

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Study Session of the Board of Education
Held in the Sturgis Central Commons Boardroom
Monday, August 9, 2021

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 Mr. Swihart to approve the amended agenda as presented. 5 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Scott Swihart	Scott Boland	Kerri Millett
	Lynn Brand	Betsie Drumm	

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

<u>Visitors</u>	Von Metzger, Sarah Arreola, Stacey Richardson, Cassidy Haas, Kim Haller, Heather George, Karen Wegner, Allen Meyer, Jim Whitehead, Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal, Mike Stiles-WBET
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<u>Sturgis Showcase</u>	<u>Graduate Outcome Process</u> Mrs. Wegner, Mrs. George and Mrs. Arreola shared that they are working together with various stakeholders on identifying three to five guaranteed outcomes for Sturgis Public Schools graduates. There will be an open invite to anyone who wants to participate in this decision. This may possibly be referred to as "Traits of a Trojan".
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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 July financial statements. Any board member with questions on the July minutes should contact Mrs. Toni Andrews within the week. Questions on financial statements and invoices should be directed to Mr. Sterling. Approval will be sought at the August 16th meeting.
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<u>Action Item for Immediate Consent</u>	Finance Committee membership was discussed. The By Laws state that the treasurer by default is a member of the Finance committee meaning Gwen Donmyer is now on this committee. After discussion, Dr. Kerri Millett chose to be removed. A motion to remove Dr. Millett from the Finance Committee was made by Ms. Drumm with support from Mr. Swihart. 5 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.
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Action Items for August 16th:

- A. New Hires
Mrs. Gittinger will share the information at the next meeting when the new hires attend. Mrs. Cassidy Haas, a new teacher, was recognized and welcomed as she was not able to attend the last meeting.
- B. SPS/SEIU Transportation/Maintenance Wage Opener
Mr. Sterling reviewed the updated rates
- C. Signage RFP/Recommendation
Mr. Sterling reviewed bids for the signage. The recommendation from the Facility Committee is to go with Universal Signs Inc.
- D. Adjustment to 2021-22 Substitute Teacher Rates
Mr. Sterling shared that anyone employed by Sturgis Public Schools will receive a minimum of \$12 per hour. He then reviewed the new pay scale.
- E. Adjustment to 2021-22 Educational Assistant Wage Scale
The adjusted pay rate scale was shared by Mr. Sterling and he noted that the low end now starts at \$12 per hour.
- F. Adjustment to 2021-22 Food Service Wage Scale
The adjusted pay rate scale was shared by Mr. Sterling and he noted that the low end was now starting at \$12 per hour.
- G. HVAC Project Recommendation
Mr. Sterling stated that two bids had been received for this project. The project entails updating chillers, boilers and univents in several of the buildings. Estimated completion date to be August of 2022. The Facility Committee recommends R.W. Pine

Discussion Item

Marching Band Tower - There was discussion regarding safety of the scaffolding that the marching band is currently using as a band tower. Mr. Jim Whitehead and Mrs. Kim Haller shared information on what they have seen at other schools along with suggestions for a possible new tower. A motion was made by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Brand to request bids for building a permanent Marching Band Tower and use district funds to pay for it. 5 ayes - 0 nays, motion approved.

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In administrative reports Mr. Sterling shared that Eastwood's roof is in progress. Sturgis High School is waiting on a start date for their roof due to lack of materials. Wall School playgrounds are complete and the basement floor just needs epoxy then it will be complete. The majority of projectors, audio and whiteboards will be installed by the end of the week. The auditors were in last week.

Dr. Ebert congratulated Mr. Allen Meyer on his new position as SEA President. Dr. Ebert read a letter that will be sent to Senator Peters, Senator Stabenow and Representative Upton regarding students having to wear face masks on buses and request that not be a requirement.

Mrs. Gittinger spoke about the Principal's Kick Off meeting and that it went well. There will be a 7 Habits training starting Tuesday for new staff. She is working on providing achievement, progress and perception data.

Ms. Drumm thanked the presenters of the "Trait of a Trojans" along with Mr. Sterling and the Finance Committee for all the finance work that has been done. She also thanked Dr. Millett for hosting the board retreat.

Mr. Swihart also thanked the presenters and liked the idea of including alumni for input. He also reminded everyone that Saturday, August 14th will be the 10th Annual Homegrown Fest and SHS All Classes Reunion.

Dr. Millett echoed the same thanks for the presentation along with funding and all the work done on the new signage for our district.

Mrs. Brand thanked everyone for all they are doing. She is very excited to see the rebranding of the district.

