

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**SLINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SLINGER, WISCONSIN**  
**July 26, 2021**  
**High School IMC**

**Routine Business:**

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Strupp at 7:00 PM in High School IMC.

Members answering roll were: Ken Strupp, Joe Havey, Bruce Hassler, Gary Feltz, Jody Strupp, and Roman Weninger; Cherie Rhodes excused. Also present were administrator and directors: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Patrick Armstrong, Karen Hug, and 17 in person guests and 22 guests on the phone.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

After discussion and a few minor changes to the June 21, 2021 regular board meeting minutes, there was a motion by Weninger, seconded by J. Strupp, to approve the four (4) sets of minutes as discussed. Motion carried.

Havey and Sievers reviewed the highlights of the financial report and asked if there were any questions on the financial report. After discussion, there was a motion by Feltz, seconded Hassler, to dispense with the reading of the financial statement and approve as presented. Motion carried.

After discussion and clarifications of the voucher report, there was a motion by Weninger, seconded by Havey, to approve payroll check numbers 58702-58711 and payroll direct deposit numbers 901056262-901056619 totaling \$406,106.52 and A/P check numbers 136392-136651, A/P ACH numbers 202101302-212200047, and wire transfers totaling \$3,047,652.94. Unused check numbers 136389-136391. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Public Comments and Questions:

**In Person:**

Bill Brewer – Publicly thanked Sievers, Curler, and Bock for their cooperation on their assistance with the initial CRT audit request.

Robynn Hora – Mislabeled as a “teacher in Slinger and a whistleblower” after last month’s board meeting; this is not true. She is a proud resident of Slinger, small business owner, and most importantly a concerned Slinger parent. Applauds the School Board, Superintendent, and teaching staff for their efforts in keeping the District open to in-person learning last year. The next task is keeping CRT out of our classrooms, schools, teachings, and training modules. She is here to help analyze and scrutinize educational materials and ensure no form of CRT seeps into our District.

Kelly Erikkla – Member of the CRT audit team and mom of a senior student. Will not taking the pre-ACT last year have an effect on the ACT test this year? Will the pre-ACT material be available to those students who did not take it last year?

Dr. Michelle DeFere - Wants a normal year this coming school year. Do not go back to COVID rules and restrictions.

Pam Konrath – Wants to forward her 90 seconds of speaking to Robynn Hora in order for her to finish her comments. Board did not allow this to happen.

**On Phone:** None

Correspondence:

Sievers presented an email from community member/parent Candi Martin regarding comments from last month's meeting on CRT. Candi Martin expressed that while Bill Brewer and the group of parents wanting to do a curricular audit have a right to their opinion, it does worry her that this group would be looking to make curricular changes. She stated that CRT is a college curriculum that is most often taught at the college or master's degree level. She wants the School Board and District administration to be trusted.

Sievers presented a report on the Gensman property and consider an administrative recommendation to enter into a real estate representation agreement to facilitate the potential sale of this property.

The District received a very competitive offer and it is key to have the transactions be successful.

Mike Hickman has been contacted to represent the Slinger School District in closing a deal. He will counter offer on an hourly rate and not a flat fee because of the uncertainty of the time involved.

Weninger complimented Sievers on his efforts in working with the village, developing firm, and BOE. Synergy is key in this relationship and it is going great, joint efforts by all.

Sievers and Curler presented a report on two concerns from last month's regular board meeting during the public comments and questions section; CRT curriculum questions and TOC training questions.

Curler – Brewer had a list of 20-23 courses to be pulled for curriculum material. All material was sent to Brewer in a couple of days.

Sievers – Any concerns with the material sent needs to go to the curriculum committee prior to coming with questions and details to a regular board meeting. The committee will then meet to discuss the concerns and bring it to the full Board when a decision needs to be made. A meeting date will be set at the end of this meeting.

Sievers – The media changed Hora's message in not a positive way. The previously referenced training by Teacher's on Call -TOC (June 21, 2021 Board meeting) has changed from last November to what is required now. The new required video training is on diversity and not on race. Gender biases/identity is out there but nothing in the way of CRT. Training is provided by TOC and we hire them to do a job. If they do not do their job we have the ability to block the individual from our classroom, building, or entire District.

Sievers presented a report regarding recent critical matters related to COVID-19 plans for the 2021-22 school year. We are approaching the beginning of school. Nothing has changed since we left school in June. We plan to open as normal at this moment in time. The County Health Dept has not changed their stance. They continue to encourage vaccinations, hand washing, and social distancing. Masking remains optional. A district wide survey went out today to parents to choose between in-person or virtual. Last spring 27 students requested virtual; 384 a year ago at this time. Sievers talked with Riteway today regarding the CDC's public transportation rule on masking. Riteway will follow whatever the District is doing with masking optional at this time. If numbers sore we will call a special meeting to discuss COVID in more detail.

