NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, April 15, 2019
NEC – Administration Office Board Room

The meeting was called to order by President Shawn White at 5:00 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Shawn White, Dan Griswold, Bob Sayles, Nick Rush, Craig Staudinger, Phil LaMaire
Absent: Brad Wait
Admin: Geoff Bontrager, Laurie Lewis, Kim Carney, Mark Short, Paula Louagie, Eric Kelly, Aaron Bush
Cindy Devereaux (Recording Secretary)
Visitors: Approximately 4 in attendance

1.B. Recognition of Audience
President Shawn White welcomed everyone in attendance.

2.A. Board Communications
NONE

3. Community Comment
Judy Osterberg, Teacher at Northwest High School, invited the Board of Education to the Peer Connections Prom on May 18, 2019, from 5:00pm-9:00pm in the High School Cafetorium. Special thanks to all the community members whose commitment ensured that the Prom was able to be held again this year.

4. Consent Agenda
Moved by LaMaire, seconded by Staudinger, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:
~ Minutes of the March 18, 2019, Board of Education meeting, as presented.
~ Resignation of Cate Robarts-Snyder as a Teacher at Northwest Early Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2019, as presented, with appreciation for her 25+ years of service to the District.
~ Resignation of Maureen Rogers as a Special Education Teacher at Northwest High School, effective June 30, 2019, with appreciation for her 3 years of service to the District.
~ Resignation of Ashley Boley as Associate Preschool Teacher at the Preschool and Child Care Center, effective April 26, 2019, with appreciation for her 1+ years of service to the District.
~ Termination of Amanda Crowder, Instructional Aide (Classroom) at Northwest Early Elementary School, effective April 1, 2019, with appreciation for her service to the District.

Motion Carried 6-0.
5. **Field Trip Requests**
   NONE

6. **Business Report and Approval of Bills**
   Laurie Lewis, Director of Business and Finance, noted that everything was within normal limits for this time of year.

   Moved by LaMaire, seconded by Staudinger, that the Board of Education approve March checks in the amount of $1,859,231.06. **Motion Carried 6-0**

7.A. **Student Liaison to the Board of Education**
   Shaelyn Paulis, Student Liaison to the Board of Education, presented a report on events and activities taking place at Northwest High School. Highlights included: Leadership Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Green Club—new club whose mission is to make the environment a priority; Reduced pricing for all High School students and staff to see the movie “Little” on Friday, April 19, 2019, at 11:05am.

7.B. **Elementary Building Administrator Updates**
   Cortney Forner and Paul Smith presented information on the Young Fives through 5th Grade STEM program and their plans for two separate robotics teams. Information was also presented on grants received, launching of a weather balloon with cameras this spring, and learning how to use tools. Cortney and Paul also shared some of the robots/teaching tools that are used in their classrooms.

8. **Curriculum**
   NONE

9.A. **Revised Board Policies/Bylaws – Second Reading**
   As this was a second reading, no action was recommended at this time.

9.B. **Resolution of Support: School Finance Research Collaborative Study-Approval**
   Moved by Griswold, seconded by Staudinger, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution of Support: School Finance Research Collaborative Study, that supports the findings of the School Finance Research Collaborative study and encourages the legislature and Governor to adopt a new, fairer school funding model.

   **Roll Call Vote: AYES:** Nick Rush, Dan Griswold, Shawn White, Bob Sayles, Craig Staudinger, Phil LaMaire

   **NAYS:** NONE

   **Motion Carried 6-0.**

9.C. **Superintendent’s Contract Renewal - Approval**
   Moved by LaMaire, seconded by Griswold, that the contract renewal for Superintendent Geoff Bontrager be extended for one (1) additional year, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024, with all salary and benefits as presented. **Motion Carried 6-0.**
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, April 15, 2019

10.A. **Jackson County Intermediate School District Biennial Election**
The Jackson County ISD will hold its biennial election on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the Kratz Education Center. Information on becoming a candidate for one of the two (2) six-year terms and one (1) four-year term expiring on June 30, 2019, was discussed. The last day to file required documents with the County Clerk is Monday, May 6, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

10.B. **Board Update**
NONE

10.C. **Superintendent Update**
A superintendent update was presented. Below are highlights of that update:
- End of the Year Calendar was presented.
- Coffee with the Superintendent will take place on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at Biggby Coffee on Springport Road from 7:30am-9:00am.
- Northwest received a Competitive School Safety Grant in the amount of $71,017 to be used to make our buildings safer.
- Gold Club on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at 8:30am in the High School Cafetorium.
- Kindergarten RoundUp will take place on April 16-18, 2019, with a summer RoundUp scheduled for August 6, 2019.

11. **Community Comment**
NONE

12. **Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege**
Moved by LaMaire, seconded by Sayles, that the Board of Education move into closed session pursuant to Section 8(H), Public Act 267 of the Open Meetings Act to consider a written legal opinion from its attorney.

**Roll Call Vote:** **AYES:** Phil LaMaire, Craig Staudinger, Bob Sayles, Shawn White, Dan Griswold, Nick Rush  
**NAYS:** NONE  
**Motion Carried 6-0.**

The Board moved into closed session at 5:36 p.m.  
The Board returned to open session at 6:11 p.m.
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, April 15, 2019

13. **Recommendation – Attorney-Client Privilege**
   Moved by Sayles, seconded by LaMaire, that the Board of Education release the privileged report known to the Board to local authorities for investigation purposes only. **Motion Carried 6-0.**

Moved by Griswold, seconded by Staudinger, that the meeting be adjourned. **Motion Carried 6-0.** The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Devereaux,
Recording Secretary

[Signature]

Secretary, Board of Education

Date Approved 5/13/2019