

SURING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
920-842-2178  
411 E. Algoma Street, Suring WI 54174

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 09, 2020 - 5:30 P.M. – Small Gym

The regular meeting of the Suring School Board was called to order by Board President Sleeter.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members present: Lally, Lundgren, Regal, Seibert, Sleeter. Tardy: Wozniak. Absent: Piepkorn.

Administration present: Mrs. Casper, Mrs. Berg.

Visitors present: Laura Strehlow, Kris Christensen, Ron Christensen, Heidi Gerndt, Pete Cramer, Paul Thomson, Michelle Thomson, Crystal Schroeder, Gina Wendt, Zach School, and Tabitha School.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Seibert to approve the change in sequence to move Matters Requiring Board Action letter C and letter G to closed session and consent items (Agenda, Minutes of August 12, 2020 Regular Meeting and August 19, 2020 Special Meeting with changes to vote on motion for Back to School Plan, Bills-95542 through 95628, Treasurer Report) as listed. Carried 5-0.

Treasurer Report as follows:

		Beginning Balance August 1, 2020	\$3,240,533.84
		Revenues for August, 2020	<u>1,231,580.57</u>
			\$4,472,114.41
August Expenses			
Net Payroll	\$ 34,806.35		
Accounts Payable	<u>310,400.86</u>		
	(\$345,207.21)		
		Total Expenses for August, 2020	<u>\$ 345,207.21</u>
		Balance on hand August 31, 2020	\$4,126,907.20

During Public Input, Ron and Kris Christensen thanked the district for doing the best job they can in these challenging times. The Christensen's opinion was that school should be offered five days per week, allowing parents to choose if they wanted to send their children or not. They also expressed concern regarding the fall sport spectator limit. They asked the board to consider allowing grandparents, siblings and student attendance at fall sports, indicating that the size of the Suring gym would allow for social distancing.

Paul Thomson also spoke during Public Input stating that he feels kids do not learn unless they are going to school five days per week. He stated that this is a small community and when kids walk out the doors of the school, they are all together anyway. He indicated that he heard that Suring lost kids to other districts and with funding on the line, losing kids is not good. Thomson asked the board to consider going back to five days per week.

Tabitha and Zack School also voiced their opinion during Public Input. Tabitha stated that her children have only had two days of school since the start of school and when they should have been online, they could not go online. They are having problems with programing and knowing when they should be online. Mrs. School asked why the children do not have a little bit of freedom even though they are required to wear a mask. At lunch, they have to sit 6 feet apart and not by their friends. Mr. School stated freedom is a good word. He feels that parents should be able to decide if their child has to wear a mask or not after the mandate is lifted. School also feels that attending school five day per week should be up to the parent, and if parents feel their child is

safer at home, that is their choice. Mr. School also feels the gym is large enough to social distance. Kids love to play for their families.

Gina Wendt, parent of two children in the district also spoke to the board. She stated that her younger children do not do well virtually. Her children are not learning at home, just keeping stable. She stated that younger children are like sponges and being in school five days per week would help children grow.

The administration committee meeting report of August 19, 2020 was presented to the board. The committee met to discuss the new Title IX policy.

Technology Coordinator, Laura Strehlow, reported on summer projects completed which included Interactive Boards installed to replace old Smartboards, updating devices for teachers and office staff, implementing new Chromebooks for grades 1, 5 and 9 and installation and setup of SAN (Storage Area Network). Schoology, a centrally located platform for all students, was implemented and training was given on the new system to enter grades and communicate with students. Step one of the Schoology training was to train staff. Staff will train students, and next will be training for parents. The platform was paid for by CARES Act money. External cameras were purchased for all teachers to help assist with distant learning, but these have not been received yet. Strehlow also indicated that eRate money was received for discounted bandwidth and to update and add additional High School access points. A second controller for Wi-Fi was also received with these funds, but installation has not been scheduled.

Principal Pam Berg's report to the Board included distant learner breakdown by grade, explanation of the free breakfast and lunch procedure since the USDA announced that through December 31, 2020 all student would have the opportunity to eat free of charge, and things that happened the first day(s) and first week of school for students. Berg also shared a few things the new Social Worker, Tabitha Fendrick, has been working on. Fendrick has prepared a Community Resource Packet, has reached out and is building relationships with these resources, updating our Homeless processes, assisting families in need and is in the process of providing outreach to distant learners.

Athletic Director, Heidi Gerndt, reported on fall sport participation numbers. Also included in her report was a spreadsheet as to what the M&O schools are planning at each school for fall athletic organization. Gerndt indicated that this will be a board decision, but the M&O would like to be consistent with these issues throughout the M&O.

