

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

Minutes – Monday, May 22, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

253 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Curtis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Sault Area Middle School, 684 Marquette Avenue.

A. ROLL CALL OF BOARD

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

Absent: None

254. **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Member Dunton, supported by Member Galer, to adopt the agenda.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

II. COMMUNICATIONS AND BOARD REPORTS

255. **A. REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

1. Bond Update

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on possible site locations for a new K-4 elementary building.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reviewed the proposed floor plan for a new elementary building indicating the second floor was proposed to save money and provide ample room for drop off/pick up and parking. She stated there would be multiple stairwells and an elevator for the second floor which would house the higher grades, a separate cafeteria, and

bathrooms in all of the kindergarten classrooms. She noted future enrollment projections were taken into consideration when planning the size of the building.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the proposed floor plan changes on the main level of the high school. She noted space for improved locker rooms and performing arts with an elevator for better accessibility.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the bond would be a two bond sale, first for the elementary and second for the high school component. She noted the district is scheduled to go to Treasury on June 6 and the Board would need to make a final decision at the June 12 meeting.

Upon inquiry from Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer, There were no questions.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the design phase would take 6 to 9 months and construction would take 18 to 24 months. She projected the first class in the new school would be in September 2026 as the district would not move students over in the middle of the school year.

2. 2023-2024 Budget

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the district's Mission Statement and highlighted its mode of operation to provide a high-quality education in a safe and positive environment.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reviewed the Portrait of a Graduate reporting on how the district operates to engage, learn, prepare, and support students in the Continuity of Services Plan.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reviewed the district's top 8 goals for the Board's 2024-2026 outcomes.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the spring 2023 actual enrollment projection was 1,935 and the fall 2023 projection is 1,898.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the funding projection by presenting the fall FY2023 blended count of 1,955, 10% of the blended spring count (193), and 90% of the fall count (1,898), and the state aid funding projection count of 54.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the Proposed School Aid Fund Budget for the Governor (\$458), the State (\$550), and the House (\$366). She noted the potential allowance given the three projections.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the Foundation History per Pupil by fiscal year, foundation, blended count and state aid funding for years 2018 through 2024.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer presented the budget assumptions for 2023-2024 with a loss of 54 students and a flat foundational rate.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the funding source numbers and letters of the state aid act were sub sections of the law and the district may be eligible for additional funding for categoricals in special education, early literacy professional development, and Sec. 22d for Rural and Isolated Districts.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the increase in average retirement rates from 2018 through the projected 2024. She noted the 2024 retirement rate increase was 3.11%.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the 2024 assumption to settle current contracts was \$894,693, and she projected \$197,923 for additional contracts under negotiation. She noted the Steelworkers had move to the Michigan Education Association group.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the budget assumption increases for the new maintenance loader that was paid out of the 2023 budget, the payoff of the 2017 site loan and retirements.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the July 1, 2024 fund equity projection of \$6,214,584 or 21% of expenditures. Included in the projection was the July 1, 2022 fund equity, the June 30, 2023 budget increase, and the June 30, 2024 projected decrease.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the State of Michigan auditors recommend a district's fund balance to be 10-18% of total expenditures. She indicated a fund balance is required by law, provides protection from unexpected expenses/less than expected revenue received, and reduces the need for borrowing.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer indicated the district hasn't had to borrow in several years and the state budget amount should be confirmed by the end of June.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported the state is taking transportation out of categoricals and the mileage put on our buses is like driving to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, every day.

ESSER II & ESSER III

Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported \$2,067,947 of ESSER II funding was spent on in person, online, and virtual staffing, custodial services, book sets for intervention, and school communications. She reported \$4,647,618 of ESSER III funding was spent on siding, windows, and the high school roof (not the Career Center portion), Summer Program, the Portrait of a Graduate expense, and the district portion of MCAN.

Upon inquiry from President Curtis, Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer confirmed the district was on track in using all of the federal funds. Mrs. Bennin reported the district had drawn down a lot of the funding.

Upon inquiry from Member Galer, Superintendent Scott-Kronmeyer reported there were approximately 150 students enrolled in Summer School so far.

256. **B. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

President Curtis opened the meeting for public comment.

Becky Arbic reported on the missed opportunity if the district decides not to include a pool in its next bond millage. She questioned the difference in cost to build a pool from what she researched in November of 2020 (\$4,000,000) to what is currently estimated (\$15,000,000).

Alan Walther indicated it was a good idea to build a new elementary. He suggested moving 5th grade back down to the elementary building, fixing the high school roads especially off the Seymour Road entrance, the need for increased communication on the high school plan as it appears an area is being built for a trophy case, the need to fix the pool, and to slow down in planning the project for better understanding.

Joann Arbic reported on the need to build a pool by her and students she taught swimming lessons to. She asked the Board to reach out to Project Pool Team as they are dedicated and will put the time and effort in to working through the building, operating, and maintaining of one.

Lisa Young asked the Board to slow down in planning the bond project and to consider a pool. She stated she was moving her 4th grade child to another district next year because she feels 5th grade students should not be in the Middle School.

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

A. RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER ELECTORIAL REPRESENTATIVE – Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer reported on the EUPISD Board Election and the requirement to have one meeting to sign a resolution to consider the electoral representative and a second meeting to designate the electoral representative and first ballot candidate choice.

It was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Lindsay, that the Board of Education approve the resolution to consider a resolution to appoint designated representative Missy Pingatore and alternate representative Amelia Lindsay for the EUPISD biennial election to be held on June 5, 2023.

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

258. IV. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND BOARD POLICY ISSUES

Member Dunton indicated there was a lot of good public comment. He suggested finding out why there is a big discrepancy in building a pool and letting the voters decide if they want to pay for one as the district has limited funds.

Member Curtis indicated she was in favor of a new elementary building to reduce the number of aging and outdated buildings and to move forward with technology needs.

Member Curtis indicated the pool cannot be repaired and would need to be in a new building. She suggested a group propose a recreational millage to the voters and let the district continue to focus on its students' educational goals.

Member Galer indicated she would love to have a pool for her family, but it could not fall on the district. She stated the pool had deteriorated and was not good for the building, the high school locker rooms and special education accessibility needed updating, and she wasn't sure if the 5th grade could move over to the elementary building.

Member Ribant indicated she was aware that it would be difficult for the district to pay for a pool, but hoped it could help with land or space for a community based pool.

Member Lindsay noted Member Galer did a good job explaining the pool, she was excited to see the renovation for performing arts at the high school, and how it would foster more interest in STEM instruction.

Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer clarified the move of the existing items on the second floor of the high school library were planned were proposed to be moved to the outside space of the high school gym, and it was not meant to be twisted as building a trophy case. She stated the 2nd floor library area would then be used for implementation of a CTE Culinary Arts Program.

259. **V. FUTURE PLANNING**

President Curtis reviewed future events and sought confirmation on the start time for Baccalaureate.

- May 24 - Baccalaureate – Sault Wesleyan - 7:00 p.m.
- May 25 - Malcolm Graduation – Strahl Theater - 7:00 p.m.
- May 28 - Sault High Graduation – Sault High Gymnasium - 2:00 p.m.
- June 1 – Building and Grounds – Administration – 4:00 p.m.
- June 7 – Finance – Administration – 5:00 p.m.
- June 12 - Regular Board Meeting - Sault Area Middle School - 7:00 p.m.

260. **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at 6:30 p.m., it was moved by Member Galer, supported by Member Lindsay, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Christine M. Curtis, Board President

Melissa S. Pingatore, Board Secretary

Judy L. Sirk, Recording Secretary