

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 **electronically** on **Monday, December 21, 2020**.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Mariani at 6:32 p.m.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Mrs. Sheila Sihtala, 4th grade teacher at Aspen Ridge, who passed away suddenly over the weekend.

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 amended. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Randy Couveau supported by Kathleen Carlson to move the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Randy Couveau supported by Kathleen Carlson to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Randy Couveau supported by Kathleen Carlson to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$848,315.31 for the period of November 16, 2020 through December 11, 2020; to approve the November payrolls in the amount of \$612,249.16; for total disbursements in the amount of \$1,460,564.47; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$1,431,160.07 and total disbursements of \$1,527,329.56; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$769,964.84 for November 30, 2020. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent's Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported on the District's current COVID-19 statistics in which we currently have 0 active cases as of 12/21/2020. He also discussed the return of students to the elementary classes which were staggered to return last week and the middle and high school students who returned today. Attendance was low but not unexpected. Finally, he spoke of a surprise Zoom meeting to honor Chris Marana who was selected by his peers as the U.P. Principal of the Year.

Aspen Ridge Elementary School Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported for Chris Marana that the elementary school would welcome students back for Tuesday, 12/22, for one final day before the holiday break.

Middle School / Athletics Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported for Jon Beckman that spirits were higher in the middle school today, with teachers welcoming back students after being out for awhile. It was good to see the happiness and excitement. The MHSAA has restarted Fall sports playoffs, but unfortunately all of our teams were out of the postseason. It will be interesting to see what will happen with Winter Sports. There will be more news on that in the coming weeks, since everything is currently paused until mid-January.

High School Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported for Cliff Fossitt that the high school staff was happy to have students back after a 5-week remote learning session.

Special Education Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported for Nathan Longton a special thanks to all of the Special Education staff who continued to provide support to students throughout the last several challenging weeks.

Transportation/Grounds/Facilities Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported for PJ O'brien on the deep cleaning that the custodians were able to do while the high school building was without students for five weeks.

Committee Reports

Academic Achievement – No activity this month.

Finance and Ops – No activity this month.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – No activity this month.

School Improvement – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – No activity this month.

Business / Action Items:

Motion by Randy Couveau supported by John Grove to hire Nathan Jarvi as a custodian. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to allow Brad Waters and Justin Beauchamp to volunteer as coaches with our Boys Basketball Program. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to authorize the purchase of two 77-passenger school buses 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 adopt NEOLA Special Update 8450.05 regarding Emergency Temporary Telecommuting. Motion carried.

Motion by Randy Couveau supported by John Grove to continue to authorize our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan and our Return to School Plan.

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 John Grove supported by Steve Baril to authorize the calendar change for the upcoming WHS half-days for exams to full days in the high school. Motion carried.

Community Comments: None

Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:

John Grove thanked both Steve Baril and Donna Champion for their service on the school board. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kathleen Carlson thanked Steve Baril for serving on the board and applauded him for his willingness to get involved as someone who is relatively new to the area and a parent of a young student. She also thanked Donna Champion for both her and Rube's many years of dedication to the district and stated that they've always held a special place in her heart. She also thinks that NICE has done a great job navigating a difficult 2020. She thinks that the holiday break is just what everyone needs. She also offered her sympathies for the Sihtala family.

Wendy Pederson thanked Donna Champion for the great example of being a board member and for her encouragement years ago to join the board. She also thanked Bryan DeAugustine for all of his hard work during this difficult school year and for representing our district at such a high level.

Randy Couveau stated that he will be here in-person for the January meeting and he's also scheduled some time off to be able to attend both the February and March meetings. He also thanked both Steve Baril and Donna Champion for their service.

Donna Champion read the following: Thank all of you for being so kind and thoughtful to work with. Thank you also for electing me as secretary of the school board each year. Our district has been a big part of both Rube's and my life. I love this school district and I am proud of it. It is so gratifying when parents mention how much their children enjoy attending school here. That's what it is all about! Enjoying school definitely increases the students learning skills. I, like everyone else, will be happy when this COVID epidemic is resolved. The students belong to be back in their classrooms. My goal has been to be fortunate enough to be a member of this school board for 25 years. I reached that goal in December of this year. This is a perfect time for me to be retiring! Thanks again to all of you and continue doing your good work. Merry Christmas everyone!

Bryan DeAugustine shared a quick story of how Donna Champion was treated like a star at every township board meeting they ever attended. He always enjoyed the reactions of the community members when Donna was at one of their meetings. He also stated that 2020 hasn't been easy, but we are proving that we will come out on the other side of this. He really appreciates the hard work everyone has done. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Ron Mariani stated that the thank you messages are very well deserved, all across the district. This is a tremendous group of staff at all levels. Thank you to Steve Baril for his service and thank you to Donna Champion for tremendous legacy she leaves behind as one of the pioneers of the district. Thanks to Bryan for everything he has done to stay on the plan. He's looking forward to 2021 with hope. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Motion by Steve Baril supported by John Grove to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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