

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Held at Sturgis Central Commons Boardroom
Monday, January 3, 2022

The Special 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. 6 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

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

Absent: --

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

<u>Visitors</u>	Allen Meyer, Ben Myers, Dianne Wolford, Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal, Mike Stiles-WBET.
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Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Action Item:

A. Board of Education Appointment

Dr. Millett reviewed the Nominating Committee's process and noted that it was a difficult decision as they interviewed seven applicants. She thanked all that applied. The committee made the recommendation for Ben Myers to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Scott Swihart. A motion was made by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Halling to approve the appointment of Ben Myers. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. Mr. Myers shared his thanks and appreciation.

Discussion Item:

A. Policy 6440

Dr. Ebert shared that Eastwood staff have been working with the samples of possible new furniture for the building. If the decision is made to move forward with the purchase of this furniture, board policy 6440 would need to be amended to allow purchases using reputable big cooperatives in addition to the already stated inter-governmental entities. It was decided that the first reading of the proposed policy change would take place at the January, 10, 2022 meeting.

Informational Items:

- A. Website Calendar - Dr. Ebert demonstrated the use of the SPS website calendar and how to find things most commonly asked about.
- B. Video- Women's Sports in Sturgis - Dr. Ebert played the video trailer.

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Administrative Comments: none

In Board Comments Mrs. Brand welcomed Mr. Myers. Ms. Drumm and Mr. Boland echoed the welcome. Mrs. Halling thanked Mrs. Brand for coordinating the board members working the concession stand and welcomed Mr. Myers. Dr. Millett thanked the media for coming.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Brand with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 6 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Gwen Donmyer, Secretary

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, January 10, 2022

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. Brand with support from Mrs. Donmyer to approve the agenda as presented. 7 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

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

Absent: none

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

Visitors Von Metzger, Allen Meyer, Karen Wegner, Mike Miller, Dianne Wolford, Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal, Mike Stiles-WBET.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The Consent Agenda: Consent agenda items were discussed. Any board member with questions on the December minutes should contact Mrs. Toni Andrews within the week. Mr. Sterling presented the December financial statements. Questions on financial statements and invoices should be directed to Mr. Sterling. Approval will be sought at the January 17th meeting.

Action Items for Immediate Consent:

A. Board Officers

Mrs. Halling shared the nominating committee's recommendation for Board Officers. A motion was made by Mr. Myers with support from Ms. Drumm to approve Mrs. Halling as VP, Dr. Millett as Treasurer, and Mrs. Donmyer as Secretary. 7 ayes - 0 nays. Motion approved.

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B. New Hire

Mrs. Gittinger introduced Dianne Wolford-ELA SMS teacher and shared a little information about her. A motion was made by Dr. Millett with support from Mrs. Halling to approve the hire. 7 ayes - 0 nays. Motion approved.

Action Items for January 17th:

A. Traits of a Trojan

Dr. Ebert noted that this will be reviewed at the workshop on Thursday.

B. Policy 6440

There was discussion to consider amending policy 6440 to allow purchases to be made using reputable big cooperatives in addition to current options.

C. EW Playground Recommendation

Mr. Sterling summarized the bids presented by Miracle Play Systems of Michigan and Sinclair Recreation regarding the Eastwood playground. The recommendation was made to hire Sinclair Recreation for this project. Mr. Mike Miller shared that EW students were surveyed and a focus group was then created to help make the recommendations for the new playground. Additional discussion took place.

Informational Item

A. Website Contact Information

Dr. Ebert demonstrated where to find and search for contacts on the website.

Discussion Item

A. Committees, Appointments, Adopt-a-School

The board reviewed the vacancies and made a few changes to the Committees, Appointments and Adopt-a-School. The areas listed below are where changes were made and are shown in orange. The committee chairperson is noted with an asterisk.

