

EWEN TROUT CREEK SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

March 22, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Samantha Schutz, Holly Driesenga, Amanda Brady, Kirk Schott, Carol Maki, Fred Sliger and John Pinkerton.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Business Manager: Tammy Gibson and Superintendent/Principal Alan Tulppo.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Brittany Myllylahti, Deanna Coffey, Shawn Brown, Pam Besonen, and Skip Schultz.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by John Pinkerton to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Amanda Brady. All Ayes. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: Motion by John Pinkerton to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2017 meeting with changes: contracts to go into books and separate motions for all three contracts. Second by Amanda Brady. All Ayes. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CELEBRATING EDUCATION: Superintendent Tulppo read a letter from Tony Basanese awarding the Career Technical Education Outstanding Student Award to Brittany Myllylahti for her academic success in the CTE Accounting class. The award is given every marking period and Brittany has done an incredible job. She received a letter from Mr. Basanese and a certificate of award. Her mother Deanna also received a letter. Congratulations to Brittany.

John Pinkerton made a motion to recognize Brittany's accomplishments, second by Samantha Schutz. All Ayes. Motion carries.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Superintendent Tulppo reported that the student scheduling is done and he is now working on building the master schedule. We will again be offering Spanish I, Spanish II, and Psychology through NWECS Distance Learning.

Art has been a terrific success and will continue in 2017-18.

CTE has increased greatly. Thirty two are registered for next year in grades 10-12. We offer Accounting, CNA and Health Careers, Robotics, Computer Web & Design, Agriculture and Welding. CNA will be offered in the Ewen-Trout Creek building this year and we have over 15 registered for that at this time. Watersmeet may also send some students here for CNA. Welding is the only CTE class that will be off campus next year.

The School Success program sponsored an incentive trip to the Cloverland Cinema in Ironwood on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Chronic absences have been down 23% during Semester 1 of this year compared to Semester 1 of 2015-16. Parents are understanding the importance of calling in when their child will be absent.

Today, March 22, 2017, Judy Schwalback from the Michigan Attorney General's Office came to the school to present a bullying program OK2SAY to our 4th-6th graders. She will be back tomorrow to present to the 7-12th graders.

On March 21, 2017 a presentation and documentary called "Do It For Daniel" was presented by Coach Olson of the Ishpeming Hematites. His son Daniel Olson lost his battle with depression and anxiety at the age of 20. The family of Daniel Olson is trying to break the stigma of mental illness by presenting their story to grades 9-12 around the area. The Watersmeet students also joined us for this. It was a very powerful presentation and several students talked to Coach Olson afterwards.

The Robotics Team was in Escanaba last weekend and took 14 out of 41. This is their second year in competition. They will be heading to Sault Ste. Marie the last weekend of the month. The team plans to attend the April or May board meeting with their robot.

BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT: Tammy Gibson reported that Drivers Ed will be starting on April 22 and run on Saturdays and Sundays for six weeks. Another class will start up near the end of summer. We have 15 signed up, and at least nine will be attending the April 22 class.

Regarding the sale of land in Trout Creek, Mr. Berndt paid for the lot but has questions about the lot description. He will be doing a quit claim deed when his questions are answered.

Tammy reported that she attended a MSBO Finance Committee webinar and learned several important things. The At Risk money proposal is to be increased. They don't know by how much.

We will see \$100.00 increase in foundation moneys. The High School money will not be staying.

Title II is decreasing over the next few years until it is gone. The final budget should be out at the end of May or June.

A MSBO Business Managers Academy will be presented this fall in the Eastern U.P. It will be 11 sessions long and Tammy is very interested in attending this.

Tammy has been working on her Budget Update Revision and will update the board next month.

DISCUSSION & ACTIONS:

Financial Report and Payment of Bills. Amanda Brady made a motion to accept the financial report and pay bills as presented. Second by John Pinkerton. All Ayes. Motion carries.

2016 Bond Audit: The audit was clean with no findings. It met the 120 day requirement.

Business Office Payroll Contracted Position: Tammy Gibson reported that Donna Bergman was hired in 2009 to help with payroll, general fund reconciliations, state reporting and in any way that she can. She was hired at that time for \$12,000.00 and has done an excellent job for us.

Her contract this year was \$13,000.00. Donna suggested that she start going through PCMI so we no longer have to pay retirement. Tammy talked to PCMI and it would end up costing us \$200.00 less if we offer her a three year contract through PCMI and pay her \$14,250.00 per year.

Motion by John Pinkerton to approve a three year contract with PCMI for Donna Bergman's services. Second by Fred Sliger. All Ayes. Motion Carries.