Mr. Boland thanked Mrs. Cassidy Haas for attending and appreciated that we are going to work on keeping Mr. Jim Whitehead safe with a new band tower.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Ms. Drumm. 5 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Emily Halling, Treasurer secretary

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Regular Session of the Board of Education
Held in the Sturgis Central Commons Boardroom
Monday, August 16, 2021

The Regular Session of the Board of Education was called to order by President Scott Boland at 5:31 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Halling with support from Ms. Drumm to approve the agenda as presented. 5 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Scott Boland Lynn Brand	Gwen Donmyer Betsie Drumm	Emily Halling
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<u>Absent:</u>	Kerri Millett	Scott Swihart
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Administration <u>Present:</u>	Dr. Arthur Ebert, Superintendent Mrs. Nicole Gittinger, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Ray Sterling, Director of Finance
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<u>Visitors</u>	Von Metzger, Jerrod Warner, Ashly Luna, Kim Warner, Patti Miller, Jim Miller, Harmonee McCrea, Mike Miller, Jennifer Finnerman, Karen Wegner, Nick Herblet, Mike Stiles-WBET, Molly Miller, Rebecca Greenamyre, Allen Meyer
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<u>Sturgis Showcase</u>	<u>Trojan Heroes</u> - Art Ebert/Nicole Airgood This month's heroes were Molly Miller, Food Service, Ashlin Heller, Wall Counselor, and Mike Miller, Eastwood Principal. Dr. Ebert shared comments from nominations and presented each with a framed certificate.
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<u>Public Comments:</u>	There were no public comments.
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<u>The Consent Agenda:</u>	There was a motion to approve the consent agenda by Mrs. Halling with support from Ms. Drumm. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.
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Action Items:

A. New Hires

Mrs. Gittinger introduced two new teachers: Ashly Luna-EW Special Education, and Kim Warner-EW 4th Grade. There was a motion to approve the hiring of the teachers by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Brand. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

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B. SPS/SEIU Transportation/Maintenance Wage Opener

Mr. Sterling reviewed the updated rates. A motion was made to approve the updated Transportation/Maintenance wage scale by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Halling. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

C. Signage RFP/Recommendation

Dr. Ebert reviewed the different types of signs and clarified that electrical was not included in the bid but \$25,000 was allocated in the budget to cover that expense. There was a motion made to approve Universal Signs Inc. for the new signage by Ms. Drumm with support from Mrs. Brand. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

D. Adjustment to 2021-22 Substitute Teacher Rates

Mr. Sterling reviewed the adjusted pay scale. A motion was made to approve the adjusted Substitute Teacher rates by Mrs. Brand with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

E. Adjustment to 2021-22 Educational Assistant Wage Scale

Mr. Sterling reviewed the adjusted pay scale. A motion was made to approve the adjusted Educational Assistant wage scale by Mrs. Brand with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

F. Adjustment to 2021-22 Food Service Wage Scale

Mr. Sterling reviewed the adjusted pay scale. A motion was made to approve the adjusted Food Service wage scale by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Halling. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

G. HVAC Project Recommendation

A motion was made by Mrs. Halling with support from Ms. Drumm to approve R.W. Pine for the HVAC project. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling shared that Wall School's playgrounds are complete and the ribbon cutting will be held September 8th. The paging systems will be done this week. Eastwood's roof is in process. Sturgis High School's roof was delayed due to back ordered supplies. Eastwood's fire panel is waiting for approval from the state. Sturgis Middle School will have six instead of eight tennis courts. Eastwood's playground committee has been formed and hopes to start the project after school is out this year.

Mrs. Gittinger shared that the New Teacher Orientation went well. The CKLA consumable materials are late due to shipping and supply demands.

Dr. Ebert apologized and thanked Von Metzger, Ray Sterling, Ben Currier, and Robert Taylor for all the projects that Ray reviewed earlier.

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Mrs. Brand congratulated the Trojan Heroes. She inquired about the Eastwood parking lots and Mr. Sterling confirmed that the EW parking lot next to the soccer field would be closed till completion of the roof which should be around December.

Mrs. Donmyer congratulated the Trojan Heroes and the new staff. She acknowledged how good of a job Mr. Sterling and Mr. Metzger have been doing. Mrs. Donmyer shared that SPS was very lucky to not have any major damage from the storms.

Mrs. Halling echoed the congratulations. She shared how wonderful it is to hear about the excitement for school to start.

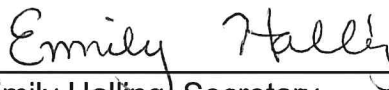
Ms. Drumm congratulated the Trojan Heroes and complemented Mr. Sterling on the great job he is doing. She enjoyed being a part of the New Teacher Orientation and is very excited about the Open Houses.

Mr. Boland echoed the welcome to new staff and congratulations to Trojan Heroes. He is excited as his daughter starts her senior year.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mrs. Halling. 5 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Emily Halling, Secretary