

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, March 9, 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. Swihart with support from Mr. Gorsuch to approve the agenda with the addition of an informational item from Mrs. Halling. 7 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

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

Absent:

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

Visitors Von Metzger, Heather Brew, Kayla Cox, Jenifer Lampe, Kate Lopez, Carol Brooks, Tracy Clark-Piekarz, Pete Palasinski, Jeri Tetzloff, Katelynd Dreger, Lisa Yoquelet, Mike Stiles-WBET, Alex Milton, Carie Arseneau, Jeannine Koeneke, Alison Carter, Mike Miller, Karen Wegner, Sue Cropsey, Kelly Franks-SACF

Sturgis Showcase: Dr. Ebert reviewed the mini-grant award process and introduced those present who were awarded grants. They each gave a short presentation about their grant project. Dr. Ebert thanked Mrs. Kelly Franks for the support of the Sturgis Area Community Foundation.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Consent Agenda: Mr. Sterling reviewed the February financial statements. Any board member with questions on the February 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 March 16 meeting.

Action Item for Consideration in April:

A. English Language Arts Curriculum Resources

Ms. Airgood introduced SMS teachers Heather Brew and Alison Carter, who reviewed the teachers' choice. There will be a 30-day review period, as with any new curriculum. Approval will be sought in April.

Discussion Item:

Disclosure by Mrs. Halling that she has accepted the posted position as pole vault coach for spring track.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling said that the Wenzel Office Relocation bids were opened today. There will be a recommendation next Monday. He is reviewing the mid-year budget. We may ask for bids on snow removal and mowing.

Ms. Airgood announced a district summer school grant award for grades K-3.

Dr. Ebert reminded the board that March is Reading Month and invited them to get in to buildings and read! He thanked Mr. Sterling, Ms. Airgood, Mr. Metzger and Mrs. Stimson for their work on every board meeting.

In Board Comments Mr. Gorsuch thanked the mini-grant recipients for their presentations. He noted that including the service clubs was a great idea. He thanked those working as boosters in the concession stand. Dr. Millett found the ELA information exciting and thanked all for their mini-grant presentations. Mrs. Halling thanked Mr. Sterling for the monthly presentations and noted she appreciates the detail as a math person. Mrs. Donmyer thanked support staff for their work. Mr. Boland noted this was a fun meeting, and that the SHS Band received a 1 rating at festival.

At 6:28 p.m. there was a motion to go into closed session to consult with an attorney re pending litigation by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Halling. Roll vote: Ayes – Boland, Halling, Gorsuch, Donmyer, Millett, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. The connection to Mrs. Bird was lost. They were able to reconnect later.


At 7:34 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, Millett, and Swihart. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

There was a motion to authorize Dr. Ebert and counsel the ability to enter into settlement for pending litigation up to the authorized amount discussed in closed session by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Gorsuch with support from Mrs. Halling. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



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 Board Room
Monday, March 16, 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. Gorsuch with support from Mrs. Halling to approve the agenda as presented. 5 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

Present: Paul Gorsuch Emily Halling
Scott Boland Ann Bird (remotely)
Scott Swihart Kerri Millett (arrived at 5:32 p.m.)

Absent: Gwen Donmyer

Administration Dr. Arthur Ebert, Superintendent at 6:00 p.m.
Present: Ms. Nicole Airgood, Assistant Superintendent at 6:00 p.m.
Mr. Ray Sterling, Director of Finance

Visitors Von Metzger, Greg Dedes and Chad Kadow of Frederick Construction. Jeannine Koeneke

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Consent Agenda: Mr. Sterling reviewed the updated February financial statements. There was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Mr. Swihart with support from Dr. Millett. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Item:

A. Wenzel Office Relocation Recommendation

Mr. Sterling reviewed the process and distributed a handout detailing the bids. He recommended awarding the bid to Frederick Construction and introduced two representatives in the audience. There was a motion to approve the recommendation by Dr. Millett with support from Mr. Gorsuch. 5 ayes, 1 nay (Swihart), motion approved.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling said that the Wenzel Office Relocation project will begin with surveys for asbestos soon. The Wall/Congress chillers are delayed until April 8-15. Trane will be using the downtime with schools closed to get LED installed in the gyms. There are two bids so far for the Wenzel playground project. The deadline for bids is March 30. The March financials will be presented as a PowerPoint with cash investments starting in April. Mr. Swihart raised questions re the shutdown and revenues. It has not been decided if the days of the closure will be forgiven. We are paying employees during the shutdown. There is a potential for reimbursement of the expense. Dr. Millett asked about e-learning. Mr. Metzger sent an email to families with links to Clever app and others.

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In Board Comments Mr. Gorsuch noted the positive comments he has heard about communication from the district. Dr. Millett said it's great that the district is delivering food to 170 locations while schools are shut down. Mr. Boland is very appreciative of the prompt and clear communication from the district.

At 6:10 p.m. there was a motion to go into closed session to consult with an attorney re pending litigation by Mr. Gorsuch with support from Dr. Millett. Roll vote: Ayes – Boland, Halling, Gorsuch, Millett, Bird, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

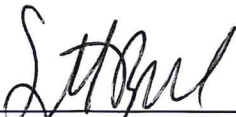
At 6:40 p.m. there was a motion to resume open session by Dr. Millett with support from Mr. Swihart. Roll vote: Ayes – Boland, Halling, Gorsuch, Bird, Millett, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

At 6:40 p.m. there was a motion by Mrs. Halling to approve the settlement terms as presented during closed session for docket #18-CV-1420; 18-CV-1421, and 19-CV-64. There was support from Mr. Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

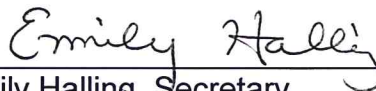
At 6:41 p.m. there was a motion to go into closed session for superintendent evaluation by Mr. Swihart with support from Mr. Gorsuch. Roll vote: Ayes – Boland, Halling, Gorsuch, Millett, Bird, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

At 7:21 p.m. there was a motion to resume open session by Mrs. Halling with support from Dr. Millett. Roll vote: Ayes – Boland, Halling, Gorsuch, Bird, Millett, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m., after a motion by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Halling. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Emily Halling, Secretary

NOTICE OF CHANGE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

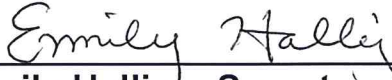
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE MEETING LOCATION FOR
MONDAY, MARCH 16 HAS BEEN CHANGED. THE MEETING
WILL NOW BE HELD AT THE STURGIS CENTRAL COMMONS.**

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 16, 2020

**PLACE OF MEETING: STURGIS CENTRAL COMMONS
107 W. WEST ST.
STURGIS, MI 49091**

HOUR OF MEETING: 5:30 P.M.

**TELEPHONE NUMBER OF
PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION: (269) 659-1502**



**Emily Halling, Secretary
Board of Education**