

MINUTES AS RECORDED BUT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NOVEMBER 11, 2020 MEETING

SURING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

920-842-2178

411 E. Algoma Street, Suring WI 54174

**Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 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, Regal, Seibert, Sleeter, Piepkorn. Absent: Lundgren, Wozniak.

David Lally was appointed Clerk for the purpose of taking minutes for tonight's meeting.

Administration present: Mrs. Casper, Mrs. Berg, Mrs. Pendl.

Visitors present: Heidi Gerndt, Emily Marcheske, Sarah School, Terry Garrigan, Tonia Kruschke.

Motion by Piepkorn, seconded by Seibert to approve the consent items (Agenda, Minutes of September 9, 2020 Regular Meeting and September 30, 2020 Special Meeting, Bills-95629 through 95750, Treasurer Report) as listed. Carried 5-0.

Treasurer Report as follows:

	Balance on hand September 1, 2020	\$4,126,907.20
	Revenues for September, 2020	<u>213,356.65</u>
		\$4,340,263.85
September Disbursements		
Net Payroll	\$149,177.57	
Accounts Payable	<u>322,633.33</u>	
	(\$471,810.90)	
	Total Disbursements for September, 2020	<u>\$ 471,810.90</u>
	Balance on hand September 30, 2020	\$3,868,452.95

During public input, Heidi Gerndt, Physical Education Teacher, informed the board that she is happy staying in the cohort model that we are operating at the present time. Gerndt stated even though it is harder to teach in cohorts and virtually, she feels comfortable and safer doing it this way.

A video presentation prepared by Principal Berg featuring the use of Schoology by staff and a student was shown. The video highlighted some of the great things that are being done with breakout rooms, student check-in, interactive chat, recording lessons and classroom work. The video will be posted on the school website and Facebook page for viewing.

Food Service Director, Emily Marcheske, reported that the free breakfast and lunch program was extended until the end of the school year where every student may eat free meals. She explained how the program works for cohorts and distant learners.

The September transportation report was shared.

Principal Pam Berg reported to the Board on the Open House that was held on October 7, 2020 where firefighters from the Suring Fire Department were here to answer question and give tours of the firetruck along with helping distribute fire extinguishers donated by Johnson Controls. In her written report, she gave an update on Schoology, food support pick up, packet pick up for children who are learning virtually/off-site, bus driver appreciation and Senior Night for Volleyball. Berg also informed the board that volunteers from the Pine Needle Quilters made a Chromebook pouch for every student in grades 1-5 so they can keep their Chromebook safe as they travel to school and home again. Berg explained to the board that most of her day is spent doing

Covid-19 contact tracing. The tracking involves asking questions of the student and staff, checking seating charts within the classroom and lunchroom, contacting families impacted and keeping the district tracker up to date.

Athletic Director, Heidi Gerndt, reported that she attended the WIAA area meeting on zoom and that the M&O Kick-off will be held virtually this year. Kaci Hoverson-Boehmer, Band Director, will receive a 5-year award. The football season will conclude on November 6, 2020 with 24 participants at the High School level and 22 at the Middle School level. The football team was quarantined until October 13, 2020 with games through October 18, 2020 cancelled. The volleyball season will end October 15, 2020 with 19 participants at the High School level and 16 participants at the Middle School level. The volleyball team was also quarantined until October 13, 2020 and had games cancelled through October 18, 2020. Cross Country will conclude their season on October 15, 2020 with a conference meet. The Cross Country sub section will be held in Lena on October 20, 2020. Gerndt also informed the board that she is working on rescheduling basketball games that do not fit in the season or have been replaced with conference rescheduled games and that Suring will be hosting the conference track meet at Oconto Falls on June 11, 2021 this year due to track going until the end of June. She also informed the Board that the co-op contracts with Gillett for wrestling, softball and baseball have to be renewed this year and she is waiting for the revised schedules from Gillett for wrestling, baseball and softball.

District Administrator Kelly Casper reported that the Department of Public Instruction granted funds to Suring from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER). Casper also shared the 5-year plans for the Kitchen, Technology and Buildings & Grounds.

