

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Study Session of the Board of Education
Held Virtually Due to COVID-19
Monday, January 11, 2021 – 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 Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Halling to approve the agenda as presented. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Scott Boland	Lynn Brand	Emily Halling
	Scott Swihart	Betsie Drumm	Gwen Donmyer
	Kerri Millett		

Absent:

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

Visitors: Von Metzger, Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal, Nick Herblet, Andy Hatt, Brian Tallmadge, Jeannine Koeneke, Heather George, Mike Stiles-WBET Radio, Mary Johansen, and one unknown phone number.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Consent Agenda: Mr. Sterling reviewed the December Financials. Approval of the December Financials and Meeting Minutes will be sought at the January 18 meeting. Anyone with questions on the minutes should contact Karen Stimson and any questions on financials should go to Ray Sterling before the meeting.

Action Items for Immediate Action:

A. Board Officers/Committees/Appointments
The slate as prepared by the nominating committee was reviewed. It was noted that officers will be reviewed in July. There was a motion to approve the appointments by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Items for January 18:

A. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan-Art Ebert
Dr. Ebert reviewed new information on the plan including that elementary art will be moving back to the art room. The complete report will be delivered next week.

B. SHS Graduation Requirements-Nick Herblet

Mr. Herblet explained the request, which is based on the lack of an advisory class during the 2020-2021 school year. The graduation requirement would become 23 credits for only the classes of 2021-2024.

C. Eastwood Exterior RFP-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling reviewed the RFP details. Approval will be sought next week.

D. SHS Machine Shop RFP-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling reviewed the need for the dehumidification of the shop to keep the machines functioning properly in hot weather. There will be a roof top unit. More details to come next week.

E. SPS Paging System-Von Metzger

The bids are due by Friday, January 15. They will be reviewed for a recommendation on Monday. Mr. Sterling will email details to the board before the meeting.

F. Online Lead Teacher Stipends-Art Ebert

These would be added for the lead teachers in the online school for the 2020-2021 school year.

G. Schedule B: Strength and Conditioning Coach-Art Ebert

The coach would oversee the weight room and offer custom workouts for athletes. Athletic Director Andy Hatt and Athletic Trainer Ashley Hopkins back the request. It would have an immediate impact with preventing injuries and will be available to all students.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling welcomed new Athletic Director Andy Hatt and also welcomed Lynn Brand and Betsie Drumm to their first official board meeting. Plans are beginning for the Wall playground, SHS partial roof repair, and signage for the east side buildings.

Ms. Airgood welcomed Ms. Brand, Ms. Drumm and Mr. Hatt. She shared professional development plans with staff today for January 18 required PD. She thanked Tech Advisor Alex Milton and 16-17 staff presenting along with two vendors coming in.

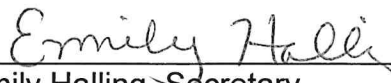
Dr. Ebert welcomed Ms. Brand, Ms. Drumm, and Mr. Hatt.

In Board Comments Mrs. Halling welcomed the new members and Mr. Hatt. She asked about the expected life of the chiller units. Mr. Sterling will advise. Mrs. Brand thanked everyone for the warm welcome and said it's great to be here. She attended her first facility committee meeting. Dr. Millett hopes that all board members are happy with their assignments. Mrs. Donmyer welcomed new board members and Mr. Hatt. Mr. Swihart welcomed all and said that he looks forward to working with them. Ms. Drumm thanked all for the warm welcome. She asked if there is a board member on the Back to School Committee. Dr. Ebert will review and let her know. Mr. Boland welcomed the new faces and congratulated the Hallings on their new addition to the family.

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Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Dr. Millett. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 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 Virtually Due to COVID-19
Monday, January 18, 2021 – 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. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Present: Scott Boland Lynn Brand Emily Halling
 Scott Swihart Betsie Drumm Gwen Donmyer

Absent: Kerri Millett

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

Visitors: Von Metzger, Vince LaPorte, Jimmy Shoesmith, Amanda Feyes, Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal, Mike Stiles-WBET Radio, Melissa Frye, Andy Hatt, Jimmy Lamb, Stephanie Walley, Jeannine Koenek, Karen Wegner, Courtney Patrick, Renee Guzy

Sturgis Showcase: Dr. Ebert announced the Trojan Heroes for the month. They are Amanda Feyes, Melissa Frye, and Courtney Patrick. He shared comments made about each with their nominations and congratulated them. Dr. Ebert and Ms. Airgood will go to the buildings tomorrow and present each with a framed certificate and a pin. Mr. Boland added congratulations from the board.

Dr. Ebert then reviewed details for the monthly update to the COVID-19 Learning Plan. Approval of the update will be sought under action items.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Consent Agenda: There were no questions on the December meeting minutes and financials. There was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Mr. Swihart with support from Ms. Drumm. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Items for Immediate Action:

A. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan-Art Ebert

There were no further questions on the COVID-19 Plan update. There was a motion to approve the update by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

B. SHS Graduation Requirements

Dr. Ebert reviewed the need for the temporary change from 24 to 23 credits for graduation for the classes of 2021-2024. There was a motion to approve the request by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

C. Eastwood Exterior RFP-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling reviewed the RFP details. There was a motion by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Ms. Drumm to award the project to McGraw Construction. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

D. SHS Machine Shop RFP-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling reviewed the need for the dehumidification of the shop to keep the machines functioning properly in hot weather. There was a motion to award the project to Trane Company by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Brand. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

E. SPS Paging System-Von Metzger

Mr. Metzger reviewed the bids received and made a recommendation to award the project to Moss Audio Corporation. There was a motion to approve by Mrs. Halling with support from Ms. Drumm. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

F. Online Lead Teacher Stipends-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert reviewed the request and noted that there would be two positions (elementary and secondary). There was a motion to approve the stipends for 2020-2021 by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Brand. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

G. Strength and Conditioning Trainer-Art Ebert

This was changed to an individual contract for a trainer. Hopefully it will become a schedule B item in the future. There was a motion to approve the position by Mr. Swihart with support from Ms. Drumm. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling is working with Tower Pinkster on RFPs for the SHS Café roof and signage. Discussions are underway on repair of the SMS tennis courts. He will bring a budget amendment to the board in February.

Ms. Airgood congratulated the Trojan Heroes and thanked all for support of the online program.

Dr. Ebert noted that Ms. Airgood conducted a full day of professional development across the district and shared a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."

In Board Comments Mrs. Halling loved the MLK quote and misses Mr. Gorsuch, who supplied a quote every year for this day. She congratulated the Trojan Heroes and was impressed with all the comments.

She wished Ms. Drumm a happy birthday! Mrs. Brand is amazed with the processes that go into board information and action. She is proud to call the Trojan Heroes colleagues! She thanked all for the research and committee work. Mr. Swihart is happy to have Mrs. Brand and Ms. Drumm on board. He congratulated the Trojan Heroes and loved the comments. He asked Mr. Sterling and Dr. Ebert to "keep spewing info! Don't worry about TMI!" Mrs. Donmyer also had a quote from Dr. King. "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." She congratulated the Trojan Heroes and wished Ms. Drumm a happy birthday. Ms. Drumm thanked all for the birthday wishes. She congratulated the Trojan Heroes and offered kudos for the vaccine clinic that took place at SHS. It is amazing how the pieces fit. She appreciates the transparency. Mr. Boland added congratulations to the Trojan Heroes. He commented on the many projects ongoing and thanked the community for the support of the sinking fund and therefore, the projects!

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll vote: Aye-Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Emily Halling, Secretary