

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 x, Todd Bruggema x, Mark Moody x, Gerald Nichols x,
Karen Pylman Absent, Eric Schmidt x, Kelly Whitman x.

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

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.

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.

MOVED 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.

MOVED 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 Evert 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 Evert 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 Ewart Schools.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- 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.