

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County  
Minutes of the Study Session of the Board of Education  
Held at Sturgis Central Commons Playground  
Monday, October 5, 2020 – 5:30 pm

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 Mrs. Bird with support from Dr. Millett to approve the agenda as presented. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Paul Gorsuch	Gwen Donmyer	Ann Bird
	Scott Swihart	Scott Boland	Kerri Millett

<u>Absent:</u>	Emily Halling
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Administration	Dr. Arthur Ebert, Superintendent
<u>Present:</u>	Ms. Nicole Airgood, Assistant Superintendent
	Mr. Ray Sterling, Director of Finance

<u>Visitors</u>	Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal, Mary Johansen, Mike Miller, Karen Wegner, Mike Stiles-WBET Radio
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<u>Public Comments:</u>	There were no public comments.
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<u>The Consent Agenda:</u>	Mr. Sterling reviewed the September financial statements. Any board member with questions on the September 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 October 26 meeting.
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Action Items for Immediate Consideration:

A. Membership Renewals to SJCISD PAC

Dr. Ebert read the letter from the ISD asking that the board reappoint Mrs. Lacie Fisher and Mr. Joe Kelly as our representatives on the PAC. There was a motion by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Dr. Millett to approve. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Items for October 26:

A. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert reviewed the initial plan and explained that the board will be asked to reapprove the plan every month. He will be presenting Accountability and Health Updates at the second meeting of each month.

B. NEOLA Title IX Special Policy Update-First Reading-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert reviewed the policy update and explained this is required by law. We will have the second reading at the October 26 meeting and ask approval at that time. Additional updates will be presented in November.

C. Annual Summer Tax Resolution-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling reviewed the annual resolution. Approval will be sought at the October 26 meeting

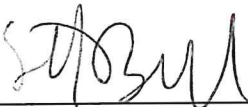
In administrative reports Mr. Sterling updated the board on the status of ongoing projects and announced that Mr. Matt Kelly of Plante Moran will present the 2019-2020 audit information on October 26.

Ms. Airgood had nothing further at this time.

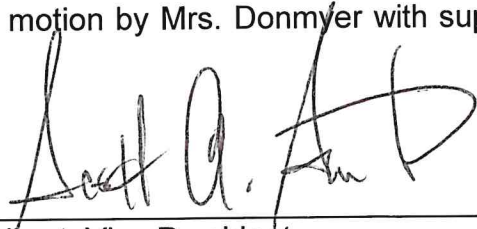
Dr. Ebert announced that this will be the last outdoor meeting. All meetings will be at SMS in the LGI room until further notice. It looks like state funding will be better, but less than a 1% increase. Grants have helped the situation, but COVID expenditures will exceed grants.

In Board Comments Mrs. Donmyer said that she is glad meetings will be moving indoors as it's very cold. She appreciates the great job being done by admin and staff. She reminded all that Tennis Regionals are Wednesday. Dr. Millett and Mr. Swihart had nothing further to add. Mr. Gorsuch wished Mrs. Halling a speedy recovery with her broken foot. Mrs. Bird thanked all for their continued hard work. Mr. Boland echoed that.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mr. Gorsuch. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



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Scott Boland, President



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Scott Swihart, Vice President

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held at Sturgis Middle School Large Group Instruction Room  
Monday, October 26, 2020 – 5:30 pm

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

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

<u>Present:</u>	Paul Gorsuch	Gwen Donmyer	Ann Bird
	Scott Swihart	Emily Halling	Kerri Millett

<u>Absent:</u>	Scott Boland
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Administration	Dr. Arthur Ebert, Superintendent
<u>Present:</u>	Ms. Nicole Airgood, Assistant Superintendent
	Mr. Ray Sterling, Director of Finance

