

Nottawa Community School

Board Meeting

February 3, 2025 ~ 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

“Building Better Futures for Children and Communities”

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Rosenbaum.

Members Present: Brandon, Danberry, Hochstetler, Rosenbaum

A. Required Reading of PA213.

II. Introduction of guests:

A. Ms. Brooke Henderson

Mr. Wolff introduced Ms. Henderson who is joining this evening to share the annual education report. Ms. Henderson serves the district as first grade teacher and MICIP Chairwoman. The board expressed its appreciation for Ms. Henderson’s dedicated service.

III. Correspondence:

IV. Presentations if any:

A. Annual Education Report

Ms. Henderson presented the board with the annual education report. Some highlights of her report included the district’s work in small instructional groups, tiered response to interventions, and an array of educational experiences, presentations and activities that connect with student learning and the service culture of the district. The board accepted the report with thanks.

V. Consent Agenda

All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless there is a request from a board member to remove an individual agenda item (or items) from the Consent Agenda to be discussed and possibly voted upon separately. All agenda items pulled from the Consent Agenda will be placed under Action Items.

A. Approval of Minutes for January 13, 2025 Board of Education Meetings

B. Approval of Financial Report.

C. Approval of Monthly Board Bills: in the amount of \$42,361.10 through January 30, 2025.

Motion by Danberry, support from Rosenbaum to approve the consent agenda. Motion Carried 4-0.

VI. Action items

A. Annual Education Report

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Brandon to approve the 2023 - 2024 Annual Education Report. Motion Carried 4-0.

B. 2024 MASB Board of Directors Election

The board discussed the candidates for the MASB Board of directors. There was consensus that Elizabeth O'dell from Region 6 presented the most extensive record of service.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Brandon to cast vote of district support for Elizabeth O'dell of region 6. Motion Carried 4-0. Mr. Wolff will contact MASB and instruct Administrative Assistant, Brenda Walls, to submit the ballot as directed by board action.

C. Policy Revision 4120 to match 3120

Mr. Wolff shared with the board sister policies 4120 and 3120, noting that although policy for 3120 for the hiring of professional staff was updated to allow for the hiring of board family members to professional positions, the corresponding policy 4120, for support staff, was not updated. Mr. Wolff recommended that this oversight be corrected to allow for the board to hire support staff that are related to board of education member(s)..

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Danberry to approve the first reading of policy 4120 pertaining to support staff to match language of policy 3120 pertaining to professional staff to allow the board of education to approve the hire of employees who are related to board member(s). Motion Carried 4-0.

D. Study Nook for Resource Room

Mr. Wolff presented a proposal for the construction of a portable study nook to be used by special education. Two options were made available, however Mr. Wolff recommended that a locally crafted option would be more cost effective and of equal or better quality.

Motion by Danberry, support by Hochstetler to approve the bid of \$4,600 by Evergreen Custom Plastics to construct a portable study nook for the special education/resource room program(s). Motion Carried 4-0.

E. Operational Millage 1 Year Early

There was discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of raising the question about the renewal of the operational millage one year ahead of schedule.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler, to approve Superintendent Jerome, to have discussions with THRUN attorney about ballot language and election options for early renewal of the operating millage. Motion Carried 4-0.

F. WMU Student Teacher Contract

Mr. Wolff shared a contract proposal provided by WMU to enter into a non payment agreement for the hosting of student teachers. The board of education discussed the language and decided to review the district's liability policy. Ms. Henderson was recognized by the board of education, and expressed her concern that remuneration for the supervising teacher was not mentioned. Mr. Wolff acknowledged that while the WMU's proposal has nothing to do with teacher compensation, perhaps it would be prudent to come back to the board with a recommendation for teacher compensation of supervising teachers. Treasurer Danberry asked for this information to be gathered and shared at the next board meeting.

G. 16 Year-Old 3rd Party Employees

Food service provider Taher, in consultation with Mr. Wolff and Ms. Brenda acknowledged the challenge in hiring food service workers this year. Taher would like to open the position to prospective 16-year-olds. Mr. Wolff advised that if the board offered consent that the district would need to ensure Taher guarantee to set employee expectations to avoid any potential fraternization.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Hochstetler to consent to the hire of 16-year-old 3rd party employees by Taher Food Service. Motion Carried 4-0.

Superintendent requests Closed Session for the purpose of personnel evaluation. Item B: (Roll call vote required)

H. First Half of Superintendent Evaluation Sections A, B and D

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Brandon to go into closed session for the first half of the superintendent evaluation at 9:00 PM.

Roll call vote: Brandon- yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Motion Carried.

Motion by Rosenbaum, support by Danberry come out of closed session for the first half of the superintendent evaluation at 9:24 PM

Roll call vote: Brandon- yes; Danberry- yes; Hochstetler- yes; Motion Carried.

VII. Information items

A. Early Elementary Building (4 Year Old Preschool and Young 5's)

Mr. Wolff provided an update on the status of the building project.

B. GSRP Application Update

Due to project delays Mr. Wolff is seeking approval for an early application submission as the health department cannot inspect the building prior to installation. This recommendation is due to the 6 month anticipated wait in the application process.

C. Parent Survey

A title 1 parent survey was shared with the board. Of note were differing comments about the quality of food service and the desire for the district to provide some form of education after 8th grade, with some parents specifically mentioning their desire for some form of a high school program.

D. Half Time Coaching Report

A mid-year report was provided by Literacy Coach, Suzy Coffman, highlighting mid-year progress and impacts of literacy coaching and district professional development. The board accepted the report with appreciation.

E. ESTA Sick Leave

Mr. Wolff highlighted changes in the sick leave law which go into effect February 21, 2025.

F. MSP validation of CHRIS System

A memo provided by NEOLA was shared with the board to give notice to the anticipated CHRIS validation checks for local education agencies (school districts) to be conducted at random by the Michigan State Police.

G. Superintendent Evaluation second half in March

Mr. Wolff noted that the second half of the Superintendent evaluation will take place next month.

H. Alternate Internet Update

Beta testing of an alternate internet option has begun in third grade and will soon expand to include 4th grade. The goal of the alternate internet option is to maintain the use of student technology for educational purposes, increase academic focus, and limit potential online distractions.

I. PowerSchool Breach Update

Our technology consortium has advised that PowerSchool is accepting responsibility for the data breach on their system. Person concerned about the data breach may contact the school office for more information about how to get into contact with PowerSchool representatives who have promised to offer assistance in protecting personal information of those impacted by their system breach.

J. MDE; concerning recent executive orders

MDE has provided guidance concerning multiple executive orders. The summary of the guidance is for districts to cooperate with all law enforcement agencies and government entities within the scope of law in which districts are bound to uphold. In the case of any confusion MDE has advised districts to contact their legal counsel.

K. Legal Update(s)

Mr. Wolff shared a large number of legal updates from THRUN which have resulted from the state of Michigan's lame duck session.

VIII. Other

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Hochstetler, support by Danberry to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM

VISION

"Nottawa Community School will encourage the involvement of parents and community to embrace a shared purpose in the education of our students to become problem solving, responsible, and contributing members of society."