to the student's GPA. He also noted there were no questions.

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Mr. Lockwood reported coaches can establish higher GPA requirements if they want to be more strict, but every once in a while a student struggles to maintain a C- and he/she should not be denied the option to participate if he/she is truly doing his/her best. There were no further questions.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education adopt the revised Student Athletic Handbook as presented.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer  
Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young  
Motion Carried.

Dr. Hall thanked the Board for their support with the handbook.

305. **G. *SITE ACQUISITION – Superintendent Hall***

Superintendent Hall reported on how the district had put everything it had into student services over the past decade while the maintenance and transportation facility had gone into disrepair and pushed to its limit. He reviewed how the proposed commercial property located at 900 East Spruce would meet the needs of the district with bringing water and sewer to the main garage. He stated the information was reviewed by the Finance Committee and he was seeking approval for the execution of the purchase.

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board or Education approve the site acquisition and authorize the Superintendent to execute the necessary documents.

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

Superintendent Hall thanked the Board for their support and noted the current owner would be allowed access through September 30, 2021.

306. **H. *GIFTS AND DONATIONS – Superintendent Hall***

Superintendent presented the following donation and confirmed how much it was needed.

1. Northern Sand and Gravel donated 15 yards of sand for the Washington School playground.

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

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



307. **IV. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES**

Member Galer suggested offering future board meetings via Zoom for members who are unable to attend but want to be engaged. She suggested retaining open/public comment to those who are in person due to online restrictions.

President Smith stated the Board would need to review the legal requirements for proper application.

Member Galer suggested a six-month trial as a possible option.

Superintendent Hall suggested reviewing the online meeting requirements and bringing it back for discussion at the June meeting.

Member Galer thanked Dr. Hall for his recommendation.

Upon inquiry from Member DeWitt, Mr. McCready reported on the email notification he sent to Sault High parents on the fluidity of the graduation ceremony based on the current state of the pandemic and/or weather conditions. He indicated Mr. Lockwood was working with a local radio station to have it livestreamed to honor the Class of 2021.

Mrs. Sawyer indicated Malcolm graduation would be held in the Strahl Theater, and due to the small class size, each graduate would be allowed to invite up to 5 people to comply with social distancing.

308. **V. CLOSED SESSION M.O.M.A. 15.268 §8(c)**

It was moved by Member DeWitt, supported by Member Galer, that the Board of Education move into closed session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act §15.268, 8(c) for strategy and negotiations.

At 7:59 p.m. President Smith reported there would not be any action items other than adjournment when the Board returns to open session.

The Board went into closed session at 8:00 p.m.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young

Motion Carried.

The Board returned to open session at 8:35 p.m.

309. **VI. FUTURE PLANNING**

President Smith reviewed the following events.

May 13 - EUPSBA Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

May 27 – Malcolm Graduation – Strahl Theater - 7:00 p.m.

May 30 – Sault High Graduation - 2:00 p.m. (location to be announced)

June 14 - Regular Board Meeting – Middle School – 7:00 p.m.

310. **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:37 p.m., it was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Pingatore, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Pingatore, Smith, DeWitt, Galer

Nays: None

Absent: Curtis, Wilson, Young

Motion Carried.

---

Daniel L. Smith, President

---

Lisa A. Young, Board Secretary

---

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary