

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County  
Minutes of the Informational Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held at Sturgis Central Commons  
Monday, November 13, 2017

The Informational Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Ann Bird at 4:05 p.m.

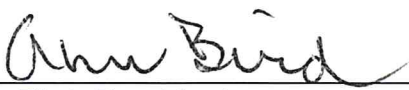
Present: Paul Gorsuch Ann Bird Scott Swihart  
Scott Boland Emily Halling (4:08pm)  
Kerri Millett (4:08PM)

Administration  
Present: Dr. Thomas Langdon, Superintendent  
Nicole Airgood, Assistant Superintendent  
Ray Sterling, Business Manager  
Tom Cole, Plante Moran  
Matt Kelley, Plante Moran  
David Mulder, Plante Moran  
Pete Palasinski, SEA President

Discussion items included Plante Moran audit report from 2016-2017, financial reports 2016-2017, federal award letters from 2016-2017, letter to the BOE for 2016-2017, and the PowerPoint to be reviewed at the board meeting. The auditors ended their presentation at 5:10 p.m.

Board members had some question on some specific invoices.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

  
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Ann Bird, President

  
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Scott Boland, Secretary

# **NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** Monday, November 6, 2017

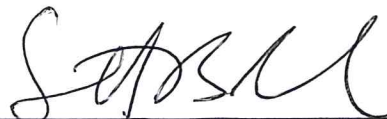
**PLACE OF MEETING:** STURGIS CENTRAL COMMONS

**HOUR OF MEETING:** 9:00 o'clock a.m.

**TO CONSIDER:** Policy Revisions

**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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Boland', written over a horizontal line.

**Scott Boland, Secretary  
Board of Education**

# **NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THERE WILL BE AN  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF STURGIS, MICHIGAN:**

**DATE OF MEETING:** Monday, November 13, 2017

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Sturgis Central Commons  
Superintendent's Office

**HOUR OF MEETING:** 4:00 o'clock p.m.

**TO CONSIDER:** Various Informational Topics

**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.



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**Scott Boland, Secretary  
Board of Education**

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, November 13, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Dr. Millett with support from Mr. Gorsuch to approve the agenda as presented. 7 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Paul Gorsuch	Scott Swihart	Ann Bird
	Scott Boland	Gwen Donmyer	Kerri Millett
	Emily Halling		

Absent:

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

<u>Visitors</u>	Jill Snyder, Lauri Pressly, Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal, Von Metzger, Brian Tallmadge, Mike Stiles-WBET, Ron Ehlers, Tom Cole-Plante Moran, David Mulder-Plante Moran, Brian Tallmadge, Jessica Bucklin, Karen Wegner, Mike Miller, Pete Palasinski
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<u>Sturgis Showcase:</u>	Tom Cole of Plante Moran announced an unqualified opinion for the 2016-2017 audit, which is the highest rating. He thanked Ray Sterling and staff for their cooperation and for quickly fulfilling all requests from the auditors. Mr. Cole and Mr. David Mulder then offered a PowerPoint presentation with highlights from the audit. Mr. Gorsuch asked what would be a typical threshold for fund equity to avoid having to borrow from the state. Mr. Cole stated that 14% or more is necessary to avoid borrowing. Mr. Sterling thanked them for their professional services and opinions.
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<u>Public Comments:</u>	There were no public comments.
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<u>The Consent Agenda:</u>	October meeting minutes and financials were reviewed. Mr. Gorsuch asked if an early start to the 2018-2019 school year would adversely affect the fund balance. Approval of the consent agenda will be sought at the November 20 meeting.
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Action Items for November 20:

- A. Cancellation of March 12, 2018 Board of Ed Meeting  
Mrs. Bird explained that the meeting is being canceled and replaced with interviews for potential superintendent candidates.



B. NEOLA Policy Review-First Meeting

Dr. Langdon thanked Mrs. Halling for attending the meeting reviewing changes to policy. He noted that we may table the policy re counseling while consulting with legal counsel. It would not go into effect until 2019.

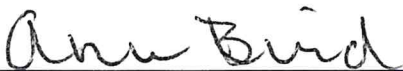
In administrative reports Mr. Sterling again thanked Plante Moran personnel for a great job.