2021-22 Committees

Executive: *Scott Boland, Gwen Donmyer, Emily Hallin

Finance: Betsie Drumm, *Kerri Millett, Ben Myers

Facilities: *Lynn Brand, Gwen Donmyer, Scott Boland

Nominating: Kerri Millett, Emily Halling, *Gwen Donmyer

Policy: *Emily Halling, Gwen Donmyer, Lynn Brand

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2021-22 Appointments

ELA Curriculum Team: Lynn Brand, Ben Myers
Social Studies Curriculum Team: Betsie Drumm, Ben Myers
St. Joseph County School Board Assoc.: Betsie Drumm, Alternate-Ben Myers
SPS District Safety: Scott Boland, Ben Myers

2021-22 Adopt-a-School

High School: Lynn Brand, Scott Boland
Eastwood: Ben Myers

In Administrative Reports Mr. Sterling shared updates on current projects taking place in the district including EW flooring and painting, SMS tennis courts, and the SHS boiler and chiller.

Mrs. Gittinger provided information on the January 17, 2022 professional development which will include all certified staff. Dr. Rema Reynolds, former SPS student, will be present virtually. Mrs. Gittinger's next project will be working on moving up curriculum purchasing.

Dr. Ebert shared that the Social Justice Club at SHS organized a MLK Day celebration which will be held on January 16, 2022 at Sturges-Young Center for Arts from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In Board Comments Mrs. Brand provided information regarding working the concession stand and welcomed Mr. Myers.

Mrs. Halling was excited the SMS teacher position had been filled. She loves the new building signs and welcomed to Mr. Myers.

Mrs. Donmyer echoed the welcome to Mr. Myers and Mrs. Wolford.

Mr. Myers thanked everyone for helping him settle into his position on the board.

Ms. Drumm welcomed Mr. Myers and shared that her kids are looking forward to the new playground at EW.

Dr. Millett thanked Mrs. Brand for organizing the concession stand schedule. She then thanked Dr. Ebert and Mr. Sterling for all the work they have been doing.

Mr. Boland echoed the appreciation to Mrs. Brand and thanked the facilities committee for their work. He then welcomed Mr. Myers to the board.

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Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Halling with support from Mr. Myers. 7 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Mrs. Donmyer, Secretary

NOTICE OF BOARD RETREAT

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THERE WILL BE A RETREAT OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF STURGIS, MICHIGAN:**

DATE OF MEETING: Thursday, January 13, 2022

PLACE OF MEETING: 107 W. West St.
Sturgis, MI 49091


HOUR OF MEETING: 5:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: Professional Development

**TELEPHONE NUMBER OF
PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION:** (269) 659-1502

**BOARD MINUTES ARE
LOCATED AT THE PRINCIPAL
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION:**

107 W. West St.
Sturgis, MI 49091



Gwen Donmyer, Secretary
Board of Education

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Regular Session of the Board of Education
Held at Sturgis Central Commons Boardroom
Monday, January 17, 2022

The Regular 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. Brand with support from Dr. Millett to approve the agenda as presented. 6 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Scott Boland	Emily Halling	Kerri Millett
	Lynn Brand	Betsie Drumm	Ben Myers

<u>Absent:</u>	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, Marsh Dobberteen, Pam Keeslar, Amanda Langworthy, Morgan Pueschel, Christa Ellingson, Kayla Cox, Precious Kline, Tori Metzger, Karen Wegner, Mike Miller, Nick Herblet, Sarah Arreola, Courtney O'Brien, Frank Iannarelli, Nancy Iannarelli, Trey Lovelace, Harmoniee McCrea, Stacey Richardson, Heather George, Allen Meyer, Adrian Montoya, Landen McGuire, Mike Stiles-WBET, Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal.
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Sturgis Showcase

- A. Board Appreciation - Two SMS students handed out special gifts to the board. Dr. Ebert shared his praise and appreciation for the board along with a sampling of their responsibilities.
- B. GSRP - Mrs. Harmoniee McCrea introduced the GSRP staff. Mrs. Christa Ellingson, Mrs. Tori Metzger, Ms. Precious Kline, and Ms. Kayla Cox shared about what is involved in teaching our Tiny Trojans.
- C. Trojan Heroes - This month's heroes were Marsha Dobberteen-EW EA, Morgan Pueschel-SMS Spec. Ed teacher, and Amanda Langworthy-SHS teacher. Dr. Ebert shared comments from nominations and presented each with a framed certificate.

