

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Business Meeting of the Board of Education

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 8, 2021 – Dorothy Alexander Auditorium, 801 2nd St., Port Edwards, WI

Minutes

5:30 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Vice President Leo Thomasgard at 5:32 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Leo Thomasgard, Kathy McGrath, Cary Hildebrandt, Ben Martinson

ABSENT: John Daven (arrived at 5:49 p.m.)

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

1. Consider Approval of Agenda
Motion by McGrath, second by Hildebrandt to approve the agenda as posted. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.
2. President's Report
 - A. Board Member Attendance
Vice President Thomasgard reported that Board members, Thomasgard, McGrath, Hildebrandt were in attendance. Board member Daven was delayed due to work obligations.
 - B. Next Board Meeting
Vice President Thomasgard reported that the next business meeting will be held on October 13, 2021.
3. Administrative Reports
 - A. Report on 2021-22 Preliminary Enrollment Review and Report on Proposal to Implement Metrics Based Mitigation Strategies in Exigency Circumstances– Superintendent Cronan
Superintendent Cronan updated the Board of Education on the preliminary enrollment numbers. Approximately, there are 450 students in seats, this number will provide a bump to our three-year average, which the state uses in its aid calculations. Superintendent Cronan discussed the plan for masking in the district based on a metrics based mitigation strategy. Masking as needed when confirmed COVID-19 cases reaches 1.5%. This will slow the spread down and allow us to remain in school.
 - B. Report on Start of School at the Elementary School – Principal Christy
Principal reported on the first day of school and shared the activities they have planned for the school year's theme "Splash in a New Year". Principal Christy reported, new to the elementary school this year is Safety Patrol. The safety patrol will be working with the crossing guard on Ver Bunker Avenue helping students cross the road, putting the flag up in the morning and they will help get students off the buses. This is a great new program for our 5th graders. Principal Christy reported that there approximately 30 new students to the elementary building.
 - C. Report on Start of School at JEMS/JEHS – Principal Shroda
Principal Shroda reported on the start of school and stated that the school climate is great. Back to School night was very successful. Ms. Shroda stated that high school and middle school sports are underway and the plans for Homecoming, September 27 – October 1, are underway.
4. Questions and Comments from People in Attendance

Jessica Hansen – Stated that she attended Port Edwards schools and shared information that she has researched regarding COVID-19. Stated if we follow the trends, the cases in Wood County will continue to rise. Masking should be enforced for those unable to vaccinate.

Sara Krueger – Stated both of her children attend Port Edwards. Ms. Krueger shared data on cases throughout the United States. She stated that both students and staff should be protected and should wear masks until they can be vaccinated.

Amanda Erdman – Shared statistics and feels that people have the right to choose.

Sandy Razner – Ms. Razner stated that she is a registered nurse. Shared COVID-19 data from the past year. Stated that wearing a face mask and washing hands has been scientifically proven to reduce the transmittal.

Joe Busch – Stated that this topic can be debated all night and that it comes down to parental rights and the choice should be up to the parents when it comes to wearing masks.

Karen Isaacson – Is resident of Port Edwards and a former Port Edwards teacher. Thanked the board members, administration and staff for all they did last year to keep our kids safe and in school last year. We need to continue to do what we did last year.

Shane Robinson – Stated if the district mandates masks, constitutional rights are being taken away.

Trenton Morey – Is a freshman at John Edwards High School and stated that masking is not the answer and asked that students be given the choice to mask or not. Students want to be in school.

Matt Tranel – Thanked the board of education for allowing comments from the public. He stated that both sides will have to give and take to come to an agreement. Mr. Tranel stated the board members are appointed and according to the job description for a board member, their job is to carry out the wishes of the voters and consensus of the community.

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Martinson to extend the time for public comment for an additional 15 minutes. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

Aron Bakovka – Former student and community member stated that we need to find a middle ground that fits everyone. Mr. Bakovka asked the percentage of students that are being masked and then stated that it is evident that parents have a choice and a majority of students do not mask.

Terry Lindholm – Is a retired respiratory therapist. She shared experiences of taking care of patients. Ms. Lindholm asked that kids wear a mask and social distance for a bit longer until students under 12 can receive the vaccination. Thanked the school board for all that they have done.

Dave Gibbs – Mr. Gibbs has been a resident of Port Edwards for 9 years. Thanked the board of education for their work and stated that they deserve respect regardless of any decisions made. Mr. Gibbs stated that school districts do all sorts of things to keep children safe and supports the idea of continuing to keep our children safe by wearing masks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Implementing a Metrics Based COVID Mitigation Strategy in Exigency Circumstances
Motion by Thomasgard, second by Daven to approve Implementing a Metrics Based COVID Mitigation Strategy in Exigency Circumstances. Voting yes – Thomasgard, McGrath, Daven Voting no – Hildebrandt, Martinson. Motion carried.
6. Consider Approval of CESA 10 Facilities Representative Agreement for Renovation of High School Chemistry Lab
Motion by Martinson, second by Thomasgard to approve the CESA 10 Facilities Representative Agreement for Renovation of the High School Chemistry Lab. Voting yes – all. Motion carried
7. Consider Approval of Early Graduation
A. Owen Mortensen
Motion by McGrath, second by Hildebrandt to approve the early graduation for Owen Mortensen

CONSENT AGENDA:

8. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting – August 22, 2021
Motion by McGrath, second by Martinson to approve the minutes of the past meeting. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.
9. Consider Approval of Financial Reports
 - A. Check SummariesAugust 1-31, 2021
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 - B. Cash Receipt Summary.....August 1-31, 2021
 - C. District Revenue ReportAugust 1-31, 2021
 - D. District Expenditures Report.....August 1-31, 2021
 - E. August Cash Balance Report
 - F. Budget Revision
 - G. Consider Approval of Gifts
Business Director Miller reported the following gifts/donations:
Samantha Pember – school supplies to the elementary school
Blackhawk Football – purchase of weights for the weight room
Solarus – Community Outreach Grant
Motion by McGrath, second by Daven to approve the financial reports as presented. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.
10. Opportunity for Individual Board Member Comment
Hildebrandt –Stated that even though the approval this evening was not unanimous, he still stands behind the board 100%.
Martinson – Good to see all the sports in action and encouraged everyone to attend.
Daven – Thanked those in attendance for coming and for sharing their thoughts.
11. Establish Future Board Meetings
Wednesday, October 13, 2021, Executive Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Dorothy Alexander Auditorium
Monday, October 25, 2021, Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Dorothy Alexander Auditorium
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, Executive Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Elementary IMC
12. Call for Adjournment
Motion by McGrath, second by Hildebrandt to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, McGrath, Hildebrandt and Martinson. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.