

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Study Session of the Board of Education
Held in the Sturgis Central Commons Board Room
Monday, September 14, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

The Study Session of the Board of Education was called to order by President Kerri Millett at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Swihart with support from Mr. Hamlin to approve the agenda as presented. 6 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Kerri Millett	Paul Gorsuch	Scott Swihart
	Dave Hamlin	Ann Bird	Gwen Donmyer

<u>Absent:</u>	Geoff Smith
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Administration	Dr. Thomas Langdon, Superintendent
<u>Present:</u>	Julie Evans, Assistant Superintendent
	Ray Sterling, Business Manager

<u>Visitors</u>	Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal, Lauri Schirk, Kris Crabill, Nicole Airgood, Debra Swartz, Mike Miller, Brian Tallmadge, Jill Snyder, Nick Herblet, Shawn Caldwell, Pete Palasinski, Dan Root, Jill Toner, Mike Stiles-WBET Radio, Mark Adams, Jessica Bucklin, Von Metzger, Ron Ehlers
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<u>Public Comments:</u>	There were no public comments.
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<u>The Consent Agenda:</u>	August 2015 minutes, financial statements and invoices were reviewed. Dr. Millett noted that finance committee met before the meeting and had no questions There were no other questions. Mr. Sterling will supply comparisons to 2014 in reports. Approval will be sought at the September 21 meeting.
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Action Items for immediate consideration:

A. New Hires

Mrs. Julie Evans presented Mrs. Jill Toner, SHS math teacher and Mrs. Debra Swartz, interim Eastwood social worker. There was a motion to hire by Mr. Gorsuch with support from Mrs. Bird. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

B. Contract Letters of Agreement

Dr. Langdon reviewed three Letters of Agreement (two SEA and one SEIU). Mr. Gorsuch questioned the SEA Schedule B Letter of Agreement. He felt that the entire package should be reviewed at the same time, optimally with the new contract beginning in 2016. There was a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer to approve bowling for now, and wait on cheer until the entire

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schedule can be reviewed. After discussion Mr. Swihart withdrew his motion. It was then decided to revisit the SEA Schedule B item at the September 21 Board meeting,

There was a motion to approve the SPS/SEIU Letter of Agreement by Mrs. Bird with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

There was a motion by Mrs. Bird with support from Mr. Gorsuch to approve the SPS/SEA Letter of Agreement regarding calendar and scheduling. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

Discussion Items:

A. SJC SBA Meeting

The annual county board meeting will be Tuesday, October 6 in Mendon. Please RSVP by September 29 to Mrs. Karen Stimson.

B. Board of Ed Retreat

There was not an October date that worked for all, so the retreat is tentatively scheduled for November 9 following the study session.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling said that the team from Plante & Moran should be coming to present their audit findings to the Board at the October 12 meeting.

Mrs. Evans reviewed a handout on this year's MSTEP. The test will be shorter this year. The SAT will be given with paper and pencil.

Dr. Langdon reported that the admin team met earlier today. Breakfast is now served in classrooms for all K-5 students. Daycare is now available to the public. Hours may be adjusted. Dr. Millett thanked eCademy Principal Jill Snyder for making this happen. Summer projects are wrapping up. Thanks to Dan Root for his hard work on this over the summer. iPads are distributed at SHS. Principals are beginning iReady testing. There will be new cameras in buildings. Mr. Dave Northrop has finished the grant project. Class sizes are OK for now. Numbers are high at SHS. Building reports will start again this Friday. Fall pupil count is scheduled for October 7, 2015.

