

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Held Virtually due to COVID-19
Monday, December 7, 2020 – 11:30 a.m.

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Scott Boland at 11:35 a.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bird with support from Dr. Millett to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Vote. Aye-Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Bird, and Boland. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Kerri Millett	Ann Bird	Emily Halling
	Scott Boland	Gwen Donmyer	

<u>Absent:</u>	Scott Swihart	Paul Gorsuch
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Administration	Dr. Arthur Ebert, Superintendent
<u>Present:</u>	Mr. Ray Sterling, Director of Finance

<u>Visitors:</u>	Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal, Mike Stiles-WBET, Betsie Drumm, Kelly Bogen
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<u>Public Comments:</u>	There were no public comments
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Action Items:

A. Authority to Collect Offers on Sale of Park School-Art Ebert

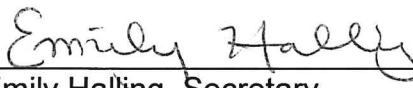
Dr. Ebert reviewed the history of the Park School building. It has been unused for many years. We recently had interest from a potential buyer. He suggested that, In order to be fair about the purchase, we accept bids on the property until noon on Monday, December 14, 2020. The finance committee will review any bids received at their meeting preceding the combined study session/regular meeting on that date. There will be a closed session to review offers, then action will be taken during the open meeting. After a few questions there was a motion to approve by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll Vote. Aye-Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Bird, and Boland. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

In Board Comments Mrs. Donmyer commented that the building is very visible from US12 and asked what it will be used for. Mrs. Bird asked if the meeting on the 14th will be virtual or in-person. Dr. Ebert will advise based on COVID restrictions.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m., after a motion by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Bird. Roll Vote. Aye-Millett, Donmyer, Halling, Bird, and Boland. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Emily Halling, Secretary

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Combined Study Session/Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held Virtually Due to COVID-19
Monday, December 14, 2020 – 5:30 pm

The Combined Session of the Board of Education was called to order by President Scott Boland at 5:32 p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Millett with support from Mr. Swihart to approve the agenda as presented. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. (Mrs. Bird joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.)

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

Absent:

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

Visitors: Jimmy Lamb, Vince LaPorte, Heather George, Doug Camburn, Karen Wegner, Andy Hatt, Lisa Yoquelet, Tracie Pueschel, Jeannine Koeneke, Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal, Marie Dilts, Betsie Drumm, Lynn Brand, Von Metzger, Tyson Dilts, Mike Stiles-WBET Radio, Brian Tallmadge, Julia Alwine, Patti Miller, Nikita Milliman, Brenda Reed, Mark Adams

At 5:35 p.m. there was a motion to move to closed session to consider the sale of real property by Dr. Millett with support from Mr. Swihart. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

At 5:51 p.m. there was a motion to resume open session by Mrs. Bird with support from Dr. Millett. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, Bird, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. Mrs. Bird joined during the closed session.

Sturgis Showcase: A. Recognition of Retirees-Art Ebert
Dr. Ebert announced the retirement of Athletic Director Mark Adams and read tributes from current and former coaches and friends. Mr. Adams retirement is effective January 1, 2021. This is the last meeting for retiring Board of Education members Ann Bird and Paul Gorsuch. Dr. Ebert read tributes to both, and then presented them with plaques thanking them for their service. The plaques were presented by Mr. Roger Bird and Mrs. Dianne Gorsuch remotely.

B. Trojan Heroes-Art Ebert
The December Heroes are Mrs. Patti Miller, Director of Food Service; Mrs. Lisa Yoquelet, First Grade Teacher at Wall School; and Mr. Tyson Dilts, First Grade Teacher at Wenzel School. Dr. Ebert introduced them and offered praise of each from the people who nominated them. They will receive a certificate and a bronze pin from the district.

