

May 17, 2021

The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021 in the Newaygo High School Gymnasium. Vince Grodus, President, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vince Grodus, Morgan Heinzman, Jami Schultz, Melissa Swinehart, Reid Sherwood, Thomas Frisbie and Rick Vincent

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also Present: Dr. Peggy Mathis, Superintendent
Kristin Melvin, Business Manager
Christina Wetherell, Administrative Assistant
Brad Reyburn, NHS Principal
Jim Grugett, NMS Asst. Principal
Candy Wells, NES Principal

Visitors: 22

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Swinehart, seconded by Mr. Grodus, to amend the proposed agenda and adding to Report 7-B Personnel; Recommendations to Hire, #6, Jeff Milbourne, Maintenance Assistant.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to approve the amended agenda for the regular meeting of May 17, 2021.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Ms. Swinehart, seconded by Mr. Heinzman, to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Public Comments – Items on the Agenda

None

Presentations from the Floor

None

Superintendent Reports

Personnel – Resignations and Retirements

Letters of resignation were received from:

1. Amanda Schultz, Elementary School Aide
2. Kirk Fansler, JV Boys Basketball Coach

3. Steve Bush, Middle School Principal – Retire
4. Alicia McLeod, Cook
5. Sondra Acosta, Elementary School Aide

Personnel – Recommendations to Hire

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Ms. Schultz, to hire Sarah Ruland, 5th Grade Language Arts Teacher, as recommended by the Administration:

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Ms. Swinehart, to hire Michael Allison, Athletic Director and Head Varsity Football Coach, as recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Heinzman, to hire Jeff Milbourne, Maintenance Assistant, as recommended by the Administration:

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Ms. Schultz, to hire Jim Grugett and Candy Wells as Building Coordinators for the Summer Intervention Program, as recommended by the Administration:

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Administrative Matters

For Action:

Subject: Salary Adjustments

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Ms. Schultz, to approve the salary adjustments for the Business Manager, School Nurse, Bus Mechanic and the NES Behavior Interventionist, as presented and recommended by the Administration. There was discussion that this group of staff positions did not include a step-scale and that this is approval of the concept of an increase, with specifics to be provided to the Board.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Subject: AP Computer Science Class

Motion by Ms. Swinehart, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the AP Computer Science Class, as presented and recommended by the Administration. This class is offered through NCRESA but must be approved by our Board as a class offered at NPS..

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

For Action:

Subject: Approval of Superintendent Contract

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Vincent, to approve the new Superintendent's contract, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, with additional work days approved for May and June 2021, paid at a daily per diem rate, as presented.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Subject: Support/Disapproval of the 2021-2022 NCRESA General Budget

The General Fund Budget was supplied by NCRESA for the Board's support or disapproval.

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to support the 2021-2022 NCRESA General Fund Budget, as provided to the Board by NCRESA.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Subject: Ratification of Contract with NEA

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Vincent, to approve the Newaygo Education Association union bargaining agreement for 2021-2022, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Subject: NCRESA Board Member Election

Members Running in Election:

1. Dale Twing

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Vincent, to approve the Resolution for the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency's election of Board Members indicating Melissa Swinehart as our voting representative, Reid Sherwood as our alternative voting representative, with Dale Twing as our candidate for the six (6)-year term, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Subject: 2021 Tax Rate Request Form L-4029 Millage Request Report to County Board of Commissioners

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the 2021 Tax Rate Request Form L-4029 Millage Request Report, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Subject: Resolution Honoring Girls Varsity Basketball Team

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Mr. Sherwood, to approve a resolution to formally recognize and honor the Girls Varsity Basketball Team for their outstanding season (State Runners Up), as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Informational Items

Subject: Finance and Budget Update

Ms. Kristin Melvin, Business Manager, gave the Board an update on the finances of the district. Some highlights included:

Revenue Budget from the State for 2021-2022 school year is pending, so our revenues are still unknown at this time.

An Amended budget for 2020-2021 will be proposed to the Board in June.

It is looking like the State's blended count formula for pupil count will be changed, but that has not been finalized by the State yet.

Subject: Extended Continuity of Learning Plan (ECOL) Update

Dr. Mathis gave the Board an update on the ECOL Plan. This included the percentages of 2-way school-student interactions from April 12 – May 14, and a reconfirmation of the instructional delivery method for each grade level (In-person or virtual).

New Business

Subject: Summer Camps

The following groups had proposed summer camps that will be up for approval at the June regular board meeting.

- Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Girls Basketball
- Marching Band

Subject: Return to Learn Update/Health Department Updates

The Board discussed the current health department guidelines for mask-wearing and the current Return to Learn plan. Mr. Heinzman suggested forming a committee to gather input and begin planning for the 2021-2022 school year in order to be proactive and best prepare for what may come next school year.

Discussion:

The building principals gave the Board an update on what is going on in their buildings.

Some highlights include:

NES – Kindergarten registration continues, 3rd grade reading law, planning for the 2021-2022 school year

NMS – 8th grade Mackinac Island trip, support staff are needed, preparing for summer school

NHS – Summary of Unified Day, Spring sports beginning, new Athletic Director/Football Coach

Public Comments- Items Not on the Agenda

Members of the Public Addressed the Board on the Following Topics:

1. Support Staff Wages – asked the Board to look into the wage scale for support staff
2. Diversity and Social Justice- asked the Board about policies that are currently in place to teach diversity and social justice to students
3. Racial Equity and Improvement – Concerns over comments made at a prior board meeting regarding social media posts. Requested the Board form a Diversity Inclusion and Equity Committee to evaluate the school and look for ways to improve how we support racial equality, diversity and inclusion.
4. Communication and Input - Asked that the Board respond to emails when community members provide input

5. Mask Mandate – Voiced concern over the effects mask wearing has on children.

The Board recognized Dr. Mathis for her years of service as the Superintendent of NPS. Ms. Melvin stated that the Administrators would like Dr. Mathis to choose a book to be donated to each of the building libraries in her honor.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Vincent, to adjourn the meeting.


VOTE

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 7:28 p.m.


Melissa Swinehart, Board Secretary