

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Business Meeting of the School Board

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – Elementary IMC, Fifth Street, Port Edwards, WI

Minutes

Meeting called to order by President John Daven at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: James Bena, Superintendent, Ernestine Neve, Acting Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Shane Steltenpohl, Corey & Kate Searles, Sue Thomasgard, Walter Iwanski

1. Consider Approval of Agenda

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

2. Report from Student Representatives; Student & Staff Recognition

Student Council members, Kailee Price and Evelyn Fletcher reported on the current school activities. In November several student council members attended a leadership conference at UW Stevens Point. December 16 – 20 will be Christmas dress up days. Student council members made ornaments the week of December 9. Ornaments will be given to staff members and will be given to community members in the neighborhood. For the last two weeks before Christmas break there was a coloring contest. The money made from selling the coloring pages will be donated to the South Wood County Humane Society. Lastly, all students and staff will travel to Rogers Cinema for the annual holiday movie on December 20.

3. President's Report

A. Board Member Attendance

President Daven reported that all Board members were in attendance.

B. Next Board Meeting

President Daven reported that the next meeting of the School Board will be January 8, 2025.

4. Administrative Reports

A. Elementary Principal Report – Principal Bena

Principal Bena reported that the Elementary School Character trait for the month of December is Empathy. In November, Mrs. Vitello and Mrs. Winters worked on creating an Early Literacy remediation plan for grades 5K – 3 as part of the Act 20 English and Language Arts Law. Currently they are working on personalized plans for students in need of extra support in reading. The Elementary holiday concert will be Monday, December 16. Last day of school before Christmas break is Friday, December 20 with students returning January 2.

B. MS/HS Principal Report – Principal Steltenpohl

Principal Steltenpohl reported that the elementary students came over to make cookies at the MS/HS. The MS/HS implemented behavior trackers and SIT (Student Intervention Team) meetings. Last month the Teen Leadership students visited the new wood county jail. Wednesday, December 18 they will be visiting the Lester Library in Nekoosa along with the Nekoosa schools. In the future they will be visiting our schools. Senior Breakfast is Friday, December 13 starting at 8:45. The band and choir will perform.

C. District Administrator Report – Superintendent Bena

Superintendent Bena reported that he went to the annual Baird Financial workshop in Wausau at the North Central Technical College on November 21 with Lisa Miller. School District Nurse Mrs. Bortz has created Emergency Response Teams. The team includes staff member from both schools. The teams have been created as an approach to medical emergency at both schools. Simulation drills are happening December 12 at both schools. On December 4, Mr. Bena participated in the UW-Stevens Point PreK – age 18 School of Education Board Meeting. Over Christmas break, CESA 10 Facility Management Advisor Tony Menard will be taking IT contractors on a tour of the elementary building to show them areas for the installation of new cabling. Superintendent Bena recognized Corey Searles for being a dedicated member of the Port Edwards Education Foundation for the last 15 years. The last 6 years Corey was the president of PEEF. They presented him with a plaque made by Steve Birno, Tech Ed teacher.

5. Questions and Comments from People in Attendance

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings – October 28, 2024, November 13, 2024

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

7. Consider Approval of Financial Reports

A. Check Summaries November 1-30, 2024

#35367 – 35465 & 202400434 – 202400575 - \$581,610.67

- B. District Revenues ReportNovember 1-30, 2024
- C. District Expenditures Report.....November 1-30, 2024
- D. Cash Receipt Summary.....November 1-30, 2024
- E. November Cash Balance Report
- F. November Substitutes Report
- G. November Budget Revisions
- H. Consider Approval of Gifts

Superintendent Bena reported the following gifts:

United Methodist Women - \$200 for the Caring Closet

Port Lions - \$1000 -Ecology Club – Holiday Meal

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Review of School Violence Drill

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Thomasgard to approve the school violence drill report. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

9. Consider Approval of 2025-26 Port Edwards School District Calendar

This approval was tabled until the January Board meeting.

10. Review of DPI School Report Cards

Superintendent Bena reviewed the results of the DPI School Report Cards.

11. First Reading of Neola Policy Updates

The Board reviewed the updates to the Neola Policies, first reading.

12. Consider Approval of 2024-25 Port Edwards School District Library Plan

Motion by McGrath, second by Duncan to approve the 2024-25 Port Edwards School District Library Plan. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

13. Opportunity for Individual Board Member Comment

Thomasgard – Thanked Corey Searles again for taking the helm of PEEF after Ed Heuer. Somebody will succeed him but will not replace him. Merry Christmas.

Daven – Wished all the village residents and educators a Happy Holiday.

McGrath – Band and choir concerts were awesome at the tree lighting ceremony.

Hildebrandt – Thanked Corey Searles again for all of his time and effort for the community. Merry Christmas to everyone.

14. Establish Future Board Meetings

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Closed Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Elementary IMC

15. Call for Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.