

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, October 19, 2015**.

The meeting was called to order by President Brett French in the Media Center of Westwood High School at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Donna Champion, Brett French, John Grove, Eric Luttinen, Chris Roose

Members Absent: Kathleen Carlson, Wendy Pederson

Administrators Present: Bryan DeAugustine, Chris Marana, Nathan Longton, Mike Wommer

Administrators Absent: Jon Beckman, David Boase

Public Comment (regarding agenda): Jennifer Laurila thanked the staff for monitoring the parking situation in the morning for student drop off at Aspen Ridge. She suggested that the parking places that are the first in line, or closest to the building be reserved for parent drop off in the morning and not used by staff.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Communications & Recognition: A thank you letter was shared with board members from Dennis Tasson, Jim Maki and Jon Beckman for all involved in their efforts to continue with the Clear Lake 7th grade trip. Another thank you letter was shared from a student and his parents for allowing him to participate in the Marquette-Alger Technical Middle College.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Chris Roose supported by John Grove to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Roose supported by John Grove to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Roose supported by John Grove to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$717,676.22 for the period of September 21, 2015 through October 16, 2015; to approve the September payrolls in the amount of \$470,298.90 for total disbursements in the amount of \$1,187,975.12; to approve the Treasurer's Report of the General Fund with total receipts of \$202,529.79 and total disbursements of \$896,527.38; to approve the Debt Retirement balance in the amount of \$186,768.46; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$568,511.50 of September 30, 2015. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent's Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported that the SCI Cleaning company came in to work on the marks on the carpet left from the remodeling project this summer. They will need to come back and try again to remove the adhesive and if that doesn't work, other options will need to be considered. He also reported that this week the State Superintendent will be meeting with area superintendents to talk about issues in education specific to the UP. He will also present the facilities plan to Ely and Tilden townships at their respective board meetings this week.

Aspen Ridge Elementary

Chris Marana stated that he was very happy with the way things were going at Aspen Ridge Elementary. The math intervention that has begun is off to a successful start. Michigan Apple Crunch day is this Thursday and all elementary students will receive a locally grown Michigan apple for a snack. The after-school learning lab will begin soon and run through the end of May, offering extra support for students who are identified by their teachers as benefitting from this program. Mr. Marana also mentioned a special thanks to members of the USW 4950 for their generous donation of gift cards to all elementary teachers.

Aspen Ridge Middle School/Athletics Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported that the middle school is busting at the seams as we continue to enroll new students. Some class sizes are nearing the upper 20s in numbers and are being closely watched to keep our class sizes in the low to mid 20s. Fall sports seasons are winding down already and winter seasons will begin mid-November when practices will start.

Westwood High School

Bryan DeAugustine reported that things are running well at the high school. The PSAT test was given to Juniors as a practice for when they take the SAT test in the spring. Homecoming week was a huge success.

Special Education Report

Nathan Longton reported that the Peer to Peer program was up and running with five students taking the course for credit. The first LINKS celebration was held last week as well as a thank you to all K-8 participants.

Transportation

Mike Wommer reported that the annual Michigan State Police bus inspections began and will continue for a few days.

Committee Reports

Academic Achievement Committee

The committee has not met.

Finance & Operations Committee

The committee met prior to the board meeting to discuss the bills, financial reports and the two items that require action at tonight's meeting.

Personnel

The committee has not met.

Sinking Fund

The committee met and came up with a priority list for upcoming projects which include the WHS auditorium, the media centers at both WHS and Aspen Ridge, the Central Office and the football practice field. They also continued to work on the facilities master plan.

Policy

Every board member now has a copy of the policies as written by NEOLA. The first reading will take place at the board meeting in November. Some discussion took place about getting a searchable PDF format of these policies.

Facilities Enhancement & Expansion

The long-term facilities plan was presented at the Ishpeming Township and Humboldt Township board meetings and was very well received by those boards and community members. On the schedule this week are Ely Township and Tilden Township board meetings.

School Improvement/Schools of Choice

The committee has not met.

Negotiations

Meetings will begin once negotiations begin with both AFSCME and NTA.

Business / Action Items

Motion by Eric Luttinen supported by Donna Champion to officially recognize the second reading of the amended Bullying Policy.

Roll call vote: Champion aye French aye Grove aye
 Luttinen aye Roose aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Roose supported by Eric Luttinen to adopt the new Bullying Policy.

Roll call vote: Champion aye French aye Grove aye
 Luttinen aye Roose aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Roose supported by Donna Champion to authorize the superintendent to purchase (without financing) 90 (ninety) Chromebook computers for student use at a cost of \$27,660.40 from REMC.

Roll call vote: Champion aye French aye Grove aye
 Luttinen aye Roose aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Roose supported by Eric Luttinen to authorize RFPs and/or the solicitation of quotes for the following Sinking Fund projects: Renovating the WHS Auditorium, Renovating the WHS and ARS Media Centers, Renovating the Central Office and re-sodding the Football Practice Field. Motion carried.

Motion by Eric Luttinen supported by Chris Roose to authorize the superintendent to author a formal letter to MARESA directing them to utilize a formula that incorporates special education student populations into their distribution of the revenue generated from our region-wide special education millage. There was much discussion and the motion was withdrawn.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to authorize the superintendent to solicit quotes for the purchase of a new pickup truck for district use. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to authorize the superintendent to travel to Lansing on October 27 and 28, 2015, with the Marquette County Ambassadors. Motion carried.

Motion by Eric Luttinen supported by Donna Champion to hire Justin Vasseau for the position of Head Swimming and Diving Coach for the 2015-2016 season.

Roll call vote: Champion aye French aye Grove aye
 Luttinen aye Roose aye

Motion carried.

Community Comments:

Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:

Chris Roose commended Coach Syrjala for beginning the mentoring program with his Senior football players going over to Aspen Ridge School. He also mentioned that he had the opportunity to chaperone the homecoming dance and he thought it was a great group of kids and it was a good time.

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Eric Luttinen commented on how impressed he was with the Key Club under the direction of Linda Dompierre for their involvement at the Kiwanis Club breakfast which was held in conjunction with the UP Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame induction.

Donna Champion mentioned that starting in October, the Ishpeming Township hired Bob O'Connor as a township police officer. He's a great addition to the area and has a lot of good plans.

Bryan DeAugustine mentioned that Ronalyn Arseneau and Sabina Casperson were taking another group of business students to tour the INVENT at NMU. There will also be a group going to tour the Jacobetti center at NMU as well.

Motion by Eric Luttinen supported by Chris Roose to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Board President: _____ **Board Secretary:** _____