<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 Ms. Drumm with support from Dr. Millett. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.
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Immediate Action Items:

A. Easement for Public Right of Way

There was a motion to approve the Easement for Public Right of Way and Consent to Grade in respect to the roundabout that is to be constructed at the intersection of E. Lafayette Street and Franks Avenue. This motion was made by Mr. Myers with support from Mrs. Brand. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved

Action Items:

A. Amendment to Policy 6440

Dr. Ebert reviewed the proposed amendment to policy 6440. A motion was made to amend policy 6440 to include the use of reputable bid cooperatives by Mrs. Brand with support from Mrs. Halling. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved

B. Eastwood Playground RFP

Mr. Sterling reviewed the proposed Eastwood playground upgrade. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the EW Playground RFP for \$400,000, with a contingency of 10% by Ms. Drum with support from Dr. Millett. Before the vote, an additional discussion took place regarding the replacing/resurfacing of the playground pad and it was decided that cost would be looked into. Mr. Mike Miller answered questions and provided some additional information. Ms. Drumm then amended her motion to approve the EW Playground RFP for \$400,000 with a 7.25% contingency with support from Dr. Millett. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Items for February 21st:

A. EW Classroom Furniture Purchase - Dr. Ebert shared the options EW is looking into. Mrs. Pam Keeslar added some additional information on the process and how the layout was chosen. She responded to questions by the board. It was decided that an additional board meeting will be held on January 31, 2022, at 5:30 p.m to take action on this.

B. Traits of a Trojan - An update was provided by Dr. Ebert on the progress made during the retreat. The first draft was shared. The board wishes to have the draft reviewed by the community once again to collect any additional suggestions before moving forward. Another retreat will be scheduled to finalize the traits and look at the mission and vision. The date will be February 17, 2022, from 5:30 - 8:30

Information Item:

A. Signing up for Text Alerts - Instructions on how families can sign up for text alerts from SPS was explained by Dr. Ebert and Mrs. Von Metzger. Information can be located on the SPS Facebook and website.

Discussion Item:

- A. Central Commons Gymnasium- The board took a tour of the gymnasium and locker room areas. A decision will need to be made as to what the future holds for this area. Some considerations would be to tear down this section of the building and create parking, renovate the current structure, or tear down and rebuild. This will be a discussion item at the February 21st meeting.

Informational Item:

- A. Committees, Appointments, Adopt-a-School were reviewed and adjusted. Any changes are listed below and noted in orange. The committee chairperson is noted with an asterisk.

2021-22 Committees

Executive: *Scott Boland, Gwen Donmyer, Emily Halling

Finance: Betsie Drumm, *Kerri Millett, Ben Myers

Facilities: *Lynn Brand, Gwen Donmyer, Scott Boland

Nominating: Kerri Millett, Emily Halling, *Gwen Donmyer

Policy: *Emily Halling, Gwen Donmyer, Lynn Brand

2021-22 Appointments

ELA Curriculum Team: Lynn Brand, Ben Myers

Social Studies Curriculum Team: Betsie Drumm, Ben Myers

St. Joseph County School Board Assoc.: Betsie Drumm, Alternate-Ben Myers

SPS District Safety: Scott Boland, Ben Myers

2021-22 Adopt-a-School

High School: Lynn Brand, Scott Boland

Eastwood: Ben Myers

In Administrative Reports, Mr. Sterling reviewed current projects and RFP's getting ready to go out.

