

# PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Business Meeting of the Board of Education

4:45 p.m., Wednesday, September 14, 2022 – Elementary IMC, Fifth Street, Port Edwards, WI

### Minutes

Meeting called to order by President John Daven at 4:45 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

#### 1. Consider Approval of Agenda

Motion by Thomasgard, second by Hildebrandt 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**

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

A. Consider Approval of Past Executive Meetings – August 17, 2022

B. Discuss Personnel Matters

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

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

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

**ABSENT:** None

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cara Christy, Donna Shroda

#### 4. Report from Student Representatives & Student Recognition

Seniors, Gillian Searles and Adam Lewis reported on recent activity at John Edwards High School. The students reported that the volleyball team lost their match last evening to Almond-Bancroft and will play Gresham on Thursday at home. The football team traveled to Thee Lakes last Friday along with a fan bus. The team lost a close game. They will be playing at home against Wausau Newman on Friday. This weekend will kick off Homecoming.

#### 5. President's Report

A. Board Member Attendance

President Daven reported that all Board members were in attendance.

C. Next Board Meeting

President Daven reported that the next meeting of the Board of Education will be by October 12, 2022

#### 6. Administrative Reports

A. District Administrator Report – Superintendent Bena

Superintendent Bena reported that the first day of school, September 1<sup>st</sup>, was successful and a great start. This past week was one of the most challenging times our school district and community has experienced with the tragic passing of one of our JEHS students. Superintendent Bena publicly thanked our staff, volunteers, and community for the support that was given. The school districts of Nekoosa and Wisconsin Rapids immediately reached out offering their counseling services to us and other districts from the central Wisconsin conference also reached out offering support. Mr. Bena thanked the following individuals for offering their professional services to the district on September 6<sup>th</sup>: Rauni Vruwink, Sam Casey, Jeff & Carey O'Connor, Tanya Callahan, Chris Hanten and Paul Liebherr. Superintendent Bena also thanked the administration team and commended Jennifer Moore and Heather Lisitza.

Superintendent Bena stated that the new website is up and running and that we continue to make updates.

Governor Evers has announced that schools will receive funds from the Federal American Rescue Act to address mental health and to attract and obtain quality teachers. The district will receive \$41,000 for academic resources and \$15,000 for mental health services. This funding will be received later this fall.

Superintendent Bena stated he will be serving on the Rural & Small Schools State Committee for the 2022-23 school year

B. Elementary Principal Report – Principal Christy

Principal Christy reported that they had a great start to the school year. The theme for the school year is "Yes to New Adventures". The theme was evident throughout the building with decorated bulletin boards and a decorated entrance into school. Principal Christy stated that she did her classroom visits during the first two weeks of school. The elementary school had their bus evacuation drill today and it was successful.

C. MS/HS Principal Report – Principal Shroda

Principal Shroda reported on the number of programs that are available to our high school students such as Start College Now through MSTC and UWSP and dual-credit courses. The district will also be starting the GEDO-2 for those struggling to graduate with a regular diploma. Principal Shroda stated that this is fiscally responsible for the district. Mrs. McMillen, At-Risk instructor, will be running the program. Students will attend 15 hours a week, will have required community service hours as well as work hours. This program is for credit-deficient juniors.

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

None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**8. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting – August 17, 2022**

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

**9. Consider Approval of Financial Reports**

- A. Check Summaries .....August 1-31, 2022  
#32908 – 32974 & 202200013 -202200136 - \$311,728.65
- B. Cash Receipt Summary.....August 1-31, 2022
- C. District Revenue Report .....August 1-31, 2022
- D. District Expenditures Report.....August 1-31, 2022
- E. August Cash Balance Report
- G. Budget Revision
- H. Consider Approval of Gifts

Business Director reported the following gifts:

Sidewalk chalk, school supplies – Ka & Jeremy Baumgart

School supplies – Dustin & Jessica Lease

\$300 for school library - Port Edwards United Methodist Church

Baseball field sign – Joan Palen

\$1000 donation from Solarus

\$1000 donation from Renaissance

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**10. Consider Approval of 66.03.01 Agreements – Nekoosa School District**

Motion by McGrath, second by Duncan to approve the 66.03.01 Agreements with Nekoosa School District. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

**11. Receive 2021-22 Seclusion & Restraint Report**

Principal Christy shared the 2021-22 Seclusion & Restraint report with the Board.

Motion by Duncan, second by Hildebrandt to approve the 2021-22 Seclusion & Restraint Report as presented. Voting yes- all.

Motion carried.

**12. Consider Approval of JV Boys Basketball Coach – Dave Gibbs**

Motion by McGrath, second by Duncan to approve Dave Gibbs as the JV Boys Basketball Coach. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

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

McGrath – Thanked the new staff for joining our district. Good to see that the ELC is being used by the community.

Duncan – Expressed empathy for last week's student's passing.

Hildebrandt – Great to see the students back and everyone's support of last week's tragedy.

Thomasgard – Everyone plays a role when living in a small community and the level of support that was given was a blessing.

Daven – Thanked all the staff and community for their support during this difficult time.

**14. Establish Future Board Meetings**

Wednesday, October 12, 2022, Executive Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Elementary IMC

Monday, October 24, 2022, Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Elementary IMC

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, Executive 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 6:31 p.m.

Lisa Miller, acting secretary