Ms. Airgood met with principals. She will be attending the School Improvement Conference next week. The ELA committee will now be reviewing the second of three options. We will have our half day professional development on Wednesday afternoon. K-2 buildings will be meeting at Wenzel. On a personal note, she will be in Lansing tomorrow while her daughter Bryce defends her dissertation! Mrs. Bird hopes that children of staff go "3 for 3" with presentations!

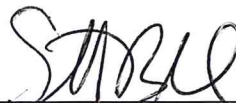
Dr. Langdon reminded the board that December's meeting will include a facilities tour prior and a board retreat after the meeting. He thanked the volunteers that helped with Safety Town Halloween celebration.

In Board Comments Mrs. Halling had a question re investments and will meet with Mr. Sterling. Mr. Swihart has heard great things about Leader In Me and would like to know more. Mr. Gorsuch thanked Plante Moran for their presentation. Dr. Millett also thanked Plante Moran. Mrs. Donmyer asked if Leader In Me is happening at SMS. It is, but they began training a year after elementary staff, and are not at the same point in implementation. Mrs. Bird commented that her weekly meetings with Dr. Langdon are going well. She reminded the board that she will miss next week's meeting. Mr. Swihart thanked Mrs. Bird for all her efforts on behalf of the board.

Mrs. Bird adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m., after a motion by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 7 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.



Ann Bird, President



Scott Boland, Secretary

Sturgis Public School District, St. Joseph County  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Held in the Congress Elementary School Gym  
Monday, November 20, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Donmyer to approve the agenda with the addition of a resolution opposed to guns in schools to the action items. 5 ayes – 0 nays, motion approved.

<u>Present:</u>	Paul Gorsuch	Scott Swihart	Scott Boland
	Gwen Donmyer	Emily Halling	

<u>Absent:</u>	Kerri Millett	Ann Bird
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Administration	Dr. Thomas Langdon, Superintendent
<u>Present:</u>	Nicole Airgood, Assistant Superintendent
	Ray Sterling, Business Manager

<u>Visitors</u>	Michelle Patrick-Sturgis Journal, Von Metzger, Nick Herblet, Stephanie Zingaretti, Amanda Feyes, Brianna McDonald, Joe Solis, Pete Palasinski, Mike Stiles-WBET Radio, Sue Cropsey, Lesley Starkey, Harmonie McCrea, Stacey Yunker, Jeri Tetzloff, Gretchen Cropsey, Meg Scheske, Rylee Krantz, Emily Stump
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<u>Sturgis Showcase:</u>	Congress Principal Nick Herblet introduced staff and presentations. Stephanie Zingaretti presented on Class DoJo, an app with rewards for kids. Amanda Feyes covered the annual Author's Day featuring "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" Amanda Feyes introduced SHS student Meg Scheske with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Student mentors come weekly. A dozen Congress students are participating. Lesley Starkey talked about a new idea offering bags with books for preschoolers. Siblings may choose a bag for their younger family members.
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<u>Public Comments:</u>	There were no public comments.
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<u>The Consent Agenda:</u>	The consent agenda was divided into two sections. The October meeting minutes were approved after a motion by Mr. Boland with support from Mr. Swihart. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved. There was discussion on the financial statements and invoices. Mrs. Halling expressed concern that the fund balance has dipped below 15%. Mr. Swihart would like a more detailed analysis every month. Mr. Sterling reminded the board that there will be more information at the board retreat on December 11. There was a motion to approve the October financials by Mrs. Donmyer with support from Mr. Boland. A roll vote
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was requested. Ayes-Boland, Donmyer, Gorsuch, Halling. Nays-Swihart. 4 ayes, 1 nay, motion approved.

Action Items:

- A. Cancellation of March 12, 2018 Board of Ed Meeting  
There was a motion to cancel by Mr. Swihart with support from Mrs. Halling. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.
- B. NEOLA Policy Review-Second Reading  
There was a motion to approve policy as presented by Mrs. Halling with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.
- C. Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bills 584-586 and 366  
After a change in wording to paragraph 10 on page 1 to "it is our belief..." there was a motion of support by Mr. Swihart with support from Mr. Boland. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

In administrative reports Mr. Sterling had nothing further.

Ms. Airgood discussed a group training on student engagement at SHS. Some SHS staff were in Dowagiac to observe this today. Tomorrow teachers from SMS will go. Other districts will be sending staff here in March. They will switch to option two on the ELA pilot on Friday. Ms. Airgood received an email from a parent who was very positive about Leader In Me.

