

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Business Meeting of the Board of Education

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – Elementary IMC, Port Edwards, WI

Minutes

Meeting called to order by President 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, Lisa Miller, Business Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Shane Steltenpohl, Cambree Flugaur, Nick Flugaur, Jen Moore

1. Consider Approval of Agenda

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

2. Report from Student Representatives

Student Council members Mireya Cueto and Cambree Flugaur gave an update on the current activities at JEHS:

Student Council is raising money for a fellow Student Council member at New Lisbon High School who has been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. All proceeds from the penny war will be presented to a member from the New Lisbon School District at the boys and girls basketball game on Monday, February 17th. Student Council is also doing the annual Crush sale for Valentine's Day.

The Student Council members reported on HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America), led by school nurse, Katie Bortz. The 5 members of HOSA have had the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers, have attended a conference in Green Bay and Oshkosh, and participate in competitive events.

The pep band performed at the Admirals hockey game in Milwaukee last Friday. The band will be selling tumblers from February 27th – March 9th to raise money for their trip to Hawaii.

The students reported on the current status of the athletic programs. Both boys and girls basketball teams are beginning to prepare for the play-off season. The co-op wrestling team won the conference championship. Makayla McGuffey and Kelson Casey both finished 3rd in their weight bracket and earned honorable mention.

Student Council will be hosting a blood drive on February 19th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

3. President's Report

A. Board Member Attendance

President Daven reported that all board members were in attendance.

B. Reading of DPI Proclamations

- National School Counseling

- Adult Crossing Guard Recognition

President Daven read the proclamations.

C. Next Board Meeting

President Daven reported that the next school board meeting will be held on March 12, 2025.

4. Administrative Reports

A. Elementary Principal Report – Principal Bena

Principal Bena reported that the elementary staff is about 83% complete with ACT 20 training. Mr. Bena reported that as of today, there are 26 students enrolled for kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year. This is the highest February enrollment the district has seen in quite some time. He stated that 100% of the 4K students have enrolled in the Port Edwards 5K. On January 31st, the Opera for the Young performed the Magic Flute. This was funded by the Mead-Witter Foundation. Principal Bena reported that PEPO held family bingo night on January 19th and will host a winter dance this Friday.

Principal Bena reported that there has been an increase in the kindergarten enrollment and have split the class into two sections. The kindergarten will now have a full-time aide along with an additional teacher, long-term sub, Alison Breitrack.

B. MS/HS Principal Report – Principal Steltenpohl

Principal Steltenpohl stated that they have been busy working on the middle school schedule for 2025-26 to now include the 5th grade which will be moving to the middle/high school building. Mr. Steltenpohl shared results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data from spring 2023 and stated that they have worked with Dr. Hartwig to address issues. The GRIT program has been very positive which has increased school climate and has improved the year. Jen Moore shared information on the R.O.X.program.(Ruling our Experience). Ms. Moore shared that this is a 20-session program for girls in 5 – 12 and has great results. This year, the 8th grade girls will be using this program and as of today has had one session with the girls and feels confident that it will be beneficial.

Principal Steltenpohl shared that we have joined Nekoosa to offer the Care Solace program. This program is a resource to students and families for mental health needs.

C. District Administrator Report – Superintendent Bena

District Administrator Bena reported that work has begun on the 2025-26 budget and shared the timeline for budget requests with the board. Superintendent Bena reported that he and Ms. Miller will be meeting with USI on Friday to discuss the health insurance

renewal for 2025-26. The 2nd Friday count in January was 421, last year the count was 425. Superintendent Bena publicly thanked the retirees, Deb Martin – High School Math Teacher, Ernestine Neve – Guidance & Counseling Administrative Assistant and Frank Neve – Director of Building & Grounds. Combined, these retirees have over 50 years of experience in our district. Their dedication is greatly appreciated.

5. Questions and Comments from People in Attendance

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting – January 8, 2025

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

7. Consider Approval of Financial Reports

- A. Check Summaries January 1-31, 2025
#35535 – 35649 & 202400697 – 202400786 - \$456,759.34
- B. District Revenues Report January 1-31, 2025
- C. District Expenditures Report..... January 1-31, 2025
- D. January Cash Balance Report
- E. January Cash Receipt Report
- F. January Substitutes Report
- G. January Budget Revisions
- H. Consider Approval of Gifts

Business Director reported a gift from Emilie Anderson's mother, Sara Anderson, of \$800 to help cover a portion of the band trip to the Admirals Hockey game.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Set Annual Reimbursement Rates for Per Diem Meals and Mileage

Motion by Duncan, second Hildebrandt

9. Consider Approval of Academic and Career Plan (ACP) and Education for Employment Plan (E4E)

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve the Academic and Career Plan and the Education for Employment Plan. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

10. Consider Request for Post-Employment Benefits

- A. Deborah Martin
- B. Frank Neve
- C. Ernestine Neve

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve the request for post-employment benefits. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

11. Consider Approval of 2025-26 CESA 5 Service Contract

Motion by Duncan, second by McGrath to approve the 2025-26 CESA 5 Service Contract. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

12. Consider Approval of Cooperative Agreement – 66.030 - Nekoosa School District

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve the 66.030 from Nekoosa School District. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

13. First Reading of Neola Policy Updates 34-1

Superintendent Bena presented the first reading of Neola policy updates 34-1.

14. Opportunity for Individual Board Member Comment

McGrath – Thank you to the Port Edwards Education Foundation for the grants that have been granted this year and to all those that applied. There was approximately \$30,000 granted this year. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity for our teachers and thanked the PEEF board members and all those that have donated.

Hildebrandt – Thanked the students for their report. Thank you to Deb, Frank and Ernestine for their years of service.

Thomasgard – Shared that the League of Women Voters will be holding a meet and greet for the school board candidates on Thursday.

Daven – Thanked Jen for the R.O.X. program, this is another great way to improve the culture in our school.

15. Establish Future Board Meetings

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

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Closed Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Elementary IMC

16. Call for Adjournment

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by McGrath to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.