John Pinkerton suggested that Tammy let Donna know how much we appreciate all she has done for us.

Water Softener Replacement: Tammy informed the board that the water softener is no longer working and repairs and replacement parts on it could add up into several thousand dollars over the next 3-5 years. She checked with Wandel's about the purchase price of a new unit, which would be between \$3,000-\$3,500. We would need to hire a plumber to plumb the pipes. The boilers are a closed system so no unsoftened water is currently going into the system. Mr. Tulppo will check to see if it is possible to pay for the softener with bond money.

Motion by Amanda Brady to purchase a new water softener. Second by Fred Sliger. All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Approval of Building & Systems Maintenance Position: Mr. Tulppo reported to the board that the position of building & systems maintenance/custodial personnel was posted and six candidates were interviewed. All candidates had experience in various forms and all

brought something to the table but the interview committee is recommending hiring Josh Urbis. He comes with extensive HVAC background and a lot of enthusiasm and ideas for building maintenance.

Motion by Holly Driesenga to hire Josh Urbis for the position of Buildings & Systems Maintenance. Second by Amanda Brady. All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Approval of Track Coach Position: The position of spring track coach was posted and two applicants applied. Shawn Brown interviewed both applicants and is recommending hiring Brad Besonen for the position. Motion by John Pinkerton to hire Brad Besonen as track coach. Second by Fred Sliger. All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Committee Reports: The School Improvement Committee met to discuss the goals and objectives of the current year's improvement plan. The School Improvement plan directs our use of Title Funds. The committee reviewed the goals in the 2016-17 plan and realize that the goals need to be better defined and measurable. SMART goals will be developed for the goals and objectives.

Committee recommendations to the board include eliminating the 2nd-3rd grade multi age classroom. This is a challenging group of young learners and it would not be in their best interest to continue on as a multi age room for 3rd-4th grade. Mr. Tulppo reminded the board that this year's kindergarteners will be the first group subjected to the new 3rd grade regulations in a few years.

Other areas of change would involve our Title I programming. We are posting for a Title I Teacher/Reading Specialist with a reading and literacy specialist that could work with grades K-12, using existing Title I Funds.

Core teachers in grades 6-12 need to incorporate more reading and writing into their curriculums.

We are looking at developing and implementing an at risk program using existing staff to help with math, reading, developing of positive attitude, trusting relationships and improving family dynamics.

Mr. Tulppo stated the above was just a report and no action was required at this time.

Second Reading of Proposed NEOLA Policy Updates: Motion made by John Pinkerton to approve the NEOLA policy updates. Second by Amanda Brady. All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Approval of Senior Math Alternative CTE Courses: Mr. Tulppo informed the board that all seniors need a math class to graduate. Algebra II is what is needed and Pre-Calculus is offered after that. The state allows us to offer CTE to cover the senior math.

Mr. Tulppo stated that it would be very beneficial to our seniors if we could count Accounting, Agriculture, CNA, Computer Programming and Welding as a senior math.

Motion by John Pinkerton to approve the CTE classes as a Senior Math. Second by Amanda Brady. All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Approval of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Procedures Document: Motion by Amanda Brady to approve FOIA Document. Second by Samantha Schutz. All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Acceptance of Retirement(s)/Resignation(s): Mr. Tulppo presented a letter from Mrs. Lynn Maki informing the board that she is planning to retire at the end of the 1st semester of the 2017-18 school year. She is willing to help out in any position we can use her to make the transition go smoothly. Motion by John Pinkerton to accept her retirement letter with the ending date of January 21, 2018. Second by Holly Driesenga. All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Approval of Elementary Teacher Position Posting: Mr. Tulppo informed the board that due to Mrs. Maki leaving mid-year he would like to post for the 1st grade position. It would not be sound education practice to teach half the year and then transition in a new teacher for the first grade students. Mrs. Maki is willing to work as a Special Education teacher until her retirement in January, 2018.

Motion by John Pinkerton to post for a first grade teacher position. Second by Samantha Schutz. All Ayes. Motion is carried.

At this time the board went into closed session for the K-12 Principal/Superintendent Evaluation: A motion was made by John Pinkerton, seconded by Fred Sliger to go into closed session for the Principal/Superintendent Evaluation. All in favor. Closed session @ 7:35 p.m.

Reconvene to open session for action regarding the evaluation. A motion was made by Fred Sliger, seconded by John Pinkerton, accepting the Principal/ Superintendent evaluation at the Highly Effective rating. All in favor. Motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by Board President Kirk Schott @ 8:15 p.m.

Secretary _____

President _____