

MT. PLEASANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on April 5, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447421042>.

Board Members Present:

Amy Bond, President; Tim Odykirk, Vice-President; Sheila Murphy, Treasurer; Dana Calkins, Trustee; Wiline Pangle, Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Courtney Stegman, Secretary; Jessica Jernigan, Trustee

Administration Present:

Panelists: Superintendent Jennifer Verleger, Asst. Superintendent Linda Boyd, Chief Financial Officer Ginger Faber

Guests:

Panelist: Debra Ervin, Stephen West, Josh Bain, Jason Funnell. The following names were provided via Zoom link identity: Laurie Richards, Aimee Murphy, Hillary DiMaggio, Jessica Lapp, Cathy Schafer, Jennifer Schisa, Daelyn Woolnough, Sara Keebauch, Christie B, Delayne Schutt, katyf, Josh Rhodes, RedBloom Yoga, Amy, Lisa Auken, Verna Holley, Kurt Clingenpeel, Kristine Willey, Stef Sedlar, Tracy McDonald, Stacie, Pat Heitman, Jennifer Galloway, Amanda Carey, Laurie, Sarah Muscott, Sarah Buckley, Ali LaPreze, Jennifer Pasanski, Julie, Lesley Withers, Courtney Russell, april scott, Matt Taton, Margarita Wilson, Quana Hoffman, Lauren Stewart, hi, Bree Moeggenberg, Wendy Epple, Erin King, Kimberly Funnell, dan weber, Trina Irvin, Lauren S, John Winkler, Belinda Durfee, Kay McArthur, slemmer, Julie Pepper, Colette Hamlin, KB, Joelle MacDonald Snyder, Heather, Lauren S, Andrea Stevens, Shannon Jablonski, Zimmer, michellerupe, Eric Beckman, S, Shannon

CALL TO ORDER

President Amy Bond called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

President Amy Bond read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ROLL CALL

Tim Odykirk called the roll.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Bond added “COVID Update” to the Reports/Updates. The amended agenda was approved by general consent.

REPORT(S)/UPDATES

Southwest Foodservice Excellence (SFE) Annual Presentation – Stephen West

Stephen West, Foodservice Director, presented the annual SFE presentation. He introduced Josh Bain, Director of Area Operations, and Jason Funnell, District Chef. Mr. West’s presentation included, but was not limited to, Food Service Staff, COVID-19 Feeding, Participation and Revenue, Community Feedback, Hybrid Model, Dietary Focus, and Looking Forward. The SFE team have been able to provide meals to students seven days a week since schools closed in March of 2020. SFE received a grant from the State of Michigan for \$10,000 to assist with purchasing local produce. Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Board Meeting Format Discussion

Superintendent Jennifer Verleger discussed the future format of our Board Meetings with the Board Members. In person vs. virtual vs. blended. Discussion followed. Knowing that things may change, at this point in time we will investigate holding the April 19, 2021 Board Meeting in the MPHS Performing Arts Center where appropriate social distancing can take place, with the possibility of community members being able to participate virtually.

COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Jennifer Verleger provided a COVID-19 Update. It is obvious that the positive COVID cases are rising in Isabella County. Ms. Verleger stated that at this point in time our cases are not astronomical, and that 70% of our staff have been vaccinated. We currently have approximately 30-35 students and one staff member in quarantine. As of today, the CMCHD recommends face to face instruction. There was a Pop-Up COVID testing site held in the High School back parking lot on Sunday, April 4th wherein approximately 200 people were tested, with an additional Pop-Up testing to take place on Wednesday, April 7th. Ms. Verleger does not feel that MPPS needs to change anything academically at this time and will continue to communicate with our staff, students and families as the need arises. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Amy Bond stated that the Board of Education Members received correspondence from Dr. Norma Bailey.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Minutes

Sheila Murphy moved to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2021 Regular Meeting. Wiline Pangle seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Dana Calkins, Amy Bond, Sheila Murphy, Tim Odykirk, Wiline Pangle

NAYES: None

Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

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NEW BUSINESS

Retirement

Tim Odykirk moved to approve the retirement of Cathy Schafer, Transportation Director, as of June 30, 2021, as presented. Sheila Murphy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Dana Calkins, Amy Bond, Sheila Murphy, Tim Odykirk, Wiline Pangle

NAYES: None

Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

Donations

Sheila Murphy moved to approve the donation of \$500.00 to both Ganiard and Vowles Elementary Schools from Whitetails Unlimited (Isabella County Chapter) to support the education of the students. Wiline Pangle seconded the donation. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Dana Calkins, Amy Bond, Sheila Murphy, Tim Odykirk, Wiline Pangle

NAYES: None

Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

Student Reinstatement Recommendation – Student #S3 2019-20

Tim Odykirk moved to grant admission for **Student #S3 2019-20** to the WAY Program (online only) effective April 6, 2021, as presented by the administration. Dana Calkins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Dana Calkins, Amy Bond, Sheila Murphy, Tim Odykirk, Wiline Pangle

NAYES: None

Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

Student Reinstatement Recommendation – Student #S4 2019-20

Tim Odykirk moved to grant admission for **Student #S4 2019-20** to Mt. Pleasant Middle School in the face to face or Oilers Online program effective April 6, 2021, as presented. Wiline Pangle seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Dana Calkins, Amy Bond, Sheila Murphy, Tim Odykirk, Wiline Pangle

NAYES: None

Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

MPEA LOA Ratification Re: 2021-2022 Calendar

Tim Odykirk moved to approve the MPEA LOA Ratification Regarding the 2021-2022 Calendar, as presented by the administration. Wiline Pangle seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The first day of school for the 2021-22 school year for the Balanced Calendar students will be August 4, 2022 and for the Tradition Calendar students it will be August 23, 2022. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Dana Calkins, Amy Bond, Sheila Murphy, Tim Odykirk, Wiline Pangle

NAYES: None

Motion passed unanimously with a 5 – 0 vote.

CITIZENS REQUEST TO ADDRESS BOARD

President Amy Bond asked if anyone would like to address the Board of Education. Aimee Murphy, Bree Moeggenberg and Jennifer Schisa addressed the Board of Education.

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

Sheila Murphy stated that perhaps a parent group to discuss current situations and concerns could be formed. Going through PTO/PTA groups is a possibility. She also addressed the COVID testing of MPPS athletes.

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Dana Calkins indicated that she thinks the request for a parent group is valid.

Tim Odykirk stated that additional ways to communicate with the Board Members would be to participate in surveys, talk to educators, call Jennifer Verleger, or email Jennifer Verleger with concerns/topics that they would like discussed. Mr. Odykirk also encouraged community members to reach out to our politicians regarding the Senate Bill 218.

Amy Bond agreed that a parent group would be a good idea.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. by general consent.

APPROVED:

Secretary, Board of Education

Recording Secretary

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