

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

Minutes – Monday, August 14, 2023

36. **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Land Acknowledgement was recited by President Curtis.

37. **A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD**

Board Members Present: Michelle M. Ribant, Amy L. Goetz, Melissa S. Pingatore, William E. Odbert, Caitlin L. Galer, Christine M. Curtis, Kenneth D. Dunton

Absent: None

38. **B. OATH OF OFFICE BY NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER**

Amy Goetz was appointed to the Board of Education. Board Secretary Missy Pingatore administered the Oath of Office to Member Goetz.

“I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Member of the Board of Education of Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, according to the best of my ability.”

39. **C. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education adopt the agenda as revised.

Additions:

I. B. Oath of Office

III. C. Closed Session - M.O.M.A. 15.268, §8(c) for strategy and negotiations and §8(h)(1) for attorney client privilege.

Yeas: Ribant, Goetz, Pingatore, Odbert, Galer, Curtis Dunton

Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried.

40. **II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS**

A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Business Report – Mrs. Michelle Bennin

Mrs. Bennin sought approval of the July Bill Lists. She noted, pending completion of the audit, the Board should receive a full set of financials at the September meeting.

Mrs. Benning reported the substantial increase in cash was due to fiscal year-end receipts and federal cash drawdowns.

Mrs. Bennin reported the substantial increase in expenses was due to the high school siding project, and the previously approved purchase of a new bus for this fiscal year.

Mrs. Bennin noted September was the only month the district does not receive State Aid, but the projected cash flow indicates there will be no need to borrow funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Upon inquiry from Mrs. Bennin, there were no questions or concerns.

2. Summer School Report – Dr. Barb Light

Dr. Light reported 265 students registered for summer school and 219 attended. She noted the largest discrepancy was at the elementary level.

Dr. Light thanked Americorps Vista workers Lilly Alaspa, Zach Ellis, Andrew Garland, Sarah Garland, Evelyn Lavey, Alex Menard, and Secretary Angie Love who worked at Summer School.

Dr. Light reported 67 high school students attended, and 63 completed the program, earning 60.5 credits. She noted 2 students earned the necessary credits to graduate. Dr. Light thanked high school staff Mr. Fortin, Ms. Foster, Ms. Melendez, Ms. Schulte, and Mrs. Hammock for their hard work over the summer.

Dr. Light reported on the comparison of Middle School students' reading test scores from the spring to the summer. She explained the average range of increase based upon a standard deviation and factoring in the sample size. She noted one student had made a huge jump in his reading with an increase of 29 points.

Dr. Light thanked Ms. Gilliard, Mrs. Osborn, Mrs. Sweet, and Mrs. Morley for their efforts in meeting the overall prevention of a summer slide with students in grades 5 through 8.

Member Galer reported receiving positive feedback from parents who had children in Summer School. She indicated the students enjoyed the meal program.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer thanked the bus drivers and transportation department for working to meet the needs of the families and in a large geographic area.

Dr. Light commented on how the bus drivers were patient and conscientious about having the students on the right bus.

Upon inquiry from Member Curtis, Dr. Light reported she did not have the data to confirm the number of people who were served through the summer meal program, but there was a regular group of families who stopped, and some students pick up meals for their siblings.

3. School Resources Officer Annual Report – Officer Trevor Adkins

Officer Adkins reported on his first year as School Resource Officer. He thanked the City Mayor, Manager, Commission, and Chief Bierling for allowing the position in the schools. He noted some of the challenges, opportunities, and interactions he experienced throughout the year.

Officer Adkins highlighted his first efforts in helping to reconfigure the drop-off and pick-up locations at the High School and Middle School. He noted there were 155 complaint calls in addition to multiple other times he assisted staff and students with.

Officer Adkins reported on the State of Michigan grant he and Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer secured for safety improvements and the Michigan State Police grant to help supplement the SRO position.

Officer Adkins reported on the student outreach program he developed and will start in the fall, the Design the SRO patrol vehicle project he and Chief Bierling worked on, multiple classroom readings and presentations on various prevention and safety topics, security he provided at several school athletic events throughout the year, and multiple events he assisted with.

Officer Adkins reported on several trainings he presented to administrators, teachers, bus drivers, and other staff as well as the ones he attended and is scheduled to attend over the next few months.

Officer Adkins reported on the various building tours and walkthroughs he had with both the police and fire departments focusing on building layouts and safety planning.

Officer Adkins reported on the monthly SRO Update he developed to keep staff informed on safety concerns and events within the district.

Officer Adkins reported on several school safety enhancements made to assist emergency responders coming into the buildings as well as with day-to-day operations. He noted grant funds were used to secure building site assessments and critical incident mapping from a school security firm. He noted emergency and medical response teams had been secured for incidents that arise within the buildings.

Officer Adkins indicated he assisted with drafting new policies for the district Emergency Operations Plan and worked with various staff and stakeholders to implement the response plan. He noted the district was able to coordinate a mock drill using the emergency response plan to train school personnel on responding to an incident and building wide evacuation.

