

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SLINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT
SLINGER, WISCONSIN
September 27, 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, Roman Weninger and Cherie Rhodes. Also present were administrator and directors: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Patrick Armstrong, Ben Frazer, Karen Hug, and 44 in person guests and 77 on-line/phone guests.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

After review and discussion of the minutes presented, motion by Hassler, seconded by Feltz, to approve the four (4) sets of minutes as discussed/presented. 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 Weninger, seconded Rhodes, 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 Rhodes, seconded by Weninger, to approve payroll check numbers 58714-58721 and payroll direct deposit numbers 901056695-901057125 totaling \$639,998.78 and A/P check numbers 136757-137001, A/P ACH numbers 212200111-212200250, and wire transfers totaling \$1,941,745.46. Motion carried.

New Business:

Public Comments and Questions: K Strupp reiterated the need to keep all comments to 90 seconds.

In Person:

Rick Gundrum – Applauds the District for the efforts in their open communication with CRT requests of the parent group and allowing them to be part of the night’s Board agenda as many districts across the state are ignoring the topic. He passed out a copy of the 2021 Senate Bill 411 that is being proposed regarding anti-racism and anti-sexism in pupil instruction and employee training.

Kelly Erkkila – Supports parent group looking into CRT entry into district curriculum.

Lois Krueger-Gundrum – Supports parent group looking into CRT entry into district curriculum. Washington County Resolution 39 was handed out.

Laura Landvatter- Supports parent group looking into CRT entry into district curriculum.

Kristina Mueller- Supports masking in the schools.

Pam Watson-Konrath – Supports parent group looking into CRT entry into district curriculum.

Comments Sent In:

Heather Rahlf – Continue to utilize the SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) curriculum; parents can opt out. Supports masking in schools.

Chris Leis – Supports masking in schools.

Braeden Krueger – Recent graduate that attests that he was not exposed to CRT ideology during his time at Slinger High School.

Natalie Maksimuk – Trusts and supports the current curriculum being taught in the district.

Rebecca Gundrum – Supports masking in schools.

Max Schuette – What information/data is the Board using to go against the Oz/Wash Health Dept and WI

Health Dept recommendations for wearing masks? What criteria has the Board set as the number/percentage in cases before reinstating masks?

Correspondence:

Sievers publicly thanked Quest Engineering, Inc out of Richfield, WI for their generous donation of \$5,000 to our Tech Ed Dept.

Sievers presented a letter written to DPI requesting a waiver in the 2021-22 calculation of Parent Transportation contract amount to reflect the average pupil transportation cost from 2019-20 instead of 2020-21. The difference in per pupil amount is \$146.45 totaling an estimated savings of \$6,000. It is a one-time waiver. Motion to approve the waiver request by Feltz; seconded by Hassler. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a recommendation to purchase a mini-van earlier than expected due to Riteway driver shortage and heavy use of current District vans. The van is in the budget but the cost exceeds administrative authority. Motion by Weninger; seconded by J Strupp, to move forward with the purchase of a mini-van after receiving three (3) bids and taking the lowest bid not to exceed \$36,400. Motion carried.

Feltz presented a report from the last Budget Committee meeting in reference to the District's tax levy authority limit. Annual meeting numbers were presented based on DPI and the Department of Revenue estimates until final numbers are calculated and delivered to the District in October. Open dialogue will continue and another meeting may be necessary prior to the October 25th regular board meeting where the final levy will be set.

Sievers presented a report regarding recent critical matters related to COVID-19 plans for the 2021-22 school year.

1. Slinger School District Dashboard and County Dashboard for 2021-2022

- Current conditions – burden rate (8 zip code Slinger area) is down slightly
- Current District conditions compared to last year on this date-burden rate is up slightly-see handout
- Current conditions compared to the 5-year absence rates-we have one of the best attendance scores in WI as presented at the annual meeting

2. Follow Up from 9-16-21

- Bus masking requirements legal follow up- it is a CDC/federal requirement and we will try to enforce but students and drivers can medically exempt. May offer masks.
- Immune system education request-District nurse gathered updates and suggestions on how to boost individual immune system and posted to the District website.

3. Current School Safety Mitigation Practices

- Masking not required at this time
- Quarantine of all positive cases (vaccinated or not)
- Quarantine of all in-family close contacts (unless vaccinated and symptom free)
- Daily dashboard updates going forward
 - Last year vs. current data was presented
 - Notify/inform of all close contacts
 - Current processes at SMS and SHS – personal phone call to close contacts (quarantine not required) 4% choose to quarantine
 - Currently classroom email goes out to parents at 4K-5th
 - Email entire class for 6-12? – yes, in-lieu of personal phone call
 - Reinforce 2 symptom rule of staying home until symptoms subside – ask the principals if this can be enforced, maybe a shorter option for staying home?

4. Other Mitigation Considerations

- Masking on Buses
 - Still short of drivers, which is making enforcing masking challenging.
5. Thresholds for increased mitigation efforts- the Board can pull together quickly if a change in mitigation efforts are necessary. Need to consider having guidelines in place to know when to call the meeting for not just COVID issues but all illnesses.
 6. Others:
 - Sievers expressed concern for safety, clarity of approach, and community unity.
 - The Board is willing to consider a survey to gauge the community stance on:
 - Masking approach input
 - Contact Tracing/Quarantine approach input
 - Thresholds for increased mitigation efforts input

Havey provided a message to the group regarding the curriculum process and policy.

Community member Bill Brewer presented a report on the approach, initial findings, and next steps for a district-wide curriculum evaluation process being requested by a parent organization. A slide show was presented. A future Curriculum Committee meeting will be necessary for continued discussion. Board would like topics two weeks in advance of any meetings.

Public Comments and Questions:

In-Person:

Robyn Hora – Thank you to the Board. Supports parent group looking into CRT entry into district curriculum.

Kelly Erkkila - Audit chrome books for links with CRT content. Continue to contact trace.

Laurel Harmon – Suuports parent group looking into CRT entry into district. District should welcome the parent volunteers to prove District is good.

Michelle DeFere – Mental health of children is more important than masking.

Eric Spaeth – Masks should be optional.

Pam Watson-Konrath – Thank you for spending the stimulus funds on air quality. Unity is important.

Kristina Mueller – Lots of conflicting views but would like to not have the answer be home school if the district continues to choose not to have required masking.

Bob Kearns- Parents need to communicate with their students to see what is being taught and bring to the attention of the community.

Nicolette Kearns – COVID is never going away. We need to accept the new norm and look for ways to deal with it. Staff/teachers sharing of personal beliefs with students needs to be addressed.

Megan Pedersen – Educate to Empower is CRT driven and is being used in our system.

Trista Bringa – Building immunity needs to be done and would like it to be a community movement.

Future Dates to Remember:

October 18 th	Budget Committee Meeting	5:30 PM
October 18 th	Curriculum Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
October 25 th	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM
November 22 nd	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM
December 20 th	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM

Motion by J Strupp, seconded by Weninger, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Rhodes, Clerk