

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, February 8, 2021 – 5:30 pm

The Combined 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 Ms. Drumm to approve the agenda as presented. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

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

Absent:

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

Visitors:                      Mike Miller, Von Metzger, Dan Cherry-Sturgis Journal, Heather George, Jimmy Lamb, Mike Stiles-WBET Radio, Karen Wegner, Paul Currier

Sturgis Showcase:                      A. Trojan Heroes-Art Ebert  
Dr. Ebert announced the Trojan Heroes of the month, Dave Northrop, Paul Currier, and Eliot Gitelman. He shared comments about each from their nominations and congratulated them. Dr. Ebert and Ms. Airgood will travel to the buildings tomorrow to present each with a framed certificate and pin. Mr. Boland added congratulations from the Board.

B. Extended COVID 19 Learning Plan-Art Ebert  
Dr. Ebert 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:                      Mr. Sterling reviewed the January Financials. There were no questions on the January minutes. There was a motion to approve the consent agenda 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.

Action Items:                      A. 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 Dr. Millett with support from Mr. Swihart. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

B. New Hires-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert reviewed the changes to district office staff. There was a motion to approve the changes by Ms. Drumm with support from Dr. Millett. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

C. MASB Board of Directors-Art Ebert

There was discussion on the three candidates for Region 6 MASB Board of Directors. The board decided to abstain as no one knew any of the candidates and they did not want to vote blind. There was a motion to abstain by Mr. Swihart with support from Ms. Drumm. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

D. Budget Amendment-Ray Sterling

Mr. Sterling noted that the finance committee had met and reviewed the amendment before the meeting. He reviewed the changes with the full board. There were no questions. There was a motion to approve the amendment by Dr. Millett with support from Mr. Swihart. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

E. Resolution to Permit School Boards to Meet in Person-Art Ebert

Dr. Ebert read the resolution and asked for the board's support of the motion to permit in-person meetings for boards of education. There was a motion to support by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Halling. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling congratulated the Trojan Heroes and gave project updates.

Ms. Airgood congratulated the Trojan Heroes and noted that the Literacy Committee met this evening. The Curriculum Team is looking at potential assessments.

Dr. Ebert thanked Mr. Sterling for his hard work on the budget amendment and noted that this must be the most complicated budget in 20 years.

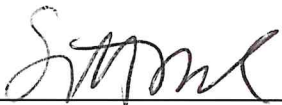
In Board Comments Mrs. Halling congratulated the Trojan Heroes and loved hearing the great comments. She was glad to vote in favor of the resolution for in-person meetings. Mr. Swihart thanked the Trojan Heroes for their dedication and congratulated them. He asked if the Heroes see the comments made and thought that they should have the opportunity to see them. He thanked Mr. Sterling for all the budget work. Mrs. Brand congratulated the Heroes and mentioned that she worked with Mr. Gitelman for many years, and that as a student at Congress School she hung out with the custodian after school many days. Mrs. Donmyer shared her excitement about everything that is happening with students back in classrooms and this year's building projects starting. She congratulated the Heroes. Dr. Millett said "ditto to all" and mentioned that she has also known Mr. Gitelman for years and loves him. Ms. Drumm expressed thanks to the Heroes and can relate to Mr. Northrop as she handles safety at work. She attended her first finance committee meeting today.

She is also hoping to have in-person meetings soon. Mr. Boland added congratulations to the Heroes and congratulated all on the decision to hold prom in some form.

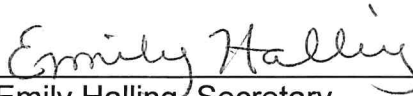
At 6:42 p.m. there was a motion to adjourn to closed session to discuss periodic evaluation of the superintendent by Mr. Swihart with support from Dr. Millett. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

At 7:04 p.m. there was a motion to resume open session by Mrs. Halling with support from Mrs. Donmyer. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Halling with support from Ms. Drumm. Roll vote: Aye-Millett, Boland, Brand, Halling, Swihart, Drumm, and Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



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Scott Boland, President



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Emily Halling, Secretary