EVART PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes February 13 2023 7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY ALAN BENGRY, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE BOARDROOM LOCATED AT 321 NORTH HEMLOCK STREET, EVART MICHIGAN 49631.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Alan Bengry <u>x</u>, Todd Bruggema <u>x</u>, Mark Moody <u>x</u>, Gerald Nichols <u>x</u>, Karen Pylman <u>Absent</u>, Eric Schmidt <u>x</u>, Kelly Whitman <u>x</u>.

Also present: Shirley Howard, Superintendent
Jessica Kolenda, High School Principal
Jason O'Dell, Middle School Principal
Ken Ranjel, Elementary School Principal
Amy Booher, Recording Secretary

Guest present: Santana Scott, Bre Grabill, Valerie Hopkins, Ryan Hopkins, Sherry Morgan, Michelle VanBuren, Paul Dyer, Jeanine Dyer, Karianne Anderson, Aaron Anderson, Travis Douglas, Zoe Babb, Tiffany Wolak, Amber Payne, Pat Craven, Heather VanAssche, Annette Walters, Heather Keathley, Andrew Whittaker, Deb Mishler, Tracy Gray, Rosie McKinstry, Kevin Brigham, Bre Grabill, Ken Wirth, Cathy Wirth, Ryan Douglas, Kelci Elder, Debbie Todd, Olyvia Campbell, Ayla Schmidt, Josiah Beard, Pepper Lockhart, Jim Schwab, Amanda Brown, Josh Webb, Kenzie Wirth.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Debbie Todd, a child advocate for Reed City asked how many Special Education students and Teachers in the Middle School. Jason O'Dell replied to her question.
- B. Santana Scott shared about the Winter Olympics happening at the Elementary School. He handed out a brochure for all the board members giving a QR code to scan for live stream.
- C. Bre Grabill shared information on the Boots and Pearls Gala coming this spring as a fundraiser for the Promise Plus. She also gave kudos to the Elementary School for the Winter Olympics going on right now. She also asked if we could look at a different location for the meetings as we are in tight quarters right now with the high participation.
- D. Cats for Pups Team spoke which includes Ken Ranjel, Tiffany Wolak, Amber Payne and Heather Keathley. They were able to visit a few schools and witnessed how the dogs were helping with facilitating parent meetings, working with students

- and also with Athletics. They were impressed how well the pups worked with the Special Education Students .Bella a mixed pit bull and Tessa a Golden Retriever will be fully trained and coming to EPS the end of February.
- E. Points of Pride: Jessica Kolenda shared with the board there will be a Test Prep for the SAT and PSAT practice on 2/17/23. She also shared with us an "On to College" Form which is a great encouragement for what the students want and need.

Bengry mentioned that two items were recommended by the Superintendent to be added to the agenda. Both items involved interviews that concluded after the agenda was finalized. It was agreed by unanimous consent to add the items to the agenda.

Item J- Hiring of a custodian Item K- Hiring of a bus driver.

Mark Moody asked to amend the Agenda to add an action item to name the High School gymnasium after Coach John Bennett in a ceremony on March 2nd, 2023.

MOTION BY MOODY, SUPPORTED BY SCHMIDT TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD AN ACTION ITEM TO NAME THE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM AFTER COACH JOHN BENNETT.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bengry: N Schmidt: Y

Moody: Y Nichols: N

Bruggema: N Whitman: Y

Pylman: A

Results: Not Carried

MOTION BY MOODY, SUPPORTED BY SCHMIDT TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD AN ACTION ITEM TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION TO HIRE THE VARSITY SOFTBALL COACH.

Eric Schmidt had some concerns with bullying within the softball program. He had asked what the outcome was with the parent and player meetings that were held for the softball team a few weeks ago. Bruggema replied at the time he attended that meeting he was a community member. He felt the concerns were listened to well. Shirley Howard felt both meetings were good. Both meetings had shared a different side. She felt parties were heard and listened to. Mark Moody said that there was incorrect information given with the softball coach's wins that were highlighted at the MHSAA finals. Kari Guy did interact and ask for remaining remarks to be said in a closed session. Jessica Kolenda made a statement. Bengry brought the meeting back to order.

MOTION BY MOODY, SUPPORTED BY SCHMIDT TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD AN ACTION ITEM TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION TO HIRE THE VARSITY SOFTBALL COACH.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bengry: N Schmidt: Y

Moody: Y Nichols: N Whitman: N

Pylman: A

Results: Not Carried

V. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

VI. FINANCIAL

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 9, 2023.

MOVED BY NICHOLS, SUPPORTED BY MOODY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 9 2023.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: CARRIED

B. Payment of Bills

MOVED BY WHITMAN, SUPPORTED BY NICHOLS THAT THE TREASURER'S REPORT OF DISBURSEMENTS BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

General Fund invoices be approved for checks #47199 through #47230 in the amount of \$233,657.54 and the January 6th and 20st payrolls and benefits for the total amount of \$656,707.01.

Hot Lunch Fund invoices to be approved for checks #7848 through #7866 in the amount of \$62,320.72.

