Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, NICE Community School District, Townships of Champion, Ely, Humboldt, Ishpeming, Tilden, and Spurr; Counties of Baraga and Marquette; and the State of Michigan held on Monday, April 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Brett French in the Media Center of Westwood High School at 6:35 p.m.

Members Present: Kathleen Carlson, Donna Champion, Randy Couveau, Brett French, John Grove, Ron Mariani, Wendy Pederson

Members Absent: None

Administrator’s Present: Bryan DeAugustine, David Boase, Jon Beckman, Chris Marana, Nathan Longton, Michael Wommer

Administrator’s Absent: None

Public Comment (regarding agenda): None

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Donna Champion supported by Ron Mariani to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by Ron Mariani to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by Ron Mariani to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of $907,022.76 for the period of March 19, 2018 through April 20, 2018; to approve the March payrolls in the amount of $854,701.80 for total disbursements in the amount of $1,761,724.56; to approve the Treasurer’s Report of the General Fund with total receipts of $2,031,960.87 and total disbursements of $1,393,886.49 to approve the Debt Retirement balance in the amount of $642,246.75; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of $837,102.07 of March 31, 2018. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent’s Report
Bryan DeAugustine reported that his recent trip to Lansing to advocate for our school district and region was a successful trip overall. He also talked about a possible upcoming trip to Cleveland, the number of snow days and that he has applied for a waiver since we went over the forgiven amount of days, a summary of the April 11th date referenced in the threatening graffiti, and the Excellence in Education annual activities. Finally, he mentioned that Melissa Erickson and Eric Hill were named as the Outstanding Educators for NICE for this year.

Aspen Ridge Elementary School Report
Chris Marana reported that the Mstep testing is going on, kindergarten screening started and continues throughout the week and that Mrs. Saberniak’s choral students will be performing at area nursing homes. He also mentioned that the grant that he and Mr. Longton have applied for through the Western Marquette County Health Foundation and Blue Cross Blue Shield should be announced later this week and they are hopeful for good news.

Aspen Ridge Middle School/Athletics Report
Jon Beckman reported that Mstep testing is also going on in the middle school. Spring athletics continues to battle with the weather and he is trying to get some competition for our athletes in some of the schools to the south that don’t have as much snow remaining.

Westwood High School Report
Dave Boase reported the prom was safe and successful. Upcoming events are the VIM spring concert, Forensics state competition, National Honor Society induction, Excellence in Education, Senior honors and awards, and BPA national competition.
Special Education Report
Nate Longton reported that just before spring break the annual Disabilities Awareness Day was held and received good turnout and also some media coverage. He also mentioned that he’s wrapping up the two-week accommodated testing window at the high school.

Transportation Report
Mike Wommer reported that we are experiencing a shortage of sub bus drivers and that he’s had to drive most days. He thanked everyone involved at dismissal at the end of the day since he’s been driving a bus instead. He also mentioned that the shortage is a regional and statewide issue and that Negaunee Public Schools has been great to work with to both offer help when they need it and accept their help when we need it.

Committee Reports

Academic Achievement – Working on exploring innovative initiatives across the grade levels and departments

Finance and Ops – Tracking the budgets closely, preparing for this year’s final amendment and next fiscal year’s proposed budget, and working on a five year forecast

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – Policy reviews will be coming in the next month or two

School Improvement – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – 2018 Summer Projects Bid Authorization Consideration Tonight

Business / Action Items

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Randy Couveau to accept Jaime VanEnkevort’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to authorize the superintendent to renew the District’s contract with PCMI as presented. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Carlson  aye  Champion  aye  Couveau  aye
French  aye  Grove  aye  Mariani  aye
Pederson  aye

Motion by Wendy Pederson supported by Donna Champion to accept the bid for our Bleacher Project from Cross General Contracting, Inc. in the amount of $170,399. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Carlson  aye  Champion  aye  Couveau  aye
French  aye  Grove  aye  Mariani  aye
Pederson  aye

Motion carried.
Motion by Ron Mariani supported by John Grove to accept the bid for our Radiant Heat Sidewalks Project from Premeau Construction, Inc. in the amount of $224,390.70.

Roll Call Vote:

Carlson  aye  Champion  aye  Couveau  aye  French  aye  Grove  aye  Mariani  aye  Pederson  aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Ron Mariani supported by Randy Couveau to accept the bid for our Practice Fields from A. Jacobson Landscaping in the amount of $79,400.

Roll Call Vote:

Carlson  aye  Champion  aye  Couveau  aye  French  aye  Grove  aye  Mariani  aye  Pederson  aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to accept the contingency set aside in the amount of $27,635.28 held in reserve for these projects.

Roll Call Vote:

Carlson  aye  Champion  aye  Couveau  aye  French  aye  Grove  aye  Mariani  aye  Pederson  aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by Wendy Pederson to authorize moving the last day of school to Friday, June 8, if our additional snow day waiver is denied.

Roll Call Vote:

Carlson  aye  Champion  aye  Couveau  aye  French  aye  Grove  aye  Mariani  aye  Pederson  aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by Randy Couveau to authorize the superintendent to travel to Cleveland and back in May. Motion carried.

Community Comments: None

Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:

Ron Mariani stated that he is satisfied that the board supports Bryan’s efforts to advocate for our school district and region with recent and upcoming travel. He also is hoping that the spring sport athletes can begin competing soon.

Donna Champion stated that she is so pleased that we have Mr. DeAugustine representing our school district.
Wendy Pederson asked if there has been any mention of the auxiliary gym being on the next ballot. It was discussed that the board previously left it up to the community to bring that issue back before the board and it has not been brought back at this time.

Randy Couveau asked if the Sinking Fund Committee members were given more details on the bid packets for the upcoming projects. He stated that he finds it hard to vote on something without having more details.

Bryan DeAugustine thanked the board for the time off over spring break.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.