Combined Meeting Minutes

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C. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert reviewed the current Delivery of Instruction Provisions, Accountability Update, and Health Data Update.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Consent Agenda: Mr. Sterling reviewed the November Financials. There were no questions on the November minutes. There was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Halling. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, Bird, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Items:

A. New Hires-Nicole Airgood

Ms. Airgood presented Ms. Nikita Milliman, English Teacher at SMS; and Ms. Brenda Reed, Special Education teacher at SMS. Both will start January 4 with the new semester. There was a motion to approve the hiring of teachers by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mr. Swihart. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, Bird, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

B. NEOLA Policy Update-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert asked if there were any further questions on the updates submitted for approval. There were none. There was a motion to approve the NEOLA Policy Updates 33.2, 34.1, 34.2, 35.1 and special additions by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, Bird, and Donmyer. 7 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 Mrs. Halling with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, Bird, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

D. Sale of Real Property- Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert shared information on offers received for the Park School Building. Bidder #1 approached the district with their interest recently. It was decided that the fair thing to do would be to announce that the building is for sale, even though there had been no interest for years. A second bid was received for a slightly higher amount. Discussion followed on the proposed usage of the property, terms of the offers, and zoning of the buildings. Bidder #1 proposed using the building for retail highlighting education with local vendors. They hope for quick action to do some repairs and secure the building before winter sets in. There was a motion to accept bid #1 by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mr. Swihart. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 1 nay (Bird), motion approved.

E. Vehicle Purchase-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling reviewed the proposed schedule of vehicle purchases and recommended the purchase of a 10 passenger transit van. There was a motion to

approve the purchase by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll vote: Aye- Millett, Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, Bird, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

F. Eastwood Clinic RFP-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling reviewed the process and bids received. Dr. Ebert apologized for the tight timeline and stressed that there is some urgency. He added that board member(s) would be included in future committees for projects like these. There was a motion to approve by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mr. Gorsuch. Roll vote: Aye- Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, and Donmyer. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. Dr. Millett and Mrs. Bird lost their connections to the meeting.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling thanked Mr. Gorsuch, Mrs. Bird, and Mr. Adams for their service. He added wishes for a happy retirement.

Ms. Airgood also thanked Mr. Gorsuch, Mrs. Bird, and Mr. Adams. She specifically thanked Mr. Gorsuch for his thoughtful questions and thanked Mrs. Bird for her mentorship. "The ripple effect is endless."

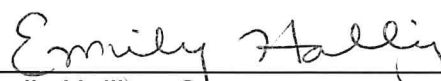
Dr. Ebert shared that we are gathering bids for projects, including RFP for SHS Machine Shop dehumidification. There is a bid walk tomorrow and bids are due January 5. There is also an RFP out for the Eastwood roof. Mr. Sterling will send the bid information packet to the board. Bids are due Dec. 17. Dr. Ebert thanked all staff for an amazing job going all the way back to March. So much has changed!

In Board Comments Mr. Swihart stated that he has so much respect for Mr. Gorsuch and Mrs. Bird. We are very lucky to have you both! Mrs. Halling said she was going to cry, too. She learned so much from Mr. Gorsuch and Mrs. Bird. She thanked Dr. Ebert for working through so many changes. Mrs. Donmyer shared that she went to Mrs. Bird for advice when her oldest started school. What great examples we have on the board. We will miss you. Mr. Boland thanked Mr. Gorsuch and Mrs. Bird for their support and thoughtfulness. He wished Mr. Adams a happy retirement and congratulated the Trojan Heroes. Mr. Gorsuch congratulated Mr. Adams on his retirement, welcomed new hires, and congratulated the Trojan Heroes. He welcomed Mrs. Brand and Mrs. Drumm to the board. He is honored to serve and thanked the district for the plaque. "Take care, be safe, kids first!" Mrs. Bird thanked all for their kind comments. She thanked Mr. Gorsuch for always being prepared, being the voice of reason, and for caring for students. She congratulated Mr. Adams and the Trojan Heroes. Lastly, thanks to Margaret Adams for being her mentor and thanks to all staff. "The district is in good hands."

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Gorsuch with support from Mrs. Bird. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Gorsuch, Halling, Swihart, Bird, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. Dr. Millett was never able to log back in to the meeting.



Scott Boland, President



Emily Halling, Secretary