

**CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

September 14, 2020

President Bednard called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was waived.

Present: Members Aquino, Bednard, Cardamone, DeMuyneck Zech,
Patzert, Pyden and Sobah
Absent: None
Also, Present: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Sederlund, Dr. Blanchard, Dr. Brosky, Ms. Licari,
Mr. Sibley, Mr. Kozlowski, Ms. Blain, Ms. Monnier-White and Ms. Adlam

Note: Due to Governor Whitmer instituting Michigan Executive Directive 2020-02 – Public Meetings of State of Michigan Public Bodies during the COVID-19 Emergency, the board of education meeting was conducted virtually via GoToMeeting.

Additions/Deletions - None

Recognition/Presentations

- Superintendent Ron Roberts reviewed the district’s decision to begin the year remotely.

From the Community

1. Ms. Ashley Griffiths (district parent) indicated that her child is having difficulty with the remote learning model. She indicated her preference for the hybrid model.
2. Ms. Angela Gerrard (district parent) indicated her preference for moving to the hybrid model. She has five children and it is difficult to maintain schedules. She also indicated the stress on her children.
3. Ms. Amanda Schnatz (district parent) indicated in writing that education should continue in a remote version. She understands that some are struggling but is concerned about the presence of COVID.
4. Ms. Dakeena Jones (district parent) discussed the difficulty she is having with keeping her son engaged in a remote format. She expressed belief in the district’s ability to bring students back safely.

5. Ms. Jaime Cross (district parent) discussed issues her son is having with remote learning. She expressed that it is safe to bring the students back to hybrid learning.
6. Ms. Amy Mathers (district parent) is concerned with the level of anxiety her children are experiencing related to tech issues. She would prefer the children return to in-person instruction.
7. Ms. Amy Willie (district parent) addressed the Board regarding the retirement of Cheyenne teacher, Ms. Lori Dane. Ms. Dane has positively impacted the lives of her children and her entire family. Ms. Dane will be missed.
8. Ms. Angie Simon (district parent) believes the children can be returned to school safely. She has found the remote learning to be unacceptable due to the number of distractions the teachers must deal with. She believes the virtual classrooms should have more security.
9. Mr. Gene Kazmierczak (district parent) thanked the district for its efforts but wishes to move to a hybrid model. He expressed having difficulty with technology. He questioned being able to have athletics but not in-person education.
10. Ms. Danielle Franz (district parent) indicated that remote learning is overwhelming for her children as they are expected to sit too long at the computer. She believes that children should be able to return to in-person instruction safely as others nearby are doing it.
11. Ms. Anita Isai (district parent) expressed that remote learning is causing much stress. Some of it is related to difficulties with technology. She would prefer that her children return to school in a hybrid model.
12. Ms. Jillian Ouvry (district parent) expressed that the needs of her children are not being met. She requested that the Board of Education consider students with special needs by establishing in-person instruction.
13. Mr. Rhett Malpass (district parent) is concerned with the difficulty his young son is having with remote learning. He believes if sports can occur then students can return to the classroom.
14. Mr. Christopher Guthrie (district parent) believes that the Board of Education is not representing families by not having the children return to school. He believes that remote education is very difficult for kindergartners.
15. Ms. Anna Neuner (district parent) applauds the teachers for their efforts but is not happy with remote learning. She expressed how much her children miss school.
16. Ms. Kristen Kasprick (district parent) expressed that this virus will not go away and asked that the children return to in-person instruction. She believes that if football can be played, students can be in the classroom.
17. Ms. Christy Borton (district parent) is satisfied with the remote program and believes that parents should give it an opportunity to work. She wanted the Board to know that there are parents who are supportive of remote instruction.