President Curtis thanked the Officer Adkins and noted he was a good addition to the district.

41. **B. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Banach, Banach & Cassidy had been working with administration on preparing a Frequently Asked Questions document about our bond millage. She indicated she would provide the Board with a copy when it is finalized, post it to the district website, and reach out to the community to make presentations and answer questions.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the proposed new hires and indicated the district was making great strides in filling the positions for the start of school.

Upon inquiry from the Board, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the recruitment event was highly attended by current staff, and there were three great candidates who were interviewed and will hopefully be employed soon.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the MI Tri-Share Childcare model being presented later in the meeting. She noted if the Board approves the budget, it will allow eligible employees who meet the income levels get 1/3 of their childcare payment paid by MI Tri-Share and the other 1/3 by the district.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the building walkthroughs to ensure they are ready for staff and students. She noted the DM Burr staff made a good and quick turnaround in preparing the Middle School, and the custodial and maintenance staff are finishing the painting at the Middle School and High School. She noted the district received two schematics for VanCitters Field and behind the Soo Township Complex that will be reviewed by the Maintenance Department.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Jordan Harris had been working on the requirements to offer meals for the new Birth to Five Program at the Soo Township Complex.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported Officer Adkins and district administrators attended an intense three-day training/professional development to further secure a safe and quality learning environment.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer invited the Board to the staff Welcome Back event on August 28 for an opportunity to meet with staff and enjoy a light breakfast.

42. **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

President Curtis acknowledged the importance of receiving valuable public comment and invited the audience to speak.

There was none.

III. ACTION ITEMS

43. **A. CONSENT RESOLUTION – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer**

1. Minutes – Regular: July 10, 2023, Special: July 26, 2023, and August 9, 2023, Closed: August 9, 2023
2. July General Fund Bill List in the amount of \$2,028,871.97 and Food Service Bill List of \$19,636.02.
3. New Hires – reviewed by Superintendent
 - a. Faith Cryderman – JV Volleyball Coach – Sault Area High School
 - b. Michelle Hill – Volleyball Coach – Sault Area Middle School
 - c. Erika Chevillot – Second Grade Teacher – Lincoln School
 - d. Meredith Bierling – Administrative Assistant – Lincoln School
 - e. Kylie Thompson – Freshman Volleyball Coach – Sault Area High School
 - f. Caleb Stover – Science Teacher – Malcolm High School
 - g. Paige Kanitz – Title 1 Paraprofessional Math/Reading Tutor – Lincoln School
 - h. Jaelinn Kern – Theater Arts and Communication Teacher – Sault Area Middle School

- i. James Gerrish – Paraprofessional Bus Aid –
Sault Area Public Schools
- j. Ann McKenzie – Paraprofessional Bus Aid –
Sault Area Public Schools

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Odbert, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Yeas: Ribant, Pingatore, Odbert, Galer, Curtis, Dunton
 Nays: None
 Abstain: Goetz
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried.

44. **B. *TRI-SHARE PROGRAM - Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

Upon request from President Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reviewed the Tri-Share Program and noted it was designed for employees who meet the income eligibility to get 1/3 of their childcare paid by Tri-share and another 1/3 paid by the district. She noted the household income was relative to the number of individuals in the household and the total needed to be under 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer stated the program helps provide a little boost for employees who may have to stay home with their children due to the cost of daycare.

It was moved by Member Pingatore, supported by Member Ribant, that the Board of Education approve the contribution to the Tri-Share Program up to \$60,000 to offset the cost of daycare for employees who meet the income guidelines in the Tri-share Memorandum of Understanding.

Yeas: Ribant, Goetz, Pingatore, Odbert, Galer, Curtis, Dunton
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried.

45. **C. *CLOSED SESSION – M.O.M.A. 15.268, §8(c) and §8(h)(1)***

It was moved by Member Dunton, 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 and §8(h)(1) for attorney client privileges.

Yeas: Ribant, Goetz, Pingatore, Odbert, Galer, Curtis, Dunton
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Motion Carried.

The Board went into closed session at 7:36 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:05 p.m.

46. **D. *BUS DRIVER CONTRACT – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer***

It was moved by Member Odbert, supported by Member Pingatore, that the Board of Education approve the Bus Driver contract as presented.

Yeas: Ribant, Goetz, Pingatore, Odbert, Galer, Curtis, Dunton

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

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

There was none.

48. **V. *FUTURE PLANNING***

August 28 – Staff Welcome Back – Sault Area High School

September 5 - First Day of School

September 11 - Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 p.m. – Sault Middle School

49. **VI. *ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business to come before the Board at 8:07 p.m., it was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Odbert, that the meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Ribant, Pingatore, Dunton, Galer, Curtis, Odbert

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Christine M. Curtis, Board President

Melissa S. Pingatore, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary