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, May 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Brett French in the Media Center of Westwood High School at 6:33 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, Chris Marana, Nathan Longton, Michael Wommer

Administrator’s Absent:  Jon Beckman

Public Comment (regarding agenda):  Kris Sibley, community member, extended her thanks to all of the staff, teachers and administration for continuing to promote our school district.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Ron Mariani supported by Donna Champion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of $663,448.62 for the period of April 23, 2018 through May 18, 2018; to approve the April payrolls in the amount of $547,219.75 for total disbursements in the amount of $1,210,668.37; to approve the Treasurer’s Report of the General Fund with total receipts of $1,027,192.53 and total disbursements of $1,099,093.26 to approve the Debt Retirement balance in the amount of $108,703.62; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of $833,103.14 of April 30, 2018. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent’s Report
Bryan DeAugustine reported that his trip to Cleveland went well overall. Travel and lodging were paid for by MARESA. He mentioned briefly an idea of collaboration with Marq-Tran for potential bus driver shortages, a productive meeting with some high school teachers with some great ideas to build upon what the academic achievement committee meeting has talked about, and he also mentioned similar meetings to come with the Aspen Ridge teachers. Finally, he talked about a possible internship opportunity with Frei Chevrolet.

Aspen Ridge Elementary School Report
Chris Marana reported that approximately 200 students had artwork selected at the annual DeVos Children’s Art Exhibit and that coming up is the 19th annual Family Night at Aspen Ridge.

Aspen Ridge Middle School/Athletics Report
No report.

Westwood High School Report
Dave Boase reported on the very busy end of the school year with events including the Kiwanis luncheon, Mining Journal Student of the Year, Collage Concert, Spring Fling for King, upcoming graduation festivities and also WHS alum Sarah Stream’s induction into the UP Sports Hall of Fame.
Special Education Report
Nate Longton reported that preschool screening was successful again, with 22 kids evaluated. Of those who were called back, it looks as though the ECSE class at Aspen Ridge is near full for the 2018-2019 school year and that another developmental screening hosted by Negaunee Public Schools, but open to students for all area districts, will be held in August. He also talked about a recent field trip to NMU to talk to some students who utilized accommodations on campus.

Transportation Report
Mike Wommer reported that he’s beginning to work on next year’s bus runs already with most likely increasing one of the city of Ishpeming runs to a 77 passenger bus. He also mentioned that he is now the Region 1 representative for transportation directors in the area and he will also be teaching the bus driver continuing education classes.

Committee Reports

Academic Achievement – No activity this month. A meeting will be upcoming in June.

Finance and Ops – Budget continues with the close of FY 2017/18, the start of FY 2018/19 and our five-year projections.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – A Policy meeting will be upcoming as soon as NEOLA and Superintendent DeAugustine complete the most recent quarterly updates and edits.

School Improvement – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – 2018 ARS Project Bid will be presented for consideration this evening.

Business / Action Items

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

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to hire Lindy Butler as an LRE aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to accept William Hereford’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by Wendy Pederson to authorize hiring Jennifer Mathias Hodgins for the 2018 Summer SCI Program as a para-professional. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Wendy Pederson to accept Mary Johnson’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Ron Mariani to accept Roger LaVigne’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to accept Alan Nylander’s letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to authorize hiring Eric Warlin as a Bus Driver and a General Laborer. Motion carried.

Motion by Randy Couveau supported by Kathleen Carlson to resolve to solicit bids from financial institutions to finance our bus purchases in the amount of $249,807 as presented.
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 Donna Champion to resolve to approve MARESA’s General Fund Budget as presented.

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 Ron Mariani to authorize converting the Middle School Secretary position from 12 months to 10 months.

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 authorize Penchura’s bid for the ARS Sinking Fund Project as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
Carlson  aye  Champion  aye  Couveau  aye
French   aye  Grove    aye  Mariani  aye
Pederson aye

Motion carried.

Community Comments: None

Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:

John Grove stated that he was very impressed with the Collage Concert

Kathleen Carlson thanked Mrs. Sibley for her kind words and also thanked all of the staff for their hard work throughout the school year.

Donna Champion said that the Collage Concert is always one of her favorites and she is proud of everyone involved in making that concert happen.

Ron Mariani talked about attending the Legislative Breakfast held at MARESA and encourages everyone to attend the next one.
Bryan DeAugustine mentioned that he was pleased that we have steadily been receiving applications for the upcoming teaching vacancies which indicate that people know our reputation as being a stable district.

Brett French sincerely appreciates the efforts of all staff for another great year.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.