<u>Visitors</u>	Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal, Von Metzger, Vince LaPorte, Matt Kelly-Plante Moran, Stephanie Teeple, Mindy Cardiel, Pamela Keeslar, Gina Crespo, Mike Stiles-WBET Radio, Claudia Pahls, Mike Golden, Lisa Schroer, Jeannine Koeneke
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<u>Sturgis Showcase:</u>	Mr. Matt Kelly of Plante Moran presented the 2019-2020 Audit Report. Mr. Kelly said that the district earned an unmodified opinion, meaning that financial statements presented were accurate. He used a PowerPoint presentation to compare with previous years. Dr. Ebert thanked Mr. Kelly and suggested that the board wait 8 years before asking for any further bond or millage proposals.
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Mr. Vince LaPorte, Principal of Wenzel Elementary School presented a banner from the kids thanking the board for having them “back at school”. Mr. LaPorte and staff have a goal to make this year as normal as possible for the students. They are still holding Fun Friday events, honoring Leaders of the Week, and using SeeSaw in the building.

Mr. Ebert offered the monthly review of the COVID-19 Learning Plan with no modifications to the plan at this point. Attendance statistics were running at approx. 95% present for the month of September. There are concerns with the number of students failing a class.

<u>Public Comments:</u>	<u>Mrs. Claudia Pahls, Sturgis Success</u> Mrs. Pahls gave each board member a folder for the program tracing the 10-year history. They have been meeting online with students and families to discuss post-graduation plans and offer help with FAFSA
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applications and more. Mrs. Pahls would like for the board to act as the Sturgis Success Board of Directors. She would present an annual report to the board.

Mrs. Pam Keeslar, Eastwood Teacher

Mrs. Keeslar is a big fan of Sturgis Success, and would like to thank the board for going with "in person" school. She is glad to be back with the kids!

The Consent Agenda: There were no questions on the September minutes or financial statements. There was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Mrs. Halling with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Items:

A. New Hire-Nicole Airgood

Ms. Airgood introduced Stephanie Teeple as the new Family Consumer Science Teacher at SHS. Ms. Teeple is a Sturgis grad and athlete. We are happy to welcome her back! There was a motion to approve the hiring of Stephanie Teeple by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Dr. Millett. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

B. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan-Art Ebert

There were no additional comments or questions. There was a motion to approve the plan extension by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Halling. 6 ayes, 0 nay, motion approved.

C. NEOLA Title IX Special Policy Update-Second Reading-Art Ebert

There were no questions. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Millett with support from Mr. Gorsuch. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

D. Annual Summer Tax Resolution-Ray Sterling

There was a motion to approve the annual resolution by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Dr. Millett. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

E. Formal Approval of Action Items from Virtual Meetings-Art Ebert

Due to the Supreme Court rejection of Executive Orders, it was suggested by the Michigan Association of School Boards that the board formally approve all action items from virtual meetings. In our case, that would be from April 30 to July 20, 2020. There was a motion to approve by Mrs. Bird with support from Dr. Millett. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

F. Resolution Regarding the Open Meetings Act-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert read the resolution to the board. Mrs. Halling asked how this may affect the bylaws. Dr. Ebert said that we have been doing the required items all along

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and there have been no problems. There was a motion to approve by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Dr. Millett. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling is happy that the audit is complete and clean! The Wenzel projects are 99% done. The Wall basement project is starting soon. The Eastwood Clinic is moving forward. The Eastwood roof is the big project next summer.

Ms. Airgood met with Behavior Interventionists and Counselors. She is working on wellness surveys for students, and on student assessments with a 3-5-year plan for review.

Dr. Ebert is proud of staff, students, and families. With the retirement of Mark Adams, we will be interviewing for the position of 2/3 Athletic Director and 1/3 Dean of SHS Students. We will bring a candidate to the board next month.