18. Ms. Ashley D. (district parent) expressed dissatisfaction with Schoology for younger children. She believes that students are experiencing too much screen time. She urged the Board to give parents the choice of a hybrid program.
19. Ms. Pamela Jane (district parent) is disappointed in the remote learning plan. She believes that the district has the necessary PPE and therefore, students should be able to safely return to the classroom. Her children's pediatrician believes that children should be in school.
20. Ms. Jennifer Von Itter (district parent) thanked the teachers and the Board of Education but believes the children should be in school.
21. Ms. Jen Minda (district parent) expressed frustration with helping her three children and running a business. She believes the children should be given the opportunity to return to in-person learning.

MOTION #09/15/20 – Moved by Member Pyden and supported by Member DeMuyck Zech to approve the General Consent Agenda to:

- Approve Minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 14, 2020
- Approve General Fund, Food Service, IAM, Childcare, Camps/Clinics Check Register in the amount of \$1,879,474.64
- Approve 2018 Building & Site Payments Report in the amount of \$105,502.38
- Approve Building Activity Check Register in the amount of \$76,393.36
- Approve Personnel Transactions

A roll call vote was taken. Member Pyden, yes; Member DeMuyck Zech, yes; Member Aquino, yes; Member Bednard, yes; Member Cardamone, yes; Member Patzert, yes and Member Sobah, yes. **Motion carried.**

Old Business – None

MOTION #09/16/20 - Moved by Member DeMuyck Zech and supported by Member Pyden that the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education approve Carrier Enterprises, LLC for the purchase of air filters totaling \$70,304.18.

A roll call vote was taken. Member DeMuyck Zech, yes; Member Pyden, yes; Member Aquino, yes; Member Bednard, yes; Member Cardamone, yes; Member Patzert, yes and Member Sobah, yes. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #09/17/20 - Moved by Member DeMuynck Zech and supported by Member Aquino that the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education approve a purchase of trash liners in the amount of \$29,958.94, utilizing the HPS cooperative contract program.

A roll call vote was taken. Member DeMuynck Zech, yes; Member Aquino, yes; Member Bednard, yes; Member Cardamone, yes; Member Patzert, yes; Member Pyden, yes and Member Sobah, yes. **Motion carried.**

Union Communication

- Ms. Kelly Geck (Paraprofessional/Monitors Unit Chairperson) thanked the negotiators and the Board of Education for the recently approved contract.

Administration Reports

Superintendent Roberts reported on the following:

- Indicated the Board of Education members received information with regards to future tech plans and the district will be sending additional information this week.
- This week, administration will be working on concepts as the district begins to consider face-to-face instruction.
- Thanked the Technology Department for all they did to move the district to remote learning.
- Addressed the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. Indicated the Board would be receiving the plan for consideration to approve at the September 28th meeting.

Curriculum Reports

- Dr. Donald Brosky (Asst. Superintendent, Educational Services) presented the educational goals which are a component of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. This will be adopted at the September 28th Board meeting.

Of and by Board Members

- Member DeMuynck Zech agreed with many of the parents that spoke this evening by expressing the difficulties that her children are having with remote learning. She applauded the efforts of the teachers but believes that children are missing their friends and socialization. She understands the need to keep children safe but asked Board Members to discuss a return to in-person learning more frequently than every two weeks.

