

# PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Business Meeting of the Board of Education

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2024 – Elementary School, 5<sup>th</sup> Street., Port Edwards, WI

### Minutes

Meeting called to order by President John Daven at 5:34 p.m.

Roll Call

**PRESENT:** John Daven, Leo Thomasgard, Kathy McGrath, Cary Hildebrandt, Dana Duncan

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** James Bena, Superintendent, Lisa Miller, Business Director

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Donna Shroda, Sheena Vitello, Kristen Winters, Natasha Mentch, Teresa Guillemot,

#### 1. Consider Approval of Agenda

Motion by McGrath, second by Duncan to approve the agenda as presented. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

#### 2. Report from Student Representatives, Student Recognition

Student Council members, Dakota Bares and Taylin McDonald reported on the current activities at JEHS:

Winter sports finished their seasons and this week softball and track began practicing and baseball will begin next Monday.

High school band and choir performed their second concert of the year. Members of the band and choir are busy preparing for state solo and ensemble which will be held in Stevens Point. In April, the music department will be going to see Fiddler on the Roof at the Fireside Theater in Fort Atkinson. Forensics recently competed at Lincoln High School and will be traveling to Stevens Point to perform at the district level. National Honor Society has been volunteering in the community and recently created Valentine's Day cards for veterans and active members of the armed forces with the students at the elementary school.

#### 3. President's Report

##### A. Board Member Attendance

President Daven reported that all board members were in attendance.

##### B. Reading of DPI Proclamation – National School Breakfast Program

President Daven read the proclamation.

##### C. Next Board Meeting

President Daven reported that the next meeting of the Board of Education will be April 10, 2024.

#### 4 Administrative Reports

##### A. Elementary Principal Report – Principal Bena

Principal Bena stated that the Food Service Department was recognized by the district in honor of National School Breakfast Week. He praised them for the work they do for our children. Principal Bena reported on the character trait for February, cooperation. Students that exemplify cooperation will be nominated by his/her teacher and will be recognized at the end of March. Tina McLaughlin and Amanda Wilhorn were co-leaders for an American Heart Association fundraiser. A penny war was held and \$4293 was raised. On Friday night PEPO will be sponsoring a Hawaiian dance in the elementary school and is open to all students accompanied by an adult. Principal Bena thanked Sheena Vitello for her coordination of events during Read Across America week, it was a successful week. Principal Bena reported that earlier this week, Ed Heuer Elementary School was recognized as one off the best elementary schools in Wisconsin by US News and World Report.

##### B. District Administrator Report – Superintendent Bena

Superintendent Bena gave an update on the referendum. Superintendent Bena stated that an informational post card will be sent to all homes and at the end of the month a group of staff members will be canvassing in the community.

Ms. Miller and Mr. Bena have met with the IT team to work on our cyber response plan. Mr. Bena stated that he and Ms. Miller will be meeting with USI to discuss health insurance rates for the 2024-25 school year on April 15th.

##### C. Guest Speakers:

- Sheena Vitello/Kristen Winters – Act 20

Mrs. Vitello and Mrs. Winters shared a slide show with the Board on Act 20. Act 20 states that all Wisconsin schools are required to provide science-based early literacy instruction in both universal and intervention settings. Science-based early literacy instruction is defined as the following.

Instruction that is systematic and explicit and consists of all the following:

Phonological awareness

Phonemic awareness

Phonics

Building background knowledge

Oral language development

Vocabulary building

Instruction in writing

Instruction in comprehension

Reading fluency

All districts will be using the same screening assessments. One screener for 4K and one screener for students in grades K – 3.

- Natasha Mentch – Visual Arts Club

Mrs. Mentch shared information on the Visual Arts Club and their current activities. Recently student's art work was on display at the Alexander House. Mrs. Mentch stated that the art club has become a huge success for both middle school students and high school students. On average, there are 25 high school students and 45 middle school students that attend the meetings, Students made Christmas cards and are planning to paint a mural in the art room. Mrs. Mentch reported that 11 high school students competed in the Visual Arts Classic at UW-Stevens Point which included drawing painting and mixed media. The students were very successful. Mr. Bena thanked Mrs. Mentch for her dedication to the students and for giving our students this opportunity.

**5. Questions and Comments from People in Attendance**

Teresa Guillemot – Special Ed Teacher - stated that Act 20 is a good thing and will be beneficial to our students and informed the Board of a podcast, Sold a Story, very informational.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**6. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting – February 14, 2024**

Motion by Thomasgard, second by Duncan to approve the minutes of the past meeting. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

**7. Consider Approval of Financial Reports**

- A. Check Summaries..... February 1-29, 2024  
#34605 - 34681 & 202300838 - 202300974 - \$367,461.64
- B. District Revenue Report..... February 1-29, 2024
- C. District Expenditures Report ..... February 1-29, 2024
- D. February Cash Balance Report
- E. February Cash Receipt Report
- F. February Substitutes Report
- G. Budget Revisions
- H. Consider Approval of Gifts

Business Director Miller reported the following gifts:

Local 94 – Donation to Families Helping Families

Elementary student donated \$10 to the school district as the student heard about the referendum and wanted to help.

Motion by Duncan, second by McGrath to approve the financial reports as presented. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, McGrath, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8. PESD Policy Updates (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

Motion by Duncan, second by McGrath to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the policy updates. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**9. Consider Approval of 2024-25 CESA 5 Service Contract**

Motion by Duncan, second by Daven to approve the 2024-25 CESA 5 Service Contract. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

**10. Consider Approval of Start College Now Applications – Fall 2024**

Motion by Duncan, second by Hildebrandt to approve the Start College Now applications for Fall 2024. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

**11. Opportunity for Individual Board Member Comment**

McGrath – Complimented the music teachers on their recent performances. Mrs. McGrath stated that our district has a lot of talent and was very impressed. We have so many opportunities for our students which makes us a wonderful school district.

Hildebrandt – Thanked Natasha Mentch for all of the work she is putting into the Visual Arts Club and thanked the student council members for their update.

Thomasgard – Stated how important that the skill of reading is and the district will support our teachers as they work on implementing Act 20.

Daven – Stated he enjoyed the guest speakers this evening and encouraged people to exercise their right to vote and vote on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**12. Establish Future Board Meetings**

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Executive Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Elementary IMC

**13. Call for Adjournment**

Motion by Duncan, second by Hildebrandt to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, McGrath, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50