

**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, September 21, 2020**.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Mariani at 6:34 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, Jon Beckman, Cliff Fossitt, Nathan Longton, Chris Marana, PJ O'Brien

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 John Grove to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$1,632,829.47 for the period of August 17, 2020 through September 18, 2020; to approve the August payrolls in the amount of \$479,313.29; for total disbursements in the amount of \$2,112,142.76; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$5,778,464.73 and total disbursements of \$4,511,968.71; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$1,216,548.27 for August 31, 2020. Motion carried.

### Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

#### Superintendent's Report

Bryan DeAugustine gave a brief operations update and then stated that many other items would be covered in the action items throughout the meeting. He also thanked Jerry Messana from the Marquette County Health Department, along with Andrea Korpi and the substitute school nurses for all of their help and guidance. He stated that there have been a few transportation hiccups, but families have been receptive for the scheduling changes. Materials have been hard to get, so the Sinking Fund projects have a few details left to finish. Finally, the financial audit will take place at the end of September.

#### Aspen Ridge Elementary School Report

Chris Marana thanked all of the teachers and staff for their flexibility and all of their extra help to start the school year as things are going well because everyone has stepped up to make it happen. He also thanked Masks for Marquette for donating masks for all students and staff, TruNorth Federal Credit Union for donating lanyards for masks and Marthaler of Marquette for donating a picnic table to add to our outdoor space. Finally, he thanked all of the families and students as they have been very understanding and receptive to all we have going on.

#### Middle School / Athletics Report

Jon Beckman echoed Chris Marana's thank you comments. He also stated that the students have done a great job of conforming to what we are asking of them with the day looking much differently than normal and the staff have stepped up and helped in every way. In athletics, the fall seasons are going on. Tennis is nearing the end of season already, and Volleyball and Cross Country are going strong. Football is up and running at both buildings. He stated that he's proud of what we are able to do here.

High School Report

Cliff Fossitt reported that he too, echoes what Chris Marana and Jon Beckman stated with thanking everyone for adapting to all of the curveballs thrown at them. He said the students have adapted well and have embraced wearing masks. Being able to go outside during the lunch period has also been a positive change. The new camera systems and vape detectors are installed and working great. He also mentioned the Westwood Weekly newsletter that gets emailed out and posted on the website each week and encouraged board members to check it out.

Special Education Report

Nathan Longton reported that MARESA was able to come in and do a Handle With Care (HWC) training prior to school starting. He said that he can't thank the Special Education staff enough as the Michigan Department of Education has thrown a lot of new requirements their way and they are learning together.

Transportation/Grounds/Facilities Report

PJ O'Brien reported that the custodians have been working their tails off and he is in the process of getting one of the two temporary custodial positions filled which will be a huge help. He also mentioned the new machines for bathroom cleaning have been a wonderful addition and have helped in following the every 4-hour bathroom cleaning guidance. Bus drivers have been superstars right from the start. The Sinking Fund project issues have stemmed directly from material shortages. They are almost complete. He's thankful for a wonderful overall team to work with.

**Committee Reports**

Academic Achievement – No activity this month.

Finance and Ops – No activity this month.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – First Reading of NEOLA Policy Update Volume 34 Number 2 and the Special Title IX Update

School Improvement – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – Project update.

**Business / Action Items:**

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to authorize the leave of absence for Lindy Butler. Motion carried.

**Motion by Steve Baril supported by John Grove** to hire Alex Briones as an Assistant Football Coach.

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.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Wendy Pederson** to accept Lynn Haukkala's letter of retirement. Motion carried.

**Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove** to hire Amber Nault as a substitute bus driver.

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.

**Motion by Donna Champion supported by Kathleen Carlson** to authorize a contract extension for PJ O'Brien 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.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to accept Rachel Scott's letter of resignation. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Donna Champion** to accept Sharon Villeneuve's letter of retirement. Motion carried.

**Motion by Donna Champion supported by Wendy Pederson** to utilize our standing superintendent evaluation on file as our most current evaluation and await further guidance from the state. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Steve Baril** to authorize our superintendent to submit our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as presented and authorize our board president to sign the plan on behalf of our Board of Education. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove** to continue our agreement for student mental health services with the Marquette County Health Department as presented. Motion carried.

**Motion by Donna Champion supported by Kathleen Carlson** to resolve to levy 18 mills for the purposes of operations for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Motion carried.

**Motion by Steve Baril supported by John Grove** to resolve to levy 1.7415 mills for our Sinking Fund for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Motion carried.

**Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by Wendy Pederson** to recognize the first reading of NEOLA Policy Update Volume 34 Number 2 and the Special Title IX Update. Motion carried.

**Community Comments:** None

**Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:**

Wendy Pederson stated that she had a hard time hearing people speak during the meeting in the gym.

Steve Baril stated that he feels it's been a great start to the school year, basing that off of his son's experience. He feels the kids have been resilient and it's as normal as it can get despite the circumstances. He thanked everyone.

*NICE Community School District  
Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 21, 2020*

Kathleen Carlson gave a big “way to go” to the teachers, staff, administration, parents and students. Thank you also to Wendy Pederson for the Patriot masks. She also thanked Bryan DeAugustine for acknowledging Mrs. Marie Ostola’s passing as she was pivotal on the NICE School Board years ago.

Donna Champion stated that she’s pleased that everyone seems to be relieved and happy to be back into a routine.

Bryan DeAugustine reiterated everyone’s thanks. He’s proud of our team.

Randy Couveau thanked the admin and staff for all added efforts. He stated that schools are not alone in facing challenges as government and private sector jobs are facing them as well. He would like to commend the efforts to adapt and overcome this adversity.

Ron Mariani also stated that everyone deserves thanks for all of their hard work and dedication. He is also very thankful that the portion of Westwood Drive near the highway and Dollar General has been paved and it is a huge improvement.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

**Board President:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Board Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_