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, December 16, 2019

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

Members Present: Steve Baril, Donna Champion, Kathleen Carlson, John Grove, Ron Mariani, Wendy Pederson

Members Absent: Randy Couveau

Administrator’s Present: Bryan DeAugustine, David Boase, Chris Marana, Nathan Longton, PJ O’Brien

Administrator’s Absent: Jon Beckman

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 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 $687,534.81 for the period of November 25, 2019 through December 13, 2019; to approve the November payrolls in the amount of $602,479.66 for total disbursements in the amount of $1,290,014.47 to approve the Treasurer’s Report of the General Fund with total receipts of $1,211,006.85 and total disbursements of $1,372,750.23; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of $5,305.27 of November 30, 2019. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent’s Report
Bryan DeAugustine shared the draft copy of the district’s financial position. The life expectancy of the Eagle Mine has been extended which is a nice surprise. The continual growth in schools of choice students is also positive. A growth and achievement update for the Fall NWEA MAP were also shared with the group. He also stated that he will be on vacation during the Christmas break. Mr. Boase will be the senior administrator in charge during that time. Finally, he reported that the Aspen Ridge bleachers need repairs or replacement. The money in the Sinking Fund will be utilized for that project this coming year.

Aspen Ridge Elementary School Report
Chris Marana reported the elementary Christmas program held recently at the Westwood gym was once again a huge success. Many hours were spent for snow removal to provide adequate parking space. Over 2,200 pounds of food were collected for the TV6 Canathon. Staff members from both schools helped to wrap gifts for the giving tree. The Ishpeming Elks donated dictionaries to all third graders in the area.

Middle School / Athletics Report
Bryan DeAugustine reported that the winter sports season is getting into the swing of things with our students competing well. He also mentioned the successful band and choral concerts.

High School Report
Dave Boase reported that the students have been busy performing in band and choral concerts and also with the elementary programs that are hosted in the Westwood gymnasium each year. He also stated that the high school bowl team will compete versus Bessemer this coming weekend. Exams for Semester 1 will begin January 14, 2020.
Special Education Report
Nathan Longton reported on the applied behavioral analysis grant and that the students really benefit from these available services. He also reported that the consolidation is going well in the SCI program.

Transportation/Grounds/Facilities Report
PJ O’Brien reported on helping fellow staff members to make the Christmas program a success. He is working on a maintenance program for the buses, talked about a Johnson Controls contract and is creating an all-event calendar for the district which is time consuming but will be more informative on times and places of events.

Committee Reports

Academic Achievement – Growth and Achievement update for Fall NWEA MAP scores are in front of you this evening.

Finance and Ops – Updated Financial Projection is in front of you this evening reflecting the audit from this fall.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – A second reading and adoption consideration for NEOLA Update 34 Number 1 is in your packets this evening.

School Improvement – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – Bid solicitation will go public when we return from Winter Break.

Business / Action Items:

Motion by Wendy Pederson supported by John Grove to hire Tonya Allen as a part-time LRE Aide.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Baril  aye  Kathleen Carlson  aye  Donna Champion  aye
John Grove  aye  Ron Mariani  aye  Wendy Pederson  aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to hire Anna Johnson as a Cook’s Helper.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Baril  aye  Kathleen Carlson  aye  Donna Champion  aye
John Grove  aye  Ron Mariani  aye  Wendy Pederson  aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Wendy Pederson supported by John Grove to authorize the hiring of an Assistant Wrestling Coach.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Baril  aye  Kathleen Carlson  aye  Donna Champion  aye
John Grove  aye  Ron Mariani  aye  Wendy Pederson  aye

Motion carried.
Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to authorize the Westwood High School Attendance Policy clarification as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to set new facilities rental fee rates as presented effective January 1, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Baril aye  Kathleen Carlson aye  Donna Champion aye
John Grove aye  Ron Mariani aye  Wendy Pederson aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Baril supported by John Grove to authorize the purchase of four International buses from Zaremba Equipment Sales as presented and authorize the solicitation of financing for this purchase package.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Baril aye  Kathleen Carlson aye  Donna Champion aye
John Grove aye  Ron Mariani aye  Wendy Pederson aye

Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to authorize the enrollment of exchange student Anny de Santana. Motion carried.

Motion by Wendy Pederson supported by John Grove to recognize the second reading of NEOLA Policy Update 34 Number 1 as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Baril supported by Kathleen Carlson to adopt NEOLA Policy Update 34 Number 1 as presented. Motion carried.

Community Comments: None

Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:

Wendy Pederson wanted to thank the administration for early announcements on the radio stations informing of school closures.

Ron Mariani, on behalf of the board, wished to thank everyone in our district who works so tirelessly behind the scenes to clear away snow in the winter and for the many things they accomplish all year to make our school safer and a better place to be.

Kathleen Carlson wished to thank Bryan DeAugustine for listening to her concerns about certain areas connected with the swimming pool which can be improved to make our pool safer and be a better environment for swimming.

Bryan DeAugustine commented that all decisions made about our school environment are done to always place safety issues first for everyone’s protection. He also stated that the issues addressed with the swimming areas can be improved through the Sinking Fund.
Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Board President: ___________________________ Board Secretary: ___________________________