In Board Comments Mrs. Bird congratulated new SEA President Pete Palasinski. She also thanked Mrs. Nicole Airgood for including her on the Monday Memo to Eastwood staff. Mr. Hamlin noted that football game is home Friday night. Mr. Swihart congratulated principals and staff on the start of the year and also congratulated our new hires presented tonight. He would like the topic of teacher-student communication methods to be discussed at a meeting. Mr. Gorsuch asked when the BOE Online section of the new website may be available. Mrs. Karen

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Stimson told him we are working toward using it for October meetings. Members should expect log in information soon. He welcomed new hires and complimented Mrs. Jennifer Gump for good work on the fall newsletter. Mrs. Donmyer mentioned drinking fountains that need fixed at SMS. Dr. Millett commented on the fall newsletter, and added that the new website is looking good and is easier to navigate for athletic information.

Dr. Millett adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.



Kerri Millett, President



Paul Gorsuch, Secretary

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

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

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, Sept. 14, 2015


PLACE OF MEETING: Sturgis Central Commons

HOUR OF MEETING: 4:45 o'clock P.M.

TO CONSIDER: Financial Statements and
Invoices for August

**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.



Paul Gorsuch, Secretary
Board of Education

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held in the Sturgis Central Commons Board Room
Monday, September 21, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Kerri Millett at 5:32 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Hamlin with support from Mrs. Bird to approve the agenda as presented. 7 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Kerri Millett	Paul Gorsuch	Scott Swihart
	Dave Hamlin	Ann Bird	Gwen Donmyer
	Geoff Smith		

Absent:

Administration	Dr. Thomas Langdon, Superintendent
<u>Present:</u>	Julie Evans, Assistant Superintendent
	Ray Sterling, Business Manager

<u>Visitors</u>	Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal, Jill Snyder, Kris Crabill, Stephanie Smith, Tricia Gowan, Pete Palasinski, Shawn Caldwell, Nicole Airgood, Mike Miller, Von Metzger
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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. Donmyer with support from Mr. Gorsuch. There were no questions. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.
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Action Items:

A. Contract Letter of Agreement Schedule B

Mr. Gorsuch restated his position that every item on schedule B should be reviewed with the new contract, instead of setting a precedent for individual consideration. He would like to see a committee formed to review Sturgis vs. other similar districts and volunteered to serve. Dr. Langdon said that schedule B was discussed during negotiations, and that although the entirety of schedule B would be looked at, there were some areas that still needed to be addressed and dealt with this time around. Mrs. Donmyer asked if a retroactive increase would be possible for cheer coaches when schedule B is reviewed in the spring. Dr. Millett understands the fairness issue and asked if a survey of other districts was conducted. Dr. Langdon answered yes. There have been "cleanups" (letters of understanding) with other contracts in the past. Dr. Langdon agrees the entire schedule should be reviewed as part of the new 3 year contract starting next school year, but feels these items should be considered now. There was a motion of

support for the schedule B adjustments for bowling and cheer by Mr. Hamlin with support from Mrs. Bird. Roll Call: Bird, Millett, Hamlin voted aye. Swihart, Gorsuch and Donmyer voted nay. Smith abstained. The motion did not carry.

Discussion Items:

A. Board of Ed Retreat

The annual retreat will be on Monday, November 9 after the study session.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling had nothing further.

Mrs. Evans reviewed professional development that all teachers participated in this afternoon. K-3 worked on Reading Routines. Grades 4-5 worked on reading comprehension. SMS worked on writing across the curriculum and SHS had Glasser training.

Dr. Langdon had nothing further.

In Board Comments Mr. Gorsuch said that our thoughts are with Athletic Department Assistant Sandi Watson and family. Jerry Watson passed away on Sunday. Mr. Hamlin asked about air conditioning in gyms. Mrs. Bird thanked Mr. Sterling for his preparation. She will serve on staff appreciation sub-committee of the positive school culture group. They will meet on October 8 at 4:15pm. Mr. Smith read a prepared statement offering his immediate resignation from the Board. Dr. Langdon then stated that "this Board has a lot of work to do".

Dr. Millett adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Bird with support from Mr. Hamlin. 6 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



Kerri Millett, President



Paul Gorsuch, Secretary