Mrs. Gittinger finished a great PD day with certified staff today.

Dr. Ebert noted that Mrs. Gittinger did an extraordinary job on the PD day.

Mr. Metzger shared information on the E-rate program.

In Board Comments, Ms. Drumm congratulated the Trojan Heroes. She enjoyed the GSRP presentation and thanked Mrs. Gittinger for all the projects she does. Ms. Drumm thanked Mr. Myers for sharing about MLK Day.

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Mrs. Halling suggested that the board should also be evaluated on how they are supporting Traits of a Trojan. She shared her passion regarding board policy. Mrs. Halling requested that bids be sent to the board when possible. Mr. Sterling will let everyone know when bids are available for review if they can't be emailed.

Dr. Millett thanked everyone for the appreciation gifts and acknowledgments. She enjoyed the Trojan Heroes and GSRP program. Dr. Millett would love to have more space available to help the GSRP program grow. She also enjoyed the walk down memory lane while touring the gym.

Mrs. Brand enjoyed the GSRP presentation and praised the staff.

Mr. Myers thanked Mr. Sterling and Dr. Ebert for their help getting settled on the board. He attended the MLK Day program and really enjoyed interacting with the students and hearing what they were passionate about.

Mr. Boland congratulated the Trojan Heroes and thanked everyone for the goodies the board received.

Mr. Boland adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Drumm with support from Mrs. Halling. 6 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.



Scott Boland, President



Gwen Donmyer, Secretary

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF STURGIS,
MICHIGAN:**

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, January 31, 2022

PLACE OF MEETING: SCC Board Room
107 W. West St.
Sturgis, MI 49091


HOUR OF MEETING: 5:30 P.M.

TO CONSIDER: Eastwood Furniture Purchase

**TELEPHONE NUMBER OF
PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF
BOARD OF EDUCATION:** (269) 659-1502

**BOARD MINUTES ARE
LOCATED AT THE PRINCIPAL
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION:**

107 W. West St.
Sturgis, MI 49091



Gwen Donmyer, Secretary
Board of Education

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education
Held at Sturgis Central Commons Boardroom
Monday, January 31, 2022

The Special 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 Mrs. Brand to approve the agenda as presented. 5 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Scott Boland	Ben Myers	Emily Halling
	Lynn Brand	Betsie Drumm	Gwen Donmyer (5:32)

<u>Absent:</u>	Kerri Millett
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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>	Arrow Sterling, Lennon Sterling, Piper Sterling, Joe Sekkert, Mike Stiles-WBET.
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<u>Public Comments:</u>	There were no public comments.
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Action Item:

A. EW Classroom Furniture RFP

Mr. Ray Sterling reviewed the RFP. Board discussion took place.

A motion was made by Ms. Drumm with support from Mr. Myers to approve the purchase of new classroom furniture for Eastwood from Omnia Partners in the amount of \$815,415.93. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Action Item for February 21st:

A. Eastwood Flooring RFP

Mr. Ray Sterling shared information on the Eastwood Flooring and the two bids that are being considered.

In Administrative Comments, Mr. Sterling provided updates on the Eastwood playground.

Mrs. Gittinger shared that select staff will be attending a countywide training for Crisis Response.

Dr. Ebert had no comments

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In Board Comments, Mrs. Brand loves the new Sturgis Trojan banners the city has installed.

Ms. Drumm reminded everyone to attend the upcoming Sturgis High School musical.

Mrs. Halling spoke about the new Volunteer Partners program. There is a link located on the SPS website under the Parent tab for those interested in volunteering in the schools. There are many opportunities available.

Mrs. Donmyer had no comments.

Mr. Myers would like the board to consider adding the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each meeting. This can be added to a future agenda.

Mr. Boland thanked Mr. Sterling for all the work on these RFP's.

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



Scott Boland, President



Gwen Donmyer, Secretary