BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.

The Board of Education of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools district convened a Regular Meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Harry L. Wheeler Community Center and Administrative Offices, located at 24076 F.V. Pankow Boulevard, Clinton Township, Michigan

Due to the current order by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the board meeting was conducted through the Zoom meeting program and live streamed on YouTube.

A. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Mrs. Hilary Dubay, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Hilary Dubay, President
Mrs. Amelia Servial, Vice President
Mrs. Sharon Ross, Secretary
Mr. Adam Lipski, Treasurer
Mrs. Mary Hilton, Trustee
Mr. Donald Hubler, Trustee
Dr. Terri Spencer, Trustee

Also present: Mr. Erik Edoff, Superintendent
Ms. Lisa Montpas, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Rochelle Gauthier, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
Dr. Greg Dixon, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Ms. Nancy Supanich, Director for Special Education
Ms. Laura Holbert, Director for Elementary Education
Ms. Kimberly Rawski, Director for Secondary Education
Mr. Brandon Streng, Director for Technology
Mrs. Nicolette Trask, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Employees and Patrons of the District

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Lipski, supported by Mrs. Ross, to approve the agenda for the December 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Lipski, Ross, Spencer, Hubler, Servial, Hilton, Dubay
No: None
Motion carried.

C. Presentations

C.1. Mr. Edoff presented the December 2020 Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Reconfirmation. Discussion followed.

D. Hearing of School District Patrons

Mrs. Ross read the Addressing the Board guidelines for the patrons.

Ms. Sara Navarra, parent in the district, addressed the Board regarding the virtual learning program.

Mr. Jon Navarra, parent in the district, addressed the Board regarding the virtual learning program.

E. Consent Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Hilton, supported by Mr. Lipski, to approve the following Consent Agenda items as presented with the exception of E.3. Payment Registers.

E.1. Budget Report – no action required
E.2. Quarterly Budget Update – no action required
E.4. Bid Award Recommendations – no action required
E.5. Purchases
E.6. Overtime Report
E.7. Summary of Investments
E.8. Summary of Wire Transfers
E.9. Accounts Payable Check Register Approval Reminder – no action required
E.10. Employment Recommendations
E.11.a. October 19, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
E.11.b. October 26, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
E.11.c. November 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Hilton, Lipski, Servial, Dubay, Hubler, Ross, Spencer
No: None
Motion carried.

The Board held discussion regarding Consent Agenda Item E.3. Payment Registers.

Motion by Mr. Hubler, supported by Dr. Spencer, to approve Consent Agenda Item E.3. Payment Registers as presented.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Hubler, Spencer, Lipski, Ross, Dubay, Servial
No: Hilton
Motion carried.

F. Superintendent's Report

F.1. Mr. Edoff provided a district update. He shared results of a recent parent survey sent out to gather feedback on the remote learning period that just took place. He stated that parents expressed that the recent remote learning was better than last spring, they appreciated the connection with their teachers through Zoom, they prefer in-person school over anything else, and they thought remote learning went well during their recent experience.

Mr. Edoff addressed the return of virtual students to in-person for the next part of the year and the work that is being done to prepare for this transition. He stated that they are surveying parents on what learning program they plan to select for the next semester.

Mr. Edoff thanked staff for their continued efforts and shared that he continues to receive positive comments from the parents and community members on their efforts.

Mrs. Hilton shared that data shows schools remain a safe place with low a transmission rate or no transition of COVID-19 within the schools. She acknowledged and thanked staff for following the procedures put in place and for the work that is being done.

Mr. Edoff shared that the Macomb County Health Department recently changed the quarantine timeframe from 14 days to 10 days if you are in close contact with a positive case and the procedures in the district have been updated to reflect the new guidelines.

G. Human Resources

G.1. Dr. Dixon presented a recommendation for a change to the district's Life Insurance and Long-Term Disability provider.

Motion by Mrs. Hilton, supported by Mrs. Servial, to approve the recommendation to terminate The Prudential Life Insurance and Long-Term Disability provider and contract with Madison National Life Insurance Company, effective January 1, 2021.

Discussion followed. The Board recognized that this is an estimated annual savings of $38,000 for the district.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Hilton, Servial, Dubay, Hubler, Spencer, Lipski, Ross
No: None
Motion carried.

G.2. As a response to the Board directive from the last meeting, Dr. Dixon presented a recommendation for all L'Anse Creuse staff members to receive a one-time appreciation payment of $500.00 for acknowledgement of their hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic.

