

**Ewen-Trout Creek Board of Education
Regular Board of Education
March 23, 2021**

1. Meeting opened at 6:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance by the President S. Schutz.
2. Board Members In Attendance: All members present, quorum was reached. Samanta Schutz, Shawn Brown, Victoria Hahka, Maggi Brown, Cindy Ellsworth, Heather Borseth and Matthew Urbis

Board Members Absent: None

Also in attendance: Superintendent Dave Radovich, Principal Patti Witt, Business Manager Tammy Gibson, Terry Anderson and Jerry Pease

3. Modifications to March meeting agenda - Addition to agenda of the Personnel Committee Report out. Approval of March 23rd, 2021 Agenda: motion by S. Brown, supported by M. Brown, all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
4. Approval of regular February meeting minutes approved: motion by M. Brown, supported by S. Brown, all in favor none opposed. Motion carried.
5. Public Comments: None
6. Correspondence: None; guest presentation later during agenda.
7. Admin Reports: Principal's report provided prior to meeting.
 - a. Superintendent Report:
 - i. Met with the seniors about Senior Trip options. The board reminds the Seniors this is a school sponsored trip and therefore should consider: an educational component, available funds generated prior to COVID (with minimal time between now and June for fundraising), financial commitments for the trip (reservations of any kind), and consider locations with security/safety of students.
 - ii. Boys and Girls were undefeated in the Copper Country Conference, recognition is owed to the Teams and coaches. The board recommends a letter to both coaches and each individual receiving outstanding accolades in basketball this year. Board is proud of the great school representation. Motion to extend Team and Coach recognition to the individuals for the outstanding work this basketball season: motion by S. Brown, supported by M. Urbis, all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- b. Addition to the Principal Report: Contact with Kristin Ojaniemi for the project work on the School District. She has created a list of things she is continuing to work on and will come back for a visit to discuss further work. Again, note to the basketball team for being leaders in consistently and properly wearing their mask. This is thanks to the expectations and coaching staff.
 - c. Business Manager Report:
 - i. MI State Police inspecting buses Wednesday & Thursday.
 - ii. ESSER II & ESSER III Funding Applications
 - 1. Due April 15 & April 23rd
 - 2. ESSER II Funding - \$128,477 available after Governor's veto.
 - iii. SFSP Food Service Program Meal
 - 1. Calculating costs to determine continuation through summer
8. Discussion and Action Items:
- a. Financial Report & Payment of Bills provided in the board package. Motion to pay the bills by V. Hahka and supported by S. Brown, all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
 - b. GOISD Early On Program - Terry Anderson ISD - contact for Ontonagon and Eastern Gogebic Counties. Requirements for grants are for outreach and public awareness. This is a free public program for helping families get the help they need for their children. The program offers in-home visits for any area of development 1-3 years old. There is a discretionary 20% delay to qualify, but talk to the program coordinator for questions. Anyone can make a referral for the free program. They can call ISD or Terry directly. Online application available at 1800EarlyOn.org. Plan development at the age of 3 the program is over, but services can continue until age 5 and thereafter. Designed around flexibilities and helping the family.
 - i. Can the school do more to outreach and connect? More people should know about it and there is lots of support within school administration. Program could use more awareness, spread the opportunity.
 - c. GOISD Lake Superior Virtual Academy - Jerry Pease
 - i. Packet provided regarding MI state law for school districts being obligated to offer virtual classes. Students can ask for these supports and school districts must support and pay for that class.
 - ii. The Lake Superior Virtual Academy was created more than two years ago. The GOISD school district superintendents began a discussion about the use of Virtual Courses. The GOISD created its

