

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Business Meeting of the Board of Education

5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – Elementary IMC, Fifth Street, Port Edwards, WI

Minutes

Meeting called to order by President John Daven at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: John Daven, Leo Thomasgard, Cary Hildebrandt, Dana Duncan

ABSENT: Kathy McGrath

ALSO PRESENT: James Bena, Superintendent

1. Consider Approval of Agenda

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

2. Consideration of motion to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute:

19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility

A. Consider Approval of Past Executive Meetings – August 16, 2023

B. Discuss Personnel Matters

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to adjourn into closed session. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion carried.

3. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene into Open Session to take any action deemed necessary from the closed session.

Motion by Duncan, second by Hildebrandt to adjourn executive session and reconvene into open session. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion carried.

PRESENT: John Daven, Leo Thomasgard, Cary Hildebrandt, Dana Duncan

ABSENT: Kathy McGrath

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennie Breitrick, Perry Cook, Emily Wahlquist, Jenna Cooper

5:30 – Business Session

4. Report from Student Representatives & Student Recognition

Student Council members, Haley Davidson and Mireya Cueto gave an update on the latest activities at JEHS. Student Council hosted a Back-to-School cookout in the school parking lot. The cookout was well-attended and Student Council thanked all those that helped make it a success. Fall sports are off to a good start and Homecoming will be held the last week of September.

5. Guest Speaker

- Harju Foundation Presentation

Dr. Perry Cook, Emily Wahlquist, and Jenna Cooper from UW-Stevens Point representing the Harju Foundation shared information on the Harju Center for Equity in Education. Thanks to a gift of \$5 million dollars from the estate of Dorothea Harju, the Harju Center for Equity in Education was established. The Harju Center will support rural education and prepare elementary education teachers. Dr. Cook stated that there are plans to offer a \$4000 scholarship to place one student teacher in the Port Edwards School District in the spring and fall of 2024.

6. President's Report

A. Board Member Attendance

President Daven reported that Board members, Daven, Thomasgard, Hildebrandt and Duncan were in attendance. Board member McGrath was absent due to a personal obligation.

B. Next Board Meeting

President Daven reported that the next meeting of the School Board will be Monday, October 30th, this will be the October meeting at 5:30 and the Annual Meeting at 6:15.

7. Administrative Reports

A. District Administrator/Elementary Principal Report – Superintendent Bena

Superintendent Bena updated the Board on the progress of the referendum planning. On August 18th & 19th staff members assisted with Stuff the Bus, handing out backpacks to families in need from the area. On August 24th thirteen staff members participated in CPI training. Mr. Bena stated that 90% of families attended Back-to-School night on August 29th. The Port Edwards Education Foundation is working with the local police for a phone app – Inform 911 – for all staff members for assistance in an emergency.

B. MS/HS Principal Report – Principal Shroda

Principal Shroda unable to attend.

8. Questions and Comments from People in Attendance

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

9. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting – August 16, 2023

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

10. Consider Approval of Financial Reports

- A. Check SummariesAugust 1-31, 2023
#34030 – 34089 & 202300055 -202300130 - \$353,056.61
- B. Cash Receipt Summary.....August 1-31, 2023
- C. District Revenue ReportAugust 1-31, 2023
- D. District Expenditures Report.....August 1-31, 2023
- E. August Cash Balance Report
- G. Budget Revision
- H. Consider Approval of Gifts

Business Director Miller reported that Cary & Kelly Hildebrandt donated the footholds for the new rock-climbing wall and the Blackhawk football team installed a new fence at the football field.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. Second Reading of Neola Policy Updates

Motion by Daven, second by Duncan to approve the Neola policy updates. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

12. Unpaid Leave Procedures

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Duncan to approve the unpaid leave procedures. Unpaid leave requests will be taken to the Board for approval. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

13. Consider Approval of Curriculum Consultant – Kathi Stebbins-Hintz

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve Kathi Stebbins-Hintz as Curriculum Consultant. Voting yes – all. Motion carried. Superintendent Bena will be seeking the grant thru the Harju foundation to cover this expenditure.

14. Consider Approval of Technology Assistant Compensation

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve an increase to the compensation for the technology assistant. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

15. Opportunity for Individual Board Member Comment

John Daven stated that the Fall Region 5 WASB meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3rd in Rothschild. Mr. Daven stated that he will be recognized that evening by WASB.

16. Establish Future Board Meetings

Monday, October 30, 2023, Executive Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. - Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting, 6:15 p.m. – Elementary IMC

17. Call for Adjournment

Motion by Duncan, second by Hildebrandt to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Lisa Miller, acting secretary