

June 21, 2021

The Newwaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021 in the Newwaygo High School Gymnasium. The meeting was streamed to the public while also allowing in-person attendance. Morgan Heinzman, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vince Grodus

Also Present: Jeff Wright, Superintendent
Kristin Melvin, Business Manager
Christina Wetherell, Administrative Assistant
Brad Reyburn, NHS Principal
Jim Gruett, NMS Asst. Principal
Candy Wells, NES Principal

Visitors: 12 Zoom; 8 in-person

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the proposed agenda for the regular meeting of June 21, 2021.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Consent Agenda Items

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

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

It was clarified that the first day of school for 2021-22 will be August 30.

Public Comments – Items on the Agenda

None

Presentations from the Floor

None

Superintendent Reports

Letters of resignation were received from:

1. Gena Dietz – Freshman Class Advisor, and PBIS Coordinator
2. Cassie Westgate – High School PBIS Coach
3. Erica Boyd – PBIS Rep
4. Jennifer Hurre – HS and MS Art Club Advisor, Drama Club Play Director
5. Peggy Maat – K-5 Art Teacher, Retire
6. Kara Johnston – Middle School Math Teacher
7. Sarah Knight – Elementary Aide
8. Shannon Rouston – Assistant Band Director

Motion by Mr. Heinzman, seconded by Ms. Schultz, to hire the following individuals, as recommended by the Administration:

1. Phil Ottinger – JV Boys Basketball Coach
2. Gena Dietz – High School Assistant Principal
3. Jim Grugett – Middle School Principal
4. Sam Becker – Middle School Assistant Principal
5. Ben Voshel – Maintenance Summer Intern
6. Tim Horton – NES Behavior Intervention Specialist

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Administrative Matters

For Action:

Subject: Summer Camps

Motion by Mr. Sherwood, seconded by Ms. Schultz, to approve the summer camps for cross country, volleyball, girls basketball and marching band, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Subject: Ratification of Contract with RWDSU

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Vincent, to approve the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) bargaining agreement for 2021-2022, as presented and recommended by the Administration.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Board members noted that they are pleased to see some movement in this area.

Subject: Administrator/Director/Non-Union Support Staff Salaries

Motion by Ms. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Frisbie, to approve the Administrator/Director/Non-Union Support Staff Salaries for 2021-2022, as presented and recommended by the Administration. There was discussion about how and when the Board would like to receive proposed salary and step information in the future.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Subject: NEOLA Resolution Rescindment

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Ms. Swinehart, to rescind the NEOLA resolution that was adopted April 20, 2020, and granted temporary emergency powers to the superintendent due to Executive Order 2020-21. This was related to the pandemic.

VOTE

Ayes: 6
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:

The State has not yet finalized their budget so per pupil allowance is still undetermined and makes it difficult for the school to know our final budget. The per pupil increase is expected to be between \$50-\$250. NPS's strategy is to estimate in the middle to plan for the 2021-22 school year budget. The budget hearing is scheduled for June 28th and a 2021-2022 budget will be proposed.

New Business

Subject: NEOLA Policy – Spring, 2021 Updates

Mr. Wright informed the Board there were extensive policy updates this spring. They will be included under New Business in July for review and then proposed for approval in August.

Discussion:

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

Some highlights include:

NES – Summer Learning update, planning for the 2021-2022 school year, expected enrollment numbers, staffing update

NMS – Summer Learning program update, preparing for upcoming school year, staffing update

NHS – Update on virtual students returning to in-person for 2021-22 school year

Budget Hearing – scheduled for June 28, 2021 at 6pm in the High School Library

Public Comments - Items Not on the Agenda

None.

The Board discussed the need for strategic planning to use as a framework moving forward. Mr. Heinzman stated that there are plans forming for a board workshop in the near future where that will be discussed in detail. The board also talked about the work session board meeting that is normally held in July.

Mr. Heinzman addressed the public and stated that presently there is not a need for a Return to Learn committee because it is anticipated that the 2021-22 school year will be "business as usual" as long as the pandemic restrictions remain lifted. If the restrictions change or become active again, the Board will form a Return to Learn committee at that time. Mr. Heinzman also mentioned the Diversity and Inclusion committee that was brought up as an idea at the May regular board meeting. Mr. Heinzman said the board has not pushed that aside and is still looking into it.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Frisbie, seconded by Mr. Heinzman, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Time: 6:39 p.m.


Melissa Swinehart, Board Secretary