- Member Patzert agreed with Member DeMuyneck Zech and stated his belief that students should be in school. He indicated feeling especially bad for those children in K-5 and those with special needs.
- Member Aquino thank the parents that spoke and indicated that the Board is listening to them. She has been assisting her two grandchildren with remote learning and it has been positive thus far. She supported starting remotely due to COVID numbers in the county at the time. She indicated her support for elementary and special needs children returning to in-person. Member Aquino commended the staff and the technology department for the effort put forth in opening remotely. She assured parents that the Board will work towards getting the kids back in school as quickly as possible.
- Member Cardamone agrees with the other board members and she, too, voted to start the school year remotely to keep the students and staff safe. Ms. Cardamone struggled with the idea of trying to keep all kids 6 feet apart from each other in a school setting. Ms. Cardamone emphasized she hopes to get into a situation where all kids are back in the buildings, especially the lower elementary and the special needs students. She has concerns with the videos seen on television with other high schools and colleges and how quickly the numbers go up. Ms. Cardamone is asking that the Board of Education conduct a special meeting or board workshop before the next regular board meeting on September 28th.
- Member Pyden indicated she agrees with the other board of education members and made peace with the decision to start school remotely because the affects of under-reacting could be much worse. Ms. Pyden wanted to clarify some of the inaccuracies spoken about and indicated that of the 21 Macomb County districts, only 5 districts returned to in person instruction and one of the districts has already changed their decision. Port Huron schools were back for 3 days and had to close 3 schools. Ms. Pyden indicated in-school learning is best for everyone but, it has only been a week. She emphasized we need to afford each other a little grace during this time. Staff has worked so hard to keep students first. The process to bringing kids back to school should be done slowly and with extreme caution, as we watch the districts around us.

- President Bednard thanked all parents for being very respectful. He indicated it was a tough decision to make and some of the parents who addressed the board of education made comments about things that are not true. The decision was not made lightly. Macomb County was going up in cases and heading in the wrong direction up to the first day of school. He felt tech issues were to be expected, the district never imagined remote learning to be for all time. At the time of the decision, the board looked at the plans for the PPE for in-school learning and did not feel comfortable going face-to-face at that point. Going forward, we will continue to look at the data and scientific numbers coming out. Again, thanked the parents for coming forward. President Bednard asked the Board Members to meet on Monday, September 21, 2020, for a special board meeting to discuss the return to in-person learning.
- Member Sobah wanted to add that every one of the Board of Education members know that face-to-face instruction is the best way to learn and feels with over 15,000 students, plus staff and families, the board of education did what they thought was best for everyone. Not one of the board members feels that face-to-face instruction is not important but had the health of the entire community to think of.

MOTION #09/18/20 – Moved by Member Cardamone and supported by Member Pyden that the meeting be adjourned into Executive Session (*8.c. – Negotiations*).

A roll call vote was taken. Member Cardamone, yes; Member Pyden, yes; Member Aquino, yes; Member Bednard, yes; Member DeMuynck Zech yes; Member Patzert, yes and Member Sobah, yes. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened into Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION #09/19/20 – Moved by Member Sobah and supported by Member Cardamone to amend the agenda.

A roll call vote was taken. Member Sobah, yes; Member Cardamone, yes; Member Aquino, yes; Member Bednard, yes; Member DeMuynck Zech, yes; Member Patzert, yes and Member Pyden, yes. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #09/20/20 – Moved by Member Pyden and supported by Member Aquino to amend the agenda to *add* new Business Item M.1-Approve Secretarial/Clerical Contract (Mr. Roberts) and *move* Adjournment to Item N.

A roll call vote was taken. Member Pyden, yes; Member Aquino, yes; Member Bednard, yes; Member Cardamone, yes; Member DeMuyneck Zech, yes; Member Patzert, yes and Member Sobah, yes. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #09/21/20 – Moved by Member Sobah and supported by Member Aquino that the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education approve the Tentative Agreement reached on September 9, 2020, with the Secretarial/Clerical unit. This proposed new contract was ratified on September 11, 2020, by the Secretarial/Clerical membership.

A roll call vote was taken. Member Sobah, yes; Member Aquino, yes; Member Bednard, yes; Member Cardamone, yes; Member DeMuyneck Zech, yes; Member Patzert, yes and Member Pyden, yes. **Motion carried.**

MOTION #09/22/20 – Moved by Member Aquino and supported by Member Sobah to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken. Member Aquino, yes; Member Sobah, yes; Member Bednard, yes; Member Cardamone, yes; Member DeMuyneck Zech, yes; Member Patzert, yes and Member Pyden, yes. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Cardamone, Secretary
Board of Education