In Board Comments Mrs. Bird is grateful for the positives, including the clean audit, the fund balance, and the staff. She suggested she could be of help for students considering a service academy. Mr. Gorsuch thanked Mr. LaPorte for the presentation. He attended the Wenzel ribbon cutting. He thanked Dr. Ebert for honest reporting of issues and told Mrs. Pahls that she can't retire. Welcome to Ms. Teeple and "good job" to Mr. Swihart for running the meeting. Dr. Millett echoed the previous comments and said that she loves Sturgis Success. She welcomed Ms. Teeple and thanked Dr. Ebert and Ms. Airgood for their efforts. Thanks to Matt Kelly and congratulations to Mr. Sterling on the audit. Thanks to Mr. Metzger for his help with meetings. Mrs. Donmyer thanked Dr. Ebert and Ms. Airgood for their honesty and is happy about the fund balance. Thanks to Mrs. Pahls, too. Mrs. Halling said "ditto" and she is grateful for data sharing. Her kids are doing great with SeeSaw. She welcomed Ms. Teeple. Mr. Swihart echoed comments and thanked Mrs. Keeslar for her support. Thanks to Mrs. Pahls, too.

At 6:54 pm there was a motion to adjourn to closed session to review material exempted by statute by Mr. Gorsuch with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll Call: Ayes-Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Gorsuch, Swihart, and Bird. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

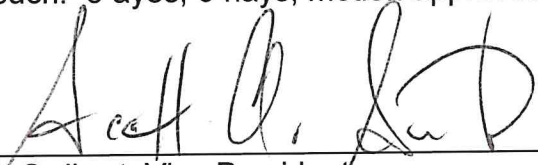
At 7:13 pm there was a motion to resume open session by Mrs. Bird with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll Call: Ayes-Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Gorsuch, Swihart, and Bird. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

At 7:14 pm there was a motion to adjourn to closed session for superintendent evaluation by Mrs. Halling with support from Mr. Gorsuch. Roll Call: Ayes-Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Gorsuch, Swihart, and Bird. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

At 7:33 pm there was a motion to resume open session by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Dr. Millett. Roll Call: Ayes-Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Gorsuch, Swihart, and Bird. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

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Mr. Swihart adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm after a motion by Mrs. Bird with support from Mr. Gorsuch. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

  
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Scott Swihart, Vice President

  
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Emily Halling, Secretary



## MEMORANDUM

**Whereas** the Open Meetings Act was recently amended to grant greater latitude with respect to electronic participation by members of the Board of Education and the public in certain circumstances; and

**Whereas** the Board of Education desires to utilize electronic participation, as necessary and in approved circumstances, in compliance with the law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

- A. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to create procedures to accommodate electronic participation by Board members who are absent due to a medical condition or due to a statewide or local state of emergency declared pursuant to law or charter by the governor or local official or local governing body that would risk the personal health or safety of members of the public or the public body if the meeting were held in person. In the event of such an emergency, if the meeting location is usually held in an affected area the entire Board may participate electronically, otherwise, only members who reside in the affected area may participate electronically.

For purposes of this paragraph, medical condition means an illness, injury, disability, or other health-related condition.

Electronically may include video and/or telephonic conferencing.

- B. The procedures must provide for:

1. Two-way communication;
2. For each member of the Board attending the meeting electronically, a public announcement at the outset of the meeting by that member, to be included in the meeting minutes, that the member is, in fact, attending the meeting electronically and, except for members who are participating electronically due to military duty, stating the county, city, township or village and state where the member is located.
3. A means by which the public is provided notice of the absence of a member and information about how to contact the member sufficiently in advance of the meeting to provide input on any business that will come before the Board.

- C. Through December 31, 2020, the Board may hold its meetings electronically, in whole or in part, for any reason.

- D. The Board further authorizes, from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, electronic participation solely under the circumstances set out in paragraph A of this Resolution, as well as the pre-existing law requiring accommodation due to military duty. After December 31, 2021, only members requiring accommodation due to absence for military duty may participate electronically.

- E. Advance notice of any meetings held electronically, in whole or in part, shall be posted on the District's website either on the homepage or on a separate web page dedicated to public notices for non-regularly scheduled or electronic public meetings through a prominent and conspicuous link on the homepage. This notice must be posted at least eighteen (18) hours before the meeting begins. Notice of a meeting held electronically must explain as follows:

1. Why the Board is meeting electronically.
2. How members of the public may participate in the meeting electronically, including provision of the specific telephone number, internet address, or both needed to participate.