September Third Friday count official numbers show that we are at 379 students. That is a decrease of 27 students from last year. The official count also showed that we have 50 students going out of District for Open Enrollment and 36 coming into our District as Open Enrolled. Casper explained that the decrease in total enrollment is due to a large number of students home schooling this year or transferring to private schools or virtual on-line schools.

Mrs. Casper presented the preliminary budget for 2020-21 that we will be publishing. She explained the revenue and expenditure areas to the board and how budgeted funds are being distributed.

A parent requested sport participation for more than one sport during a season. Feedback from Suring coaches and information on what other M&O conference schools allow was presented. This will be voted on during matters requiring board action.

Teacher and support staff substitute pay was discussed. A comparison of what area schools pay for substitutes was shared. Improving communication, advertisement and incentives were ideas shared that may help with this shortage.

Hiring additional custodial staff was discussed. A checklist that is being used for custodial staff cleaning was shared. The checklist is signed off by the custodian doing the cleaning, signed off by the supervisor and then turned into the district office every Monday. The need for an additional part-time person is due to the fact that we are expecting the custodial staff to keep the building germ-free, but carry on with their other duties of completing the science room upgrade, installation of lockers in the locker room, line the football field for games and other duties that are on a routine basis.

COVID information was discussed. Results from a parent survey with 80 responses was shared. Tracker information that is being collected by Principal Berg was reviewed and Mrs. Casper shared the Oconto County dashboard, showing the Oconto County has very high case activity at this time. Casper spoke to Mrs. Konitzer from Oconto County and Konitzer's recommendation is to continue to do what we are doing. Information from the Suring Administration Team on what direction they recommend was also shared.

The Sunshine Committee was next on the items of discussion. In the past, there was a Sunshine Committee but through time, many things have changed and it has fallen apart. Casper is recommending that the district take

this on and follow guidelines set up for all employees. It is a respectful gesture at a difficult time in a co-workers life.

Motion by Piepkorn, seconded by Seibert to approve the resignation of Teri Gardebrecht, full-time paraprofessional. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Regal, seconded by Lally to approve hiring Carrie Werner as part-time paraprofessional for 2020-21 school year. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Piepkorn, seconded by Seibert to approve hiring Samantha Bristol as part-time paraprofessional for 2020-21 school year. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Seibert, seconded by Piepkorn to deny participation in more than one sport during a season in 2020-21. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Regal, seconded by Piepkorn to approve increasing Teacher and Support Staff substitute pay by 10% across the board beginning November 1, 2020. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Regal to approve hiring one part-time additional custodial staff position based on Superintendents recommendation. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Piepkorn, seconded by Lally to approve staying in the blended model with cohorts at the present time. Carried 5-0.

Motion by Piepkorn, seconded by Seibert to approve the implementation of "The Gift of Sunshine" that will be organized and paid for by the district. Carried 5-0.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, October 26, 2020 in the small gym at 5:30PM. A special board meeting will be scheduled for October 26, 2020 to take place after the Annual Meeting to discuss the school COVID matrix and plan.

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, November 11, 2020 in the small gym at 5:30PM.

Items for future board consideration will be completed referendum items and a time-line of upcoming projects for this school year and summer of 2021. Unfinished business is marking off-site property lines and awareness by the football field and two-sport athlete consideration in future school years.

During public input, Heidi Gerndt thanked the board for choosing to stay in the blended model with cohorts. Gendt also shared her opinion on dual sport athletes. She shared thoughts on how teammates may feel, a parent's perspective, her opinion from a coach's standpoint and what may be involved as an Athletic Director. Gerndt's concern also included Suring being a small district and if the choice would be for High School athletes only or also include Middle School athletes.

Motion by Lally, seconded by Seibert to convene in Closed Session if approved by roll call vote of the Board. Roll Call Vote: Lally-yes, Regal-yes, Seibert-yes, Sleeter-yes, Piepkorn-yes. Carried 5-0.

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

Motion by Piepkorn seconded by Seibert to adjourn the Open Meeting. Carried 5-0.

Joy Rohde, District Secretary

Time: 8:21P.M.