

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Study Session of the Board of Education
Held in the Sturgis Central Commons Board Room
Monday, January 13, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

The Study Session of the Board of Education was called to order by President Scott Boland at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Gorsuch with support from Mrs. Donmyer to approve the agenda as presented. 6 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

Present: Paul Gorsuch Gwen Donmyer Emily Halling
Scott Boland Ann Bird (remotely) Scott Swihart

Absent: Kerri Millett

Administration Dr. Arthur Ebert, Superintendent
Present: Ms. Nicole Airgood, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Ray Sterling, Director of Finance

Visitors Von Metzger, Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal, MiChelle Devries,
Mike Miller, Mike Stiles-WBET, Jeannine Koeneke, Mary Johansen,
Brian Tallmadge, Ed Knauss, Vince LaPorte

Sturgis Showcase: St. Joseph County Adult Education Navigator MiChelle Devries
presented a PowerPoint explaining the program. They work with
students for career readiness, not just the GED. They offer classes at
the Central Commons 4 nights per week, including ESL and Civics.
They currently have 82 enrolled for ESL classes, 52 for High School
Completion, and 6 working on GED.

Public Comments: Jenifer Yesh with the St. Joseph County CTE Student Success
Program thanked the Board for their generous personal donations to
purchase steel-toe boots for students in need.

The Consent Agenda: Mr. Sterling reviewed the December financial statements. Any board
member with questions on the December minutes should contact Mrs.
Karen Stimson within the week. Questions on financial statements and
invoices should be directed to Mr. Sterling. Approval will be sought at
the January 20 meeting.

Action Item for Immediate Consideration:

A. New Hire:

Ms. Airgood introduced Mr. Ed Knauss, who will be teaching math at SHS. There
was a motion to approve the hire by Mrs. Halling with support from Mrs. Donmyer.
6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Discussion Item:

A. St. Joseph County School Board Association February Meeting

Mrs. Stimson asked for RSVPs from the Board and will respond for them. Mr. Gorsuch, Mr. Boland, and Dr. Ebert plan to attend.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling will have the mid-year budget amendment in February. The lighting replacement projects are complete at Jerolene and SHS. They are now working at SMS and plan to be finished by the end of February.

Ms. Airgood and Eastwood Principal Mike Miller will meet next week re: the onsite review by the State of Michigan.

Dr. Ebert had results from the BPA competition at Jackson Community College to share. A total of 15 entries with 21 students qualified for state. Nine entries with 23 students qualified for the virtual event.

In Board Comments Mr. Gorsuch thanked MiChelle Devries for her presentation. Mrs. Bird thanked MiChelle. Mrs. Halling added her thanks and shared a story. One of her children who is not crazy about school now comes home excited about school and works hard to make the teacher happy. Mrs. Donmyer welcomed Mr. Knauss. Mr. Boland also welcomed Mr. Knauss and thanked MiChelle.

At 5:59 p.m. there was a motion to go into closed session to consider student discipline by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Halling. Roll vote: Ayes – Boland, Halling, Gorsuch, Donmyer, Bird, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

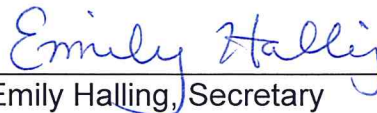
At 6:45 p.m. there was a motion to resume open session by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mr. Gorsuch. Roll vote: Ayes – Boland, Halling, Gorsuch, Donmyer, Bird, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

There was a motion to uphold the expulsion of student A by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mr. Gorsuch. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Mr. Gorsuch. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. Mrs. Bird did not vote.



Scott Boland, President



Emily Halling, Secretary

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held in the Sturgis Central Commons Boardroom
Monday, January 20, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Scott Boland at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Halling to approve the agenda as presented. 7 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

Present: Paul Gorsuch Kerri Millett Emily Halling
Scott Boland Gwen Donmyer Scott Swihart
Ann Bird (Remotely)

Absent:

Administration Dr. Arthur Ebert, Superintendent
Present: Ms. Nicole Airgood, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Ray Sterling, Director of Finance

Visitors Von Metzger, Mary Johansen, Harmonee McCrea, Kayla Cox,
Natalie Wagaman, Christa Ellingson, Michelle Patrick-Sturgis
Journal, Pete Palasinski, Elaine Miller, Patti Miller, Tina Siler,
Heather George, Maria Lambert, Karen Wegner, Mike Miller, Vince
LaPorte, Alicia Wilber

Sturgis Showcase: In celebration of School Board Appreciation Month, the district took time to recognize board members. Dr. Ebert spoke and Mrs. Karen Stimson reviewed gifts, cards, and posters received from the buildings.

GSRP Lead Teacher Christa Ellingson introduced all staff present and offered a PowerPoint highlighting 75 objectives for the year.

Public Comments: Mr. Vince LaPorte, Principal of Congress and Wenzel Elementary Schools stressed that the buildings appreciate the board and the huge part they play. He invited all to Donuts with Dad (or another role model on January 31.

The Consent Agenda: There was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Mr. Gorsuch with support from Mrs. Halling. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Item:

A. New Hire:

Ms. Airgood introduced new teacher Maria Lambert, who was in attendance. There was a motion to approve new hire by Mrs. Halling with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Informational Item:

A. Report from Wellness Committee Meeting

Dr. Ebert and Food Service Director Patti Miller discussed the Wellness Committee meeting held on January 7, 2020. We are reviewing information for the upcoming MDE review. We will need some policy updates in some areas.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling will bring the midyear budget amendment to the board in February, along with RFPs for the Wenzel projects.

Ms. Airgood expects to have SMS ELA Curriculum to present in March.

Dr. Ebert announced a new SHS student team to research expanding renewable (solar) energy.

In Board Comments Mrs. Donmyer welcomed Maria Lambert and thanked the GSRP staff for their presentation. Dr. Millett thought it was Christmas when she saw the board appreciation gifts! Mrs. Halling thanks all for the gifts. She is grateful for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy. She would like more recess in the school day. Mr. Swihart thought the GSRP presentation was awesome and thanked Principal Harmonie McCrea. Mrs. Bird agreed that the GSRP presentation and MLK lessons are great. Mr. Gorsuch thanked all for GSRP presentation, thanked Patti Miller and offered thanks for the gifts. Every year Mr. Gorsuch offers a quote from Dr. King on at this meeting. *"Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction. The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically."* Mr. Boland thanked all for the gifts.

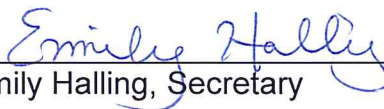
At 6:18 p.m. the board moved into closed session to consider student discipline with a motion by Mrs. Donmyer and support from Mrs. Halling. Roll vote: Aye-Gorsuch, Millett, Halling, Boland, Donmyer, Bird, and Swihart. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

At 6:33 p.m. there was a motion to resume open session by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mr. Swihart. Roll vote: Aye-Gorsuch, Millett, Halling, Boland, Swihart, Bird, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Halling. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Emily Halling, Secretary