Sievers presented a report on the 2020-21 COVID spending, the latest on the District's eligibility for ESSER funds, state aid allocation and local levy impact, and the District's per pupil spending. \$1.4M was left in fund balance at the end of last year for COVID expenses; the District spent \$1.2M. Given the Title I formula for Federal ESSER funding (based on poverty level), Slinger has received approximately \$750,000 thus far to cover COVID expenditures. Additional funding is promised but no decision on how it will be allocated; per pupil basis and/or in-person minutes. Stay tuned as the state finalizes their budget first. Because we received more state aide (just an estimate until October), our local levy is set to go down. These are estimated numbers at this time due to the government not having a final budget to date. Based on 2019-20 data, Slinger is the lowest spending district at \$12,237 per pupil in our surrounding area. Washington County's average sits at \$13,412 per pupil. Slinger ranks at 419 of 423 in spending for the entire state. The annual post card referencing our Annual Meeting set for September

20<sup>th</sup> will be going out to the community in the coming weeks.

Curler presented a recommendation to approve annual resolution 22-1, Notice of Educational Options. Motion by Weninger to approve resolution 22-1 as presented, seconded by J. Strupp. Motion carried.

Curler presented a recommendation to approve annual resolution 22-2, Notice of Academic Standards that are in Effect. Motion by Feltz to approve resolution 22-2 as presented, seconded by Havey. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a recommendation to approve annual resolution 22-3, Non-designated District Support Staff Salaries. Motion by Weninger to approve resolution 22-3 as presented, seconded by Hassler. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a recommendation to approve annual resolution 22-4, District Administrative Salaries. Motion by Havey to approve resolution 22-4 as presented, seconded by J. Strupp. Motion carried.

Hear a discussion regarding future school board meeting formats and processes.

Sievers recommended we keep the on-line forum for at least another month and table this line item until next month's Board meeting. COVID is not going away any time soon so we need to be transparent. The Board feels strongly to enforce the 90 second rule for public comments and questions. Feltz wants to stop the on-line forum going forward but will honor the wishes to table this until next month. Havey would like attendees to come in person if they have a comment and added, if your comment is related to a larger topic requiring board review, it is best if you follow the set procedure of contacting a board member or district administration. They can then work with you to identify appropriate next steps. Unanimous decision to postpone further discussion and possible decision to next month's meeting.

### **Public Comments and Questions:**

#### **In-Person:**

Bill Brewer – There are problems within the 23 courses that were reviewed and results will be given to Mr. Sievers tomorrow along with other requests to include a calling for non-governmental grant funding to be released to the audit team. Complacent kills.

Robynn Hora – Disagrees with 90 second rule and with screening of comments prior to meetings. Speaking for the group, we appreciate the Board and we are not against you; we just want our kids to be protected.

Christa Thorin – Put political views aside. Our children do not know about our own country, presidents, geography, etc... We should be able to stand up for our children and voice an opinion on what is being taught.

Ann Fahrenholz – Athletic code meeting request for incoming freshman because they missed out last year.

Pam Konrath – Publicly thank Bill and Daren for partnering on the CRT issues. She agrees that there are concerns resulting from the curriculum review. She also agrees that further discussions need to be informative but not show political view. Slinger has a strong community.

Dr. Michelle DeFere - Please take into consideration how the school year ended and continue down the same path.

Julie Ayers – Will the High School be able to put out a notice on sporting events so that families can plan if they can watch by zooming/streaming or if they need to come in person.

#### **On Phone:**

Monica Ammerman – Also disagrees with the 90 second rule. Zoom should be available in order to keep transparency between the District and the community. If a special meeting on COVID/masking is necessary please consider to have it sooner than later in order for parents to decide on virtual or in-person learning.

Kristina Mueller – Regarding the CRT debate, currently there is a voice for the Slinger Parent United group but will there be an open forum to discuss what the students are being taught or is the BOE going to decide. She would like to have a voice from a non-Slinger Parent United group point of view.

**Future Dates to Remember:**

August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Curriculum & Instructions Meeting	6:00 PM
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Opening Day with all Staff	7:30 AM
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School	
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Meeting	7:00 PM
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM

Motion by Hassler, seconded by Weninger, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roman Weninger, Alternate Clerk