Trust and Agency Fund invoices to be approved for checks #18769 through #18795 in the amount of \$11,311.13

Athletic Fund invoices to be approved for check #10199 through #10207 in the amount of \$5108.79

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

C. Recommendation to approve an overnight in Charlevoix February 17, 2023 for High School Wrestling Individual States and March 2-3, 2023 in Detroit for State Finals for High School Wrestling

MOVED BY NICHOLS SUPPORTED BY BRUGGEMA TO APPROVE AN OVERNIGHT IN CHARLEVOIX FEBRUARY 17, 2023 FOR HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING INDIVIDUAL STATES AND MARCH 2-3, 2023 IN DETROIT FOR STATE FINALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: CARRIED

D. Recommendation to approve the retirement of Zoe Babb, effective August 31, 2023.

MOVED BY BRUGGEMA SUPPORTED BY MOODY TO APPROVE THE RETIREMENT OF ZOE BABB, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 2023.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

E. Recommendation to approve the following High bids for used buses: KMR- 2004 Thomas Bus #10-04 and KMR for 2007 Thomas Bus #06-06

MOVED BY NICHOLS, SUPPORTED BY MOODY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIGH BIDS FOR USED BUSES: KMR-2004 THOMAS BUS #10-04 AND KMR FOR 2007 THOMAS BUS #06-06.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

F. Recommendation to accept the retirement/resignation of Scott Booher, effective January 27, 2023.

MOVED BY WHITMAN, SUPPORTED BY MOODY TO ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT/RESIGNATION OF SCOTT BOOHER, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27, 2023.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

G. Recommendation to approve the following Spring Coaches:
 Effective January 16, 2023 to the end of the 2022-23 School Year.
 Girls Middle School Track- Macey Wallace
 Boys Middle School Track- Jordan Newman

MOVED BY NICHOLS SUPPORTED BY MOODY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SPRING COACHES:

Effective January 16, 2023 to the end of the 2022-23 School Year. Girls Middle School Track- Macey Wallace Boys Middle School Track- Jordan Newman

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

H. Recommendation to approve hiringMorgan Johnson for Temporary RTC Coordinator at the High School effective January 16, 2023 to the end of the 2022-23 School Year.

MOVD BY BRUGGEMA, SUPPORTED BY NICHOLS TO APPROVE HIRING MORGAN JOHNSON FOR TEMPORARY RTC COORDINATOR AT THE HIGH

SCHOOL EFFECTIVE JANUARY 16, 2023 TO THE END OF THE 2022-23 YEAR.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

I. Recommendation to approve the resignation of Sarah Johnson, Academic Advisor, Effective at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

MOVD BY NICHOLS SUPPORTED BY BRUGGEMA TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF SARAH JOHNSON, ACADEMIC ADVISOR. EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

J. Recommendation to approve the hiring of Londa Decker as a school custodian.

MOVED BY BRUGGEMA SUPPORTED BY WHITMAN TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF LONDA DECKER AS A SCHOOL CUSTODIAN.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

K. Recommendation to approve the hiring of Pamela Merritt as a bus driver.

MOVD BY WHITMAN SUPPORTED BY NICHOLS TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF PAMELA MERRITT AS A BUS DRIVER.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Building and Ground Committee: Todd Bruggema shared the committee will revisit the MDOT sign information later this spring/summer. We are waiting to hear back from Mark Sochocki for details on the housing commission land information. Regarding naming of a facility at the school, the committee is wanting to establish 2 different walls of Fame. One for Evart Athletes and one for accomplishments of community members in general. Committee will meet again and present a formal recommendation at a future meeting.
- B. Audit: Zoe Babb shared it is not mandatory by the State to bid on an Audit. She asked "Do we want to bid or not?" We currently use Baird, Cotter and Bishop and like them. She will bring proposal to next meeting.
- C. Wildcat Golf Team-Josh Johnson sent a letter of his concern for the Golf Team. Drew Whittaker, our Athletic Director read for him as Josh was ill and unable to attend meeting. Drew Whittaker passed out to the board the interested 10 students. Half of the students listed would possibly want to dual sport, falling behind on academics was a concern. Eric Schmidt mentioned Fosters Market had some sponsorship money saved for a Golf Team if Evart moves forward on that. Bruggema mentioned there is an option to have a "Club" Team. The one thing different with a Club Team is they can't participate in the State Tournament. Whitman mentioned about looking ahead with middle school students and seeing what their interests would be participating in a summer golf program like our winter ski program for middle school students. Jason O'Dell will see if there is any interest at the Middle School. Drew Whittaker said he will meet with Spring Coaches and discuss this idea and see if there are more options.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Board Member Compensation Board pay needs to be reported on a W2. Mary Ann Corey had payroll packets for each member to fill out and return.
- B. Policy Committee Meeting- policy members need to meet (Gerald Nichols, Mark Moody and Karen Pylman) to discuss the hiring process when we hire teacher, support staff etc.
- C. Defibrillators- Jason O'Dell has installed one in our main hallway at the Middle School
- D. Grants-Shirley read the many new grants we have received at EPS.
- E. K-8 Scores- Shirley shared the goals for K-8 increased by 5 %. They started at the 40 percentile and are now at the 45% percentile. Ken Ranjel (Elementary Principal) reflected and approved the accomplishments with a strong emphasis in reading. Numbers are better than last year. Jason O'Dell (Middle School Principal) said there has been increased stamina. He has 3 staff members working with flexible grouping. 5th grade students are getting successful with moving up the ladder with a desire to prove and show off what they have accomplished.
- F. Fairground help-Rick Sherman is hoping EPS, with the help of Bill Smith can help with some projects on the premise. These ideas will be passed on to the Building and Grounds Committee.
- G. Cheer Mats-There is a concern for new mats for Cheer. Once we get a proposal we will look at the Cheerleaders paying half the cost and the district possibly picking up the other half of cost.
- H. February Count- 902 students total for all 3 Evart Schools.

X. ADJOURNMENT

44

A. Recommendation to Adjourn

MOVED BY NICHOLS, SUPPORTED BY WHITMAN THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.