

Minutes of the Special 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 **Wednesday, August 5, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Mariani **in an Electronic Meeting via Zoom** at 6:32 p.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Administrator's Present: Bryan DeAugustine, Cliff Fossitt, Chris Marana, PJ O'Brien

Administrator's Absent: Jon Beckman, Nathan Longton, both excused.

Public Comment (regarding agenda): Community members Vicki Tikkanen, Crystal LaFreniere, Jennifer Nutini, Janet Wisuri, Nick Markham, Sara Hinze, Jason Doney, Amy Huetter, and Jennifer Gibbons all spoke regarding the Return to School Plan.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

Motion by Randy Couveau supported by John Grove to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Business / Action Items:

Motion by Steve Baril supported by Donna Champion to authorize the Return to School plan as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Community Comments:

Community member Jennifer Nutini spoke regarding the Return to School Plan.

Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:

Steve Baril stated that he thinks a review at the October Board Meeting is a good idea. He hopes the community will support the decision and he also hopes that if people decide not to send their kids to school they will consider the Patriot Online Academy.

Kathleen Carlson hopes everyone stays safe and stated that the district will do the best they can.

John Grove echoed Steve Baril's comments.

Donna Champion stated she liked the workshop meeting on August 4, with all of the discussion regarding the Return to School Plan. She also hopes that members of the public realize the importance of kids being back in school.

Randy Couveau thanked the members of the community for voicing their thoughts. Overall he thinks the students will overcome any uncertainty and adapt to wearing masks. He also stated that his vote didn't come easy, but being elected to the board and serving the public in that way, he felt it was best to vote for safety for our district.

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Ron Mariani asked Bryan DeAugustine to briefly discuss the components of the plan if there is an incident of COVID-19 on campus. He appreciates the effort and input from the community and also supports the review at the October Board Meeting. He also stated that on behalf of the whole Board, we remain committed to doing what's best.

Bryan DeAugustine reminded everyone that if there does happen to be an incident of COVID-19 on campus, the district may close down parts or all of campus and will follow the guidelines of the Health Department officials. He also stated that if orders from the State of Michigan require us to shut down again, we will resort to distance learning and our staff are prepped for that possibility. He appreciates the trust of the community and is dedicated to doing what is best for the district as a whole.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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

**Pending signatures and approval at next board meeting. Original signed copies of the meeting minutes are filed at the Superintendent's Office.*