

LESLIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, October 11, 2021
7:00 p.m. - Leslie High School Library

CALL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Leslie Public Schools, Ingham and Jackson Counties, Michigan, was called to order by President Dave Cowing at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Dave Cowing
Shauna Howe
Eric Isham
Deann Maynard
Mary Crowl
John Wayne Stewart
Bud Fifield

Members absent: Bud Fifield - left at 7:30 p.m.

Administrator(s)
present: Scott Powers, Superintendent
Travis McComb
Todd Gonser
Andrea Roach
Connie Gonzalez
Rob DeSmith
Julie Fletcher
Dave Medcoff
Kristen Hawkins

Others: Lance Woodland Jessica Lightner
Kelly Woodland Hattie Dornbush
WW Elementary student Melinda Calley
Amy Dunlap Deborah Plourde
Shanna Messner Robert Darling
Lindsay Waldron Kristin Phillips
Elizabeth Yeider Marcella Thayer

Pledge of Allegiance given.

COMMENTS AND/CONCERNS OF CITIZENS PRESENT:

Lance Woodland, Styles Road, Pleasant Lake. He shared his concerns about the mask mandate.

Robert Darling, Rives Eaton Road, Rives Junction. He shared his concerns about the mask mandate.

Kelly Woodland, Styles Road, Pleasant Lake. She asked if anyone could address the Black Lives Matter poster that was in a middle school classroom. Superintendent Powers addressed the question. It was not a Black Lives Matter poster, specifically, but a political poster containing

various topics, one of which was Black Lives Matter. Once Superintendent Powers was made aware of the poster, it was removed immediately.

Marcy Thayer, Woods Road, Leslie. She discussed the new robots she has in her technology classroom at Woodworth Elementary. Students are learning a lot using the robots, including perseverance. She encouraged board members to stop in and see them.

She also commented as the parent of a high school band student, that she is very excited that the band and choir students will get the opportunity to participate in a New York trip in spring 2022.

Shanna Messner, Elk Ridge Drive, Eaton Rapids. She expressed concerns over the upcoming New York trip. New York requires a vaccination passport to enter restaurants and other locations. She requested that the trip location be changed to a city that does not require a vaccination passport to avoid alienation of students who may not be vaccinated and could therefore not attend. She also requested the vote to approve the New York trip be tabled for further review.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by D. Maynard, supported by E. Isham to approve the October 11, 2021 Agenda; Minutes of the September 13, 2021 regular board meeting; the bills in the amount of \$639,174.19 as presented; Pcard statement; General Fund Budget Report and Food Service Budget Report as of 9/30/2021.
Vote: ayes 7, nays 0, absent 0, abstention 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

September 30, 2021 School Law Notes, and September 14, 2021 IISD Board Briefs were distributed as informational items. President Cowing shared an MSBO recognition letter for Cindy Farley's renewal of her Specialists in Educational Data certification.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

Benchmark Assessments

Leslie Middle School Principal, Andrea Roach, shared an update on current assessments, including FastBridge, PSAT and SAT. A percentage of students who have met benchmarks for each test was shared. The goal is for students to maintain or improve their previous scores

GSRP/Early Childhood

Woodworth Elementary Principal, Connie Gonzalez, shared an update on the GSRP Program, Head Start, and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) students that are in the program. Additional funding and students allowed the district to add an additional GSRP classroom. Currently there are 78 students in the Early Childhood Program. Connie also pointed out that we need to keep a certain amount of

slots open for ECSE students who age out of Early On and need placement in the Early Childhood Program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Bond Update

Superintendent Powers shared an update on the Bond. As of today, we are 22 days out from the vote. Bond committee has been working very hard. They meet every Monday night. The "Say Yes to Leslie" t-shirts are in and they have been available at various locations that the committee has been at to help answer questions, i.e. Fall Festival, Leslie High School Homecoming and middle school conferences. They will also be at an upcoming school open house and the high school conferences.

A special thank you from the committee to Superintendent Powers and President Cowing for their support.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Mask Mandate discussion

Senate Bill 82 includes language that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall not issue or enforce any orders or directives that require an individual under 18 to wear a face mask or covering. Ingham County DHHS said their interpretation is that they can still have the mask mandate and they are still enforcing it.

Superintendent Powers sought legal guidance on repercussions for not following the DHHS Order: Schools that follow the Ingham County DHHS Order have Covid immunity. This protects the school district from liability if anything happens to an individual related to Covid. In addition, if there was a lawsuit, the district's insurance carrier may not cover the cost of the lawsuit, because the district did not follow the DHHS Order.

President Cowing tried to reach out to the Director of the Ingham County DHHS and the local county commissioner for further clarification, but did not receive a response from either.

B. NEOLA EDGAR, Spring (February 2021), and Nondiscrimination/Anti-Harassment Policies Update - Introduction

"Moved by E. Isham, supported by S. Howe that the Board of Education approve the first reading of the NEOLA EDGAR, Volume 35, No 2, and Nondiscrimination/Anti-Harassment Policies Revisions spring (February 2021) Updates as presented."

Vote: ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1 (B. Fifield), abstention 0. Motion carried.

C. Hire Woodworth Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Moved by J.W. Stewart, supported by M. Crowl that the Board of Education hire Melinda Calley as a Woodworth Elementary Kindergarten Teacher per the recommendation of Woodworth Principal, Connie Gonzalez. Vote: ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1 (B. Fifield), abstention 0. Motion carried.

D. Hire Woodworth Elementary GSRP Teacher

Moved by J.W. Stewart, supported by S. Howe, that the Board of Education hire Debora Plourde as a Woodworth Elementary .8 GSRP Teacher, per the recommendation of Woodworth Principal Connie Gonzalez. Vote: ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1 (B. Fifield), abstention 0. Motion carried.

E. Hire Woodworth Elementary Special Education Teacher

Moved by S. Howe, supported by M. Crowl that the board of Education hire Staci Cramer as a Woodworth Elementary Special Education Teacher, per the recommendation of Special Education Director, Rob DeSmith. Vote: ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1 (B. Fifield), abstention 0. Motion carried.

F. Accept Resignation

Moved by J. Stewart, supported by E. Isham that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Reed Ebmeyer as the Varsity Boys Golf Coach. Vote: ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1 (B. Fifield), abstention 0. Motion carried.

G. High School Choir and Band New York Trip

Moved by E. Isham, supported by M. Crowl that the Board of Education approve the high school choir and high school band overnight trip to New York on April 20 - 24, 2022, per the recommendation of High School Principal, Todd Gonser. Vote: ayes 5, nays 1 (J. W. Stewart), absent 1 (B. Fifield), abstention 0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by D. Maynard, supported by E. Isham to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Vote: ayes 6, nays 0, absent 1 (B. Fifield), abstention 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric Isham, Secretary
Leslie Public Schools