

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, November 16, 2020.**

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Mariani at 6:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Randy Couveau, Wendy Pederson

Administrator's Present: Bryan DeAugustine, Jon Beckman, Cliff Fossitt, Nathan Longton, PJ O'Brien

Administrator's Absent: Chris Marana

Public Comment (regarding agenda): Teachers Steve Annelin, James Maki and Karen Liimatta spoke of their concerns for keeping the Aspen Ridge building open during the high school shutdown for three weeks.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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 previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to approve the General Fund Bills in the amount of \$910,280.09 for the period of October 19, 2020 through November 13, 2020; to approve the October payrolls in the amount of \$603,963.02; for total disbursements in the amount of \$1,514,243.11; to approve the Treasurer's Reports of the General Fund with total receipts of \$1,127,699.79 and total disbursements of \$1,469,010.66; to approve the Sinking Fund balance of \$928,958.70 for October 31, 2020. Motion carried.

Reports, Presentations, Discussion Items

Superintendent's Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported on the District's COVID-19 Dashboard which is posted on our website. He also reported on the numbers of students utilizing each of our three learning options.

Aspen Ridge Elementary School Report

Bryan DeAugustine reported for Chris Marana that there was a 95% participation rate for the Parent/Teacher conferences. He also reported that Aspen Ridge participated in a "hat day" to raise money for the TV-6 can-a-thon which is being done virtually this year and raised \$700.

Middle School / Athletics Report

Jon Beckman also spoke of the hat day, since the middle school students participated as well. He thanked his staff for all they do on a daily basis. For athletics, he stated that while everything is on hold, he's reconfiguring schedules for the winter sports.

High School Report

Cliff Fossitt thanked Range Bank for their generous donation of PPE and school supplies, and Best Buy for their donation of materials for CTE courses. He also spoke of the transition taking place to remote learning for three weeks beginning Wednesday.

Special Education Report

Nathan Longton thanked the Special Education staff for helping each other out during many quarantine events and also for supporting their students electronically.

Transportation/Grounds/Facilities Report

PJ O'Brien thanked the custodial, maintenance, and bus driving staff for continuing to rise to the occasion. There is a temporary occupancy permit issued for the new locker room building and once the lights in the shower room get fixed, everything should be a go. He also mentioned the sound panels for the band room and they should be in by the end of December.

Committee Reports

Academic Achievement – Reviewed recent NWEA MAP scores this evening.

Finance and Ops – Annual audit presented this evening.

Personnel – No activity this month.

Policy – 2nd Reading and Adoption recommendation this evening.

School Improvement – No activity this month.

Sinking Fund – Projects complete.

Business / Action Items:

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to hire Nathan Jarvi as a part-time temporary custodian. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Kathleen Carlson to hire Kelsie Luokkala as an LRE Aide. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to accept Allan Morris' letter of resignation. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to hire Luke Gray as our Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by John Grove supported by Donna Champion to hire Brian Mattila as our JV Boys Basketball Coach. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by John Grove to recognize the second reading of NEOLA Policy Update Volume 35 Number 1. Motion carried.

Motion by Steve Baril supported by Kathleen Carlson to adopt NEOLA Policy Update Volume 35 Number 1. Motion carried.

Motion by Donna Champion supported by Steve Baril to continue to authorize our Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan and our Return to School Plan as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Baril	aye	Kathleen Carlson	nay	Donna Champion	aye
John Grove	aye	Ron Mariani	aye		

Motion carried.

Motion by Kathleen Carlson supported by John Grove to formally accept our Fiscal Year 2020 audit as presented. Motion carried.

Community Comments:

Rebecca Johnson, parent and support staff member, spoke in support of an Aspen Ridge closure that would follow the high school closure. She also invited all board members to go to Aspen Ridge and observe how a day goes.

Jim Maki, parent and teacher, spoke again about the meal times within classrooms, three times throughout each day, where masks are off and social distancing is difficult. He expressed his disappointment with the board for not considering an Aspen Ridge closure.

Kris Sibley, community member, complimented everyone for coming together in the community to keep our kids together at school, and with the various activities that have been allowed.

Closing comments by Board or Superintendent:

Donna Champion reiterated her thoughts that she doesn't believe the health department would make a decision to close without looking at all aspects. She believes that following their recommendations is best.

Bryan DeAugustine explained that what he has been told about contact tracing from the health department is that their focus is on school children and elderly in nursing homes. He also reminded everyone that these difficult decisions aren't easy to make and he still thinks keeping Aspen Ridge open is the right thing to do currently.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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