

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Study Session of the Board of Education
Held at Sturgis Middle School Large Group Instruction Room
Monday, November 9, 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. Halling with support from Mr. Swihart to approve the agenda as presented. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

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

Absent: Gwen Donmyer Kerri Millett

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

Sturgis Showcase: Dr. Ebert and Ms. Airgood presented the first awards in a new employee recognition initiative called Trojan Heroes. This month's honorees are Alison Idriss, administrative assistant to SHS assistant principal; Andrea Littlefield, SMS teacher; and Stephanie Byler, Eastwood teacher. They were presented with certificates and Trojan pins.

Visitors: Sang Jin Park, Von Metzger, Allen Meyer, Kimmy Denys, Andrea Littlefield, Brandon Watson, Jennifer Burg, Sherri Wheeler, Allison Carter, Pamela Keeslar, Morgan Pueschel, Tracie Pueschel, Karen Wegner, Mary Johansen, Stephanie Byler, Bobby Byler, Mike Miller, Jim Shoesmith, Peter Larr, Harmonie McCrea, Christine Earl, George Earl, Chelsea Wilber, Mindy Cardiel, Heather George, Nate Schwartz, Brian Barry, Alison Idriss, Christy De Young, Jennifer Robare, Mike Stiles-WBET, Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal, Sherry Hibbard, Jimmy Lamb, Lance Goodlock, Dorian Greening

Public Comments: Jennifer Robare-605 Tulip Lane, Three Rivers MI
Jennifer is a teacher at SMS and spoke against the Back to School plan for resuming in-person instruction. She does not feel that bringing back students is safe and is not comfortable with speaking out on the subject.

Letter from Lisa Schroer-19582 Lakeshore Dr., Three Rivers, MI
Lisa is a SMS teacher who attended the October 26 meeting. She stated that teachers are the most at risk.

Kimberly Denys-476 Webb Rd., Coldwater, MI

Kim had concerns with implementing the disinfecting protocol and with social distancing with more students in the room.

Jennifer Burg-15219 Gleason Rd., Three Rivers, MI

Spoke for fellow SMS teacher Heather Brew with concerns about increased exposure and crowded halls with all students back.

Allen Meyer-69856 White Tail Ct., Sturgis MI

Allen teaches at SHS and feels that having students back 5 days per week is too big a risk.

Tracie Pueschel-27282 Oak Dr., Sturgis, MI

Tracie is a Wenzel Elementary teacher. She thanked the board, Art Ebert and Nicole Airgood for so much work on this. She appreciates being with kids and thanked administration for putting kids first.

Dorian Greening-6469 Ravine Rd., Kalamazoo, MI

Dorian teaches at SMS. He said that he has serious misgivings about the plan. He views it as a pointless risk and is embarrassed this is being considered.

Chelsea Wilber-257 Kelle Dr., Coldwater, MI

Chelsea teaches at SMS and voiced concerns with cases on the rise. She questioned if this follows the school mission that We Are for You.

Peter Larr-1433 Flanders St., Sturgis, MI

Peter teaches at SHS. He addressed some causes for the failure rate including lost access to after school tutoring and seminar class. He is against the block schedule.

Mindy Cardiel-701 Devonshire, Sturgis MI

Mindy teaches at SHS. She addresses the failure rate with student chats after school asking what they need and what would help. She asked if any students are on the committee. She cited MDHHS statistics that close contact would increase with block scheduling.

Andrea Littlefield-68160 Halfway Rd., Burr Oak, MI

Andrea teaches at SMS. She applauded the effort toward making plans for different situations. She said that with test scores down, students need to be in school. She understands the risks very well as she has a compromised family member.

Mike Miller-324 E. Corey St., Bronson, MI

Mike is Principal at Eastwood Elementary. He noted that K-5 students are in person with full classes. They have had a total of 50 quarantined students. It is very hard to reach those students. There is no great solution, but the team has done well.

Sherri Wheeler-68182 Sweet Lake Rd., Sturgis, MI

Sherri teaches at SHS. She agrees that 30 or more students in classes with block scheduling is not good. She thanked the committee for being proactive with plans for the future.

The Consent Agenda:

Mr. Sterling reviewed the October financial statements. Any board member with questions on the October 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 November 16 meeting.

Action Item for Immediate Consideration:

A. Athletic Director Recommendation-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert discussed the process and read the press release that will go out with board approval recommending Mr. Andy Hatt for the position. There was a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Mr. Gorsuch to approve. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. Dr. Ebert then placed a call to Mr. Hatt who thanked the board for their confidence and said that he is excited for the new and dual roles. Mr. Boland offered congratulations on behalf of the board.

Action Items for November 16

A. Sturgis Success Board of Directors-Art Ebert

Claudia Pahls will be continuing with the program. She is asking to give an annual report to the board.

B. Classroom Audio RFP-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling reported that bids are due for the project by November 13 at 2 pm. They will have the bid opening at that time and review bids received. Mr. Metzger will offer a recommendation at the meeting on the 16th.

C. NEOLA Policy Update

The update is posted for the policy committee on the Board Docs center. There will be a meeting of the policy committee and approval will be sought at the December 14 meeting.

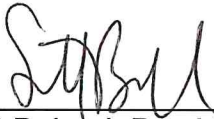
In administrative reports Mr. Sterling is finalizing grant allocations for the CARES Act.

