

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Business Meeting of the Board of Education

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 18, 2021 – John Edwards Middle/High School, Dorothy Alexander Auditorium,
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, Ben Martinson

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Kyle Cronan, Superintendent, Lisa Miller, Business Director

1. Consider Approval of Agenda

Motion by McGrath, second by Thomasgard to move agenda item #8 to follow #4. Voting yes – all. Motion carried

Motion by McGrath, second by Thomasgard to approve the agenda with approved changes. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

2. 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 Board of Education will be September 8, 2021.

3. Administrative Reports

A. Report on In-Service – Superintendent Cronan

Superintendent Cronan reviewed the plans for the in-service days. New teacher in-service will be held on Monday, August 23rd and Tuesday, August 24th. All staff will report on Wednesday, August 25th at the elementary school. Teachers will then have in-service on Thursday, August 26th, Monday, August 30th and Tuesday August 31st.

B. Report on Back to School – Principal Shroda

Principal Shroda reported that the school looks great with all the renovations and the teachers have started to come in to prepare for the new year. Principal Shroda reported that Back-to-School night will be held on Monday, August 31st. With the help of the Student Council members, a cookout will be held in the parking lot. Principal Shroda stated that both football and volleyball have started and both teams will have a scrimmage this week.

4. Questions and Comments from People in Attendance

Krissy Flugaur – Has a 11.5-year-old daughter that attends PESD and stated that our staff and students should not be exposed to this virus. Today we have vaccinations for people 12 years and older and encourages the district to mandate masking for those grades that are not able to be vaccinated.

Nick Flugaur – Asked that we buy some time so that students have the choice to get the vaccination.

Kristina Morey – Has been a part of the district for many years, has three children. Stated that masks should be optional and feels masks hinder learning.

Shad Sparks – Stated that he believes the district should keep masks optional, stated that masks are not worn properly.

Kristi Mancl – Son going into high school and feels masks should be optional.

Larry Zabel – Masks that are worn are not viral masks. In order to be effective, must be official mask.

Matt Tranel – Raised in this community and has three children. Shared a packet of information with the board members.

Asked if the school board has the legal authority to mandate masks. He stated that the mental health of students needs to be tracked as well. Forcing children to wear masks is illegal and immoral and should have the right to choose.

Hannah Bialas – Has worked in an elementary school and has seen how elementary students take care of masks. Masking should be optional.

Danny Shay – Masking should be the parent's choice. Explained the damage that can be done by wearing masks and shared data on the virus. There is no greater investment than a child's education and if there is masking, they will choose to home-school.

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by McGrath to extend the time for public comment. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

Joe Busch – Stated that the real issue is parental rights. Has a daughter in kindergarten and stated masks should be optional and it's a parents right to make that decision.

Shane Robinson – If there is going to be a mask mandate then we need to push to boost children's immune system.

Masking compromises the immune system. Masking should be optional.

Aaron Bakovka – Is a village resident and stated that actions speak louder than words, do the right thing and make masking optional.

Debbie Dix – The past two years have been very tough on the children and the kids need to be normal. Let parents make the choice for their own children.

8. Discussion to review, affirm or consider taking action regarding possible amendments to Fall 2021 Staying Open Plan in response to COVID-19 Pandemic. (Agenda tem #8 moved to follow agenda item #4)

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Martinson to keep the current optional masking plan in place.

Roll call vote: Martinson – yes, Hildebrandt – yes, Thomasgard – no, McGrath – no, Daven – no.

Motion failed.

Motion by Thomasgard, second by McGrath to adopt a K-6 masking rule as of the first day of the school year through the first trimester. The Board of Education can revisit this if conditions change based on data.

Motion was withdrawn by Thomasgard. No other action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA:

5. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting – July 21, 2021

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

6. Consider Approval of Financial Reports

A. Check Summaries..... July 1-31, 2021

#31704 – 31774 & 202100001 -202100012 - \$437,177.58

B. District Revenue Report July 1-31, 2021

C. District Expenditures Report..... July 1-31, 2021

D. July Cash Receipt Report..... July 1-31, 2021

E. July Cash Balance Report

F. Budget Revision

G. Consider Approval of Gifts

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. Second Reading Updated Policies

A. #5460.02 – Graduation Date

B. #5451.01 – Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship

C. #5451.02 – Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarships

Superintendent Cronan reviewed the updates to the policies. Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Martinson to approve the policy updates as presented. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Consider Approval of 2021-22 Property, Liability, Linebacker, Crime, Inland Marine, Automobile, Umbrella & Worker's Compensation Insurance Plans

Motion by McGrath, second by Thomasgard to approve the 2021-22 Property, Liability, Linebacker, Crime, Inland Marine, Automobile, Umbrella & Worker's Compensation Plans. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

10. Consider Approval of Cooperative Agreements (66.03.01)

A. Nekoosa School District

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

11. Consider Approval of 2021-22 Compensation Guide

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by McGrath to approve the 2021-22 Compensation Guide. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

12. Consider Approval of 2021-22 Co-Curricular Positions:

A. Cross Country – Tim Miller

B. MS Football – Mike Martinson

Motion by McGrath, second by Thomasgard to approve the 2021-22 co-curricular positions, Tim Miller and Mike Martinson. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

13. Consider Approval of Early Graduation

- A. Nolan Olsen
- B. Cody Elmhorst

Motion by McGrath, second by Martinson to approve Nolan Olsen and Cody Elmhorst for early graduation. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

14. Consider Approval of Resignation

- A. Shelby Lutz – 6-12 Band Instructor

Motion by McGrath, second by Hildebrandt to approve the resignation of Shelby Lutz. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

15. Consider Approval of Contract with Lamers Bus Lines, Inc. for 2021-2022 Services

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Martinson to approve the 2021-22 Lamers Bus Lines, Inc. contract. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

16. Opportunity for Individual Board Member Comment

Martinson – Stated that we have a good plan in place and a good education for our students is what is most important.

Hildebrandt – Stated it was good to see so many people here and express their opinions. He moved to this community for this school and wants nothing but the best for the students.

Thomasgard- Thanked all that attended the meeting. Meetings are held every month and invited people to attend all meetings to get involved. He stated that he hopes this works and wished everyone the best.

McGrath – Stated her heart is in this school district, taught 34 years and her main concern is keeping everyone safe. There are many different opinions and she stated she wants to do what's best for this district.

Daven – Thanked all and stated that this is a difficult decision. Daven stated how important this school was to him, he and his children attended this school and wants nothing more than the students to have a great experience and for everyone to stay safe.

17. Establish Future Board Meetings

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, Executive Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Elementary IMC

Monday, October 25, 2021 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Elementary IMC

18. Call for Adjournment

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Martinson to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.