District Administrator, Kelly Casper, reported that in her 27 years of education, this has been the hardest year. Casper stated she would like to applaud our children, it is a rough voyage. She stated everyone is hoping this will go away, hoping we can keep healthy and keep going. The districts ultimate goal is to bring everyone back, learning and socializing. Casper stated this is hard for children, and hard for staff.

Summer school numbers were shared with the Board, along with the calendar rotation of Supervisors for oral reports to the board.

The unofficial student enrollment numbers are 141 in grades 4K-5, 95 in Middle School and 131 in High School. Compared to last year, the district is down 17 students. The official numbers will be brought to the Board in October after the third Friday count.

The Board Goals for 2020-2021 were presented. Mrs. Casper shared the preliminary budget for 2020-2021 showing where the District is at right now with the planning of the budget.

During discussion about 2020 fall sports, the board heard from Mrs. Berg, Principal and Mrs. Gerndt, Athletic Director. Gerndt shared a document earlier in the meeting regarding what other conference M&O schools are planning on doing. Berg stated she needs direction to bring to the M&O conference principals meeting, letting other schools know what the Suring Public School District plans on doing.

During discussion on the back to school plan, Sleeter referred to what was heard from parents earlier in the meeting. Parents want five days a week. The back to school plan and matrix was approved at the August board meeting. If things continue to go well, a month from now we will have five days of school. Sleeter reminded the board that the Superintendent can act on the matrix that was approved in August without having a special board meeting. The district is looking at thirty days to bring everyone back. The first week of October, we could be open five days, but currently we are at day nine. Casper stated that Oconto County made contact with the district indicating that we have students in our building that need to be quarantined because a family member has COVID. The children quarantined will be out for fourteen days, and if the student is positive, then that student will be out another ten days. Information on numbers come from Oconto County Health Department.

Motion by Regal, seconded by Lally to approve the resignation of Holly Zeitler, Title I Paraprofessional. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Regal to approve the resignation of Amber Wozniak, Elementary Paraprofessional. Carried 5-0, 1 abstained.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Seibert to approve hiring Julie Steffek as Elementary Paraprofessional. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Seibert to approve hiring Jennifer Brady as Sophomore Class Advisor 2020-2021. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Regal to approve hiring Heather Thomson as Junior Class Advisor 2020-2021. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Regal, seconded by Lally to allow family members and siblings in the same household attendance at home athletic events and to follow guidelines of other school at away games, no concessions stand and no ticket sales. Carried 5-1.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Seibert to approve hiring Mitchell Woulf as Middle School Football Head Coach. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Wozniak to approve hiring Mike Cornell as Middle School Football Assistant Coach. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Seibert, seconded by Wozniak to approve hiring Mike Cornell as Middle School Boys Basketball Coach. Carried 6-0.

The next regular school board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, place to be determined, at 5:30pm. A special meeting was set for Wednesday, September 30, 2020 in the small gym at 5:30pm.

The Annual Meeting for Suring Public School District will be on Monday, October 26, 2020, in the small gym, at 5:30pm.

In unfinished business, marking off-site property lines and awareness will remain on the agenda.

During public input, Crystal Schroeder asked the board to clarify a grandparent's attendance at fall athletic events. Sleeter indicated that based on what the board approved; grandparents are not allowed to come. Schroeder stated that with two persons per player, if her husband were not able to attend, she would be able to have a grandparent attend with her. Schroeder also stated that as far as school, she feels the same as many parents. There is anxiety, in not only the learning process, but also things that will go with children throughout their life. Schroeder requested a parent video for help with Schoology, or extra notes home on the subject would be helpful. In her final remarks, Schroeder asked if the mask mandate ends at school when the state mandate ends. In response, something will be sent home regarding the plan that will be followed.

The District Spotlight featured a tour of the facility. Board members were shown the new clothes closet, book room, fitness center where cardio equipment was moved and the science classroom updates since receiving the cabinets and countertops.

Motion by Wozniak, seconded by Seibert to convene in Closed Session if approved by roll call vote of the Board. Roll Call Vote: Lally – yes, Lundgren – yes, Regal - yes, Seibert-yes, Sleeter – yes, Wozniak-yes. Carried 6-0.

**RECONVENE OPEN SESSION AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Seibert, seconded by Wozniak to approve hiring Kristina Brigham for Guidance Counselor position 2020-2021. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Seibert, seconded by Lally to approve the parent transportation contract 2020-2021 as presented. Carried 6-0.

Motion by Wozniak, seconded by Seibert to adjourn the Open Meeting. Carried 6-0.

Joy Rohde, District Secretary

Time: 8:46 P.M.