- own virtual course mechanism for all the school districts. The Mission is to support the local school districts.
- iii. With COVID students are now starting to enroll in virtual learning. State aide follows the students. This further allows for student and District access to teacher positions that are difficult to come by and the academy provides this option.
 - iv. Pilot this semester and seems to be going well. Looking to add more electives. Will support remediation over the summer.
 - v. Kids must be registered in the school district and \$195/semester per course, the school district must agree to the student going full virtual - no more than 15% FTE state aide goes to the academy. If money is left over from that, the plan is to return it to the District. ISD wants to see student numbers to support it.
 - vi. ETC has a senior that is enrolled in for additional electives. Some withdrawn students are now enrolled in the academy and it at least gets the foot in the door. Supports our students that will not return.
 - vii. Takes burden off of our teachers.
 - viii. 6 students currently enrolled across the GOISD area.
- d. Letter of Retirement - Pam Besonen letter sent to the board to acknowledge her retirement. P. Besonen started with the District in August 1995. The board would like to thank P. Besonen for her many years of work for the school. Board motion to regretfully accept her resignation: motion by S. Shutz and supported by S. Brown. Motion carried.
- i. The plan is to hire someone to work and overlap for training, transitioning and preparation for a new position. Posting of replacement for Pam will occur in the near future. Board motion to support the posting of the position: motion by S. Schutz with support by M. Brown. Motion carried.
- e. Personnel Committee Report - Looking at succession planning and management contracts. Certain terms of the contracts are designed to be renegotiated this year. A few ideas have been proposed and D. Radovich will be coordinating with the 3 contracts in the Administrative Units. Options and numbers will be discussed with employees and business manager.
- i. Posted announcement for the JR High Volleyball coach, one reply with unofficial hire as basketball season comes to close.
 - ii. Heather Boreseth has volunteered to provide support in the past and is still interested.
- f. COVID Update - April 2nd the State of Michigan will require testing of all athletes at least once a week. School Districts are to coordinate with local Health Departments who may not assist with testing requirements. There

may be training required to administer the test and testers must be provided with appropriate PPE. There is a request for help to parent nurses for volunteer testing weekly.

- i. Training requirements may be available online every Friday for those who will be administering the test.
 - ii. It has been communicated that the State Health Department will pay for it and supply the test.
 - iii. Misinformation around Basketball Teams. 3 Elementary students tested positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing confirmed no exposure to either basketball team. Three schools within the conference did not want to play and cancelled their games. The District lost several games due to misinformation and false claims. Other Districts/schools in the UP have played sports with quarantined cohorts of their school when there was no connected overlap between the quarantined class cohorts and the sports teams.
 - iv. Reminder to all: There is no revealing of the names and/or those being contact traced. There is one shared document with the health department for contact tracing. There was no and will never be a release of private information from our District or Administrative Staff. It was the discussion with the health departments that led to quarantining.
 - v. Received new hydrostatic sprayer for follow up cleaning. Particularly, recently quarantined classes, lockers, hallways etc.
 - vi. CDC guidelines changes are allowing 3 feet to 6 feet in certain circumstances. ETC will likely not make many changes and encourage safe practices.
 - vii. Track and Field questions about face masks. Much is still to be determined about how the safety guidelines will be implemented for other sports. It is known that if participants can maintain six foot distancing outside, masks should not be required.
 - viii. Question as to whether there should be a process developed for testing the athletes in sports. The Michigan Health Department is developing a template for schools to follow.
 - ix. HIIIPA laws do apply to School Board members. Even if information is given to you as an individual you are legally not allowed to share that information.
- g. Extended Continuity of Learning Plan Monthly Update - survey results from teachers for 4th quarter changes. 22 students are still remote learners, which causes more time, energy and effort for those teachers to have full 5 day weeks. Logistically the changes are not worth the effort it would take us back to a “normal” schedule.
- i. Are there discussions about next school year? The Principal and Superintendent are planning a normal year for Fall 21. A 5-day week is planned. Of course, depending on current health and

safety considerations later in the summer. The FY 21/22 Calendar is being worked on currently and the Administration will communicate the changes to the remote students so families, staff, etc can prepare.

- ii. Extended learning plan expires at the end of the school year.
- iii. A student has set the example and is fully vaccinated.
- iv. Back up plan for remote learning with Lake Superior Academy. This is also supportive for hard to reach teacher subjects.

Booster Club Announcement - July 17th, 2021 we will have a Steak Out. Unless situation worsens. All appropriate licenses are in place and an outdoor tent and community pavilion will be used to ensure safety protocols. The Booster Club is considering multiple options depending on the current state of COVID-19 in July. Options considered are: normal Steakout with outdoor seating options; phased eating schedules and possibly a drive through option. Tickets will be sent out with coordination and consultation of the local Health Department.

Meeting Adjournment was motioned by C. Ellsworth and supported by M. Urbis, all in favor and none opposed, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

President

Secretary