3. How members of the public may contact members of the Board to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the Board at the meeting.
  4. How persons with disabilities may participate in the meeting.
- F. If an agenda exists for an electronic meeting held under this resolution, the Board shall post the agenda on the website at least two (2) hours before the meeting begins. This does not prohibit subsequent amendment of the agenda at the meeting.
  - G. Members of the public who are participating electronically or in person shall not be required to register, other than as required by the bylaws to participate in public comment.
  - H. Members of the public will not be allowed to participate in any closed sessions during meetings held electronically, in whole or in part, and all prior laws and bylaws relating to closed sessions continue to apply.

**NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board of Education's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein.

Adopted and approved this 26th day of October, 2020.



, Vice President, on behalf of the

Sturgis Public Schools Board of Education

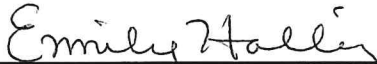
Date 10.26.20



# **NOTICE OF CHANGE SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING LOCATIONS HAVE CHANGED. PER EXECUTIVE  
ORDER 183 EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 9, 2020:**

<b>DATE OF MEETINGS:</b>	<b>OCTOBER 26, 2020 AND FORWARD UNTIL NOTIFIED OTHERWISE</b>
<b>PLACE OF MEETINGS:</b>	<b>STURGIS MIDDLE SCHOOL LARGE GROUP INSTRUCTION ROOM</b>
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</b>	<b>LOCATION CHANGE TO A LARGER ROOM TO ALLOW IN PERSON PUBLIC ATTENDANCE OF UP TO EIGHTY (80). MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ENFORCED.</b>
<b>HOUR OF MEETING:</b>	<b>5:30 P.M.</b>
<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION:</b>	<b>(269) 659-1502</b>

  
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**Emily Halling, Secretary  
Board of Education**

## Annual Summer Tax Resolution

Sturgis Public Schools (the "District")

A regular meeting of the Board of Education (the "Board") was held in the Sturgis Middle School LGI Room, within the boundaries of the District, on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020, at 5:30 o'clock in the p.m. (the "Meeting")

The meeting was called to order by Scott Swihart, Vice President.

Present: Members Swihart, Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Gorsuch, Bird

Absent: Members Boland

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Donmyer  
and supported by Member Millett.

**WHEREAS**, this Board previously adopted a resolution to impose a summer tax levy to collect 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Board, pursuant to 1976 PA 451, as amended (the Revised School Code), invokes for 2021 its previously adopted ongoing resolution imposing a summer tax levy of 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon the property located within the District and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board and requests that each city and/or township in which the District is located collect those summer taxes.

2. The Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to forward to the governing body of each city and/or township in which the District is located a copy of this Board's resolution imposing a summer property tax levy on an ongoing basis and a copy of this resolution requesting that each such city and/or township agree to collect the summer tax levy for 2021 in the amount specified in this resolution. Such forwarding of the resolutions and the request to collect the summer tax levy shall be performed so that they are received by the appropriate governing bodies before January 1, 2021.

3. Pursuant to and in accordance with Section 1613(1) of the Revised School Code, the Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to negotiate on behalf of the District with the governing body of each city and/or township in which the District is located for the reasonable expenses for collection of the District's summer tax levy that the city and/or township may bill under MCL 380.1611 or MCL 380.1612. Any such proposed agreement shall be brought before this Board for its approval or disapproval.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

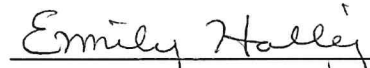
Ayes: Members – Swihart, Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Gorsuch, Bird

Nays: Members – None

Resolution declared adopted.

  
Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Sturgis Public Schools, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes regular meeting held on October 26, 2020 the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meeting Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan 1976, as amended).

  
Secretary, Board of Education