Motion by Mr. Hubler, supported Mrs. Servial, to approve the one-time appreciation payment of $500.00 for all L'Anse Creuse Public Schools employees.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Hubler, Servial, Lipski, Dubay, Spencer, Ross
No: None
Abstained: Hilton, due to her spouse being an employee of the district
Motion carried.

The Board members expressed their appreciation for the staff and the hard work occurring throughout the district in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Edoff thanked the Board for their support and approval of the appreciation payment.

H. Other Matters

Mr. Hubler addressed the Board and stated that he will be leaving the meeting due to another commitment.

Mrs. Dubay thanked and recognized Don Hubler for his years of service on the Board and presented him with a gift to honor his dedication to the district for the past 15 years.

Dr. Spencer thanked Don for his dedication to the district and expressed her appreciation for him.

Mrs. Ross thanked Don for his years on the Board and stated that he was an amazing mentor for her. She also addressed the Board and asked for them to take a vote to rejoin the MASB Organization.

Mr. Hubler left the meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Dr. Spencer shared her support of MASB and the opportunity to learn and grow as a board member.

Mrs. Hilton shared her concerns related to MASB membership expenses.

Mrs. Dubay addressed the Board regarding the MASB membership and a possible workshop in February with all board members. Mrs. Dubay presented the opportunity for the Board to hold a workshop to conduct CBA 101 Board Fundamentals and come together for team building.

Motion by Mrs. Servial, supported by Dr. Spencer, to approve having a Board Workshop on the first Saturday in February for a presentation of Board Fundamentals 101 information, at an approximate amount of $2,600.00.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Servial, Spencer, Dubay, Ross
No: Hilton, Lipski
Motion carried.

Mr. Edoff addressed the Board regarding the conversation on the Board Workshop. He expressed his intent to continue working with all board members while supporting and respecting everyone's viewpoints and decisions.

I. Closed Session – Negotiations and Superintendent Evaluation

Motion by Mrs. Servial, supported by Mr. Lipski, to move into Closed Session at 8:17 p.m. pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, for a Negotiations Update and the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Servial, Lipski, Spencer, Ross, Hilton, Dubay
No: None
Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Hilton, supported by Dr. Spencer, to reconvene to Regular Session at 11:04 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Hilton, Spencer, Servial, Dubay, Ross, Lipski
No: None
Motion carried.

Mrs. Dubay provided the following statement regarding the Superintendent's evaluation:

"During this unprecedented time in education, Superintend Edoff has led L'Anse Creuse with an extraordinary steadfast focus. His great attention to student centered initiatives kept L'Anse Creuse leading from the front. While dealing with both State and County government and health officials, Superintendent Edoff led the way with face to face programs while providing a virtual option and maintaining a safe learning environment. It is due to his dedication and leadership that we, the Board of Education, determine the Superintendent's overall evaluation rating for 2019-2020 as highly effective. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with the Superintendent through many more years."

J. Hearing of District Patrons Follow-Up

Mrs. Carroll Carr-Medina, employee in the district, addressed the Board regarding students returning to in-person instruction and social distancing.

Ms. Janell Kosmola, parent in the district, addressed the Board regarding the virtual program.

Mr. Jim Kroll, employee in the district, addressed the Board regarding Board Member conduct.

Ms. Beth DiMarzo, employee in the district, addressed the Board regarding in-person instruction, the virtual program and social distancing.

Ms. Roseann Todaro, employee in the districts, addressed the Board regarding the return of virtual students for second semester.

K. Board Member Comment

Mrs. Servial wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Dr. Spencer wished everyone a wonderful Christmas and blessed New Year and stated that she hopes all families that have been impacted by COVID-19 get some relief in the new year. She thanked Mr. Hubler again for serving the district over many years.

Mrs. Dubay shared that she herself has experienced the Edmentum program for all grades to see first-hand what the students are working with. She stated that the Board visited all grade levels at the beginning of the year and she looks forward to visiting Atwood. She shared that she is in her pajamas in support of L'Anse Creuse Middle School – Central's spirit week.

Mrs. Ross thanked L'Anse Creuse families, students, parents and all staff members working against all odds and reacting to all the challenges this year. She expressed her understanding of the concerns shared and that she cares for everyone and thanks everyone for their efforts. She acknowledged Mr. Hubler for him being a great mentor and friend and stated that he helped to make her a better board member. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Dr. Spencer shared that she is looking forward to meeting newly elected board member Shane Sellers and working with him in the new year.

L. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Hilton, supported by Dr. Spencer, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Hilton, Spencer, Lipski, Ross, Spencer, Dubay
No: None
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Ross, Secretary
Board of Education

SLR:nt