Ms. Airgood had nothing further at this time.

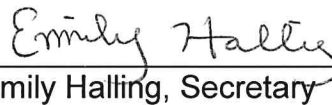
Dr. Ebert thanked all for attending and noted that all decisions weigh heavily this year.

In Board Comments Mrs. Bird thanked all staff present. We appreciate your care and passion. Congratulations to the Trojan Heroes and to Mr. Hatt. Mr. Gorsuch congratulated the Trojan Heroes and Mr. Hatt. He served on the Athletic Director committee. They had 4 super candidates. He shared his homework from Mrs. Yoquelet's class. Mr. Swihart also completed his homework assignment. He said that it's great to see so many staff here. He congratulated Mr. Hatt. Mrs. Halling expressed her appreciation for those who came and shared their thoughts. She congratulated the Trojan Heroes and noted that her second child is in Mrs. Byler's class. Congratulations to Mr. Hatt. Mr. Boland thanked staff present for sharing their concerns. Congratulations to the Trojan Heroes and to Mr. Hatt. Go Hoosiers!

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Halling. 5 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 at Sturgis Middle School Large Group Instruction Room
Monday, November 16, 2020 – 5:30 pm

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. Donmyer to approve the agenda as presented. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

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

Absent: Kerri Millett

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

Sturgis Showcase: The Congress Elementary presentation was postponed.
Dr. Ebert presented his monthly update of the COVID-19 Learning Plan including attendance data and health data. The back to school team will meet on Thursday, November 19 to discuss setting a cases per day threshold for in person instruction 5 days per week. Any students/parents wishing to switch options must do so between December 1-17 for the second semester. Dr. Ebert also reviewed the governor's latest emergency order.

Visitors: Mary Johansen, Pam Keeslar, Jodie Scheid, Von Metzger, Mike Stiles-WBET, Mile Miller, Allison Carter, Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal.

Public Comments: Pam Keeslar-1450 N State Rd. 3, LaGrange, IN
Pam teachers at Eastwood Elementary and wondered if SHS students would still have meals now that everyone is online only, with a few exceptions. Dr. Ebert said that all SHS students would be eligible for meals same as other online students with pickup available

The Consent Agenda: There was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Mrs. Bird with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Items:

A. Sturgis Success Board of Directors-Art Ebert
There was a motion to approve that the Board of Education act as the board for the Sturgis Success Program and receive the annual report by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Bird. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

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B. Classroom Audio RFP-Ray Sterling

Director of Technology Von Metzger reviewed the bids received and noted that CARES Act money can be used. There was a motion to award the bid to Bridges Audio Visual by Mr. Swihart with support from Mr. Gorsuch. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

C. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan-Art Ebert

There were no further questions on Dr. Ebert's presentation from earlier in the agenda. There was a motion to approve the plan by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Item for December 14:

A. NEOLA Second Reading-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert advised the full board that the policy committee will be meeting remotely on Thursday, December 3 at 5 p.m. With committee approval, the board will be asked to take action on the updates on December 14.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling gave a project update. The Wall basement project is off to a slow start. RFP's will go out this week for bids on the Eastwood roof repair summer project and on the Eastwood Clinic project scheduled for March.

Ms. Airgood is working on formative assessments.

Dr. Ebert will have 3 more Trojan Heroes presented at the December meeting. Nominations may be sent to Dr. Ebert or Ms. Airgood. We have leaks at SHS. We are looking into the cost to repair now.

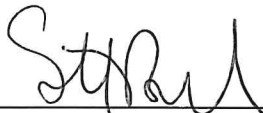
In Board Comments Mrs. Donmyer thanked all teachers for everything they do. She is impressed that special education and ESL students at SHS will still be able to attend in person. Mr. Gorsuch thanked teachers, many of whom spoke last week and sent emails. He thanked Dr. Ebert and Ms. Airgood for their positive attitude in these difficult times. Mrs. Halling is grateful for transportation, food service, and SHS staff and students. Mr. Swihart thanked Mr. Metzger for always being ahead of the curve with tech. Mrs. Bird was impressed that Dr. Ebert and Ms. Airgood already had a plan to respond to the governor's latest order. She returned her Super Hero homework for Mrs. Yoquelet's class at Wall School. Mr. Boland said that he was not worried about the governor's announcement yesterday. He knew we would be ready.

At 6:18 p.m. there was a motion to adjourn to closed session for superintendent evaluation by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Bird. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Bird, Donmyer, Gorsuch, Halling, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

At 6:58 p.m. there was a motion to resume open session by Mr. Gorsuch with support from Mrs. Bird. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Bird, Donmyer, Gorsuch, Halling, and Swihart. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

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Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Bird with support from Mr. Gorsuch. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President

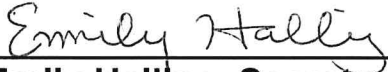


Emily Halling, Secretary

NOTICE OF CHANGE SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING LOCATIONS HAVE CHANGED. PER EXECUTIVE
ORDER EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 18, 2020:**

DATE OF MEETINGS:	DECEMBER 7, 2020 AND FORWARD UNTIL NOTIFIED OTHERWISE
PLACE OF MEETINGS:	VIRTUAL DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:	LINK TO MEETING AVAILABLE AT STURGISPS.ORG
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**