Dr. Langdon had nothing further.

In Board Comments Mrs. Halling thanked Congress staff and offered kudos to Mr. Herblet, who is both Congress and Wenzel Principal. Mrs. Donmyer loves seeing the different programs in action. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Swihart thanked Mr. Herblet and Congress staff. He heard compliments about Key Club volunteers helping at the Doyle Center. Mr. Gorsuch thanked Congress staff. He noted that we need healthier snacks! He thanked principals and supervisors for the weekly updates, and thanked the board for taking action on the resolution.

Mr. Gorsuch adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m., after a motion by Mrs. Halling with support from Mrs. Donmyer. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion approved.

  
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Paul Gorsuch, Vice President

  
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Scott Boland, Secretary

## **Sturgis Public School Board Opposition to Senate Bills 584-586 and 366**

### **Board of Education Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, a public school district is tasked with providing for the safety and welfare of its students and to educate students in a safe and nurturing environment.

**Whereas**, in *Michigan Gun Owners, Inc. v Ann Arbor Public Schools* (318 Mich App 338 (2016)) and *Michigan Open Carry v Clio Area School District* (318 Mich App 356 (2016)), the Michigan Court of Appeals found that school districts have the authority to promulgate policies that ban the possession of firearms on school property and at school-sponsored events; and

**Whereas**, Senate Bill 584 would allow an individual with a Concealed Pistol License to request a special endorsement to carry a concealed firearm into no-carry zones, such as schools, day cares and stadiums with only a minimal amount of additional training; and

**Whereas**, Senate Bill 586 would prohibit local Board of Education decisions on whether or not to allow weapons on school property by amending Public Act 319 of 1990 to include a school district, community college district and public library in the list of public entities that are prohibited from enacting firearm regulations stricter than any federal or state law; and

**Whereas**, Senate Bill 366 would create a concealed pistol license for people ages 18-21, instead of the current law that does not allow concealed carry for anyone under the age of 21; and

**Whereas**, SB 584 also bans the open carry of firearms in pistol-free zones to address the disruption this has caused in schools, this bill is being sold as a compromise to the "open carry issue," however, it is not a compromise that the education community supports; and

**Whereas**, our concerns are focused on the safety of our students, staff and others visiting our campuses. Allowing more guns in schools is not a solution and places more people in harm's way, including our students. Moving to a concealed carry system only hides the danger of a gun on campus; and

**Whereas**, SB 586 would not allow a district to set policies regarding firearms except for their own students and staff, this would not cover visiting students or staff for extracurriculars or those who participate in shared time programs; and

**Whereas**, even with the most well-intentioned individual, accidents happen. With more guns in schools we are fearful of mistakes that could put the 1.5 million students that walk the halls of our K-12 buildings every day without incident in unnecessary danger. This is too big a risk to take with their lives; and

**Whereas**, we have seen tragic shootings over recent years and even weeks in and around schools, it is our belief that nothing in this legislation will bring these incidents to an end nor will it create safer schools; and

**Whereas**, having armed citizens in our schools will likely increase emergency response times. It will hinder the ability of law enforcement to quickly take charge of a situation because they would first have to identify who is a licensed CPL holder and who is the active shooter; and



**Whereas** any weapon on school property can disrupt the educational process for the school community and a 2015 EPIC/MRA poll showed that a majority, 57%, of the general public opposed concealed carry in schools; and

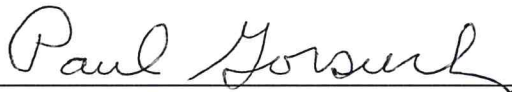
**Whereas** the **Board of Education of Sturgis Public Schools** believe the only people that should have guns on school property should be uniformed public safety officers;

**Now, therefore be it resolved that the Board of Education of Sturgis Public Schools opposes Senate Bills 584-586 and 366** and urges lawmakers and the Governor to allow local school boards to enact their own policies regarding weapons on school grounds; and

**Be it further resolved that** copies of this resolution be sent to Gov. Rick Snyder and the district's State Representatives and Senators.

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Acted and approved at the Regular SPS Board Meeting on November 20, 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul Gorsuch".

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Paul Gorsuch SPS Vice-President (Acting SPS Board President on November 20, 2017)