

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**SLINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SLINGER, WISCONSIN**  
**March 22, 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, Dean Goneau, Patrick Armstrong, Karen Hug, Ben Frazer and 8 in person guests and 32 guests on the phone.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

Motion by Weninger, seconded by Feltz, to approve the four (4) sets of minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Feltz 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 by 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 Feltz, seconded by Hassler, to approve payroll check numbers 58683-58686 and payroll direct deposit numbers 901053085-901053800 totaling \$1,038,887.47 and A/P check numbers 135582-135778, A/P ACH numbers 202100830-202100950, and wire transfers totaling \$1,924,364.03. Motion carried.

New Business:

Public Comments and Questions:

**In Person:**

Kristi Bares: Question on why military families have to identify themselves? A letter went home to parents asking for this information and she was wanting the background behind the letter. Curler noted that the State of Wisconsin, DPI, has required the District to ask the question and because it came in the middle of year it had to be addressed. Going forward the identification will be part of the registration process in the beginning of the year.

**On Phone:**

Bill Brewer: Offered up clarification on Project SEARCH with West Bend Mutual/West Bend School District. A question regarding the partnership came up during the voucher review process. The program helps children with disabilities in Washington County to gain marketable job skills. It is a 9-month transition program that allows them to do both classroom work and unpaid internships at West Bend Mutual to explore different career paths.

Correspondence: None

Sievers presented a letter of resignation from MS 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, Danika Salaj. The board wishes to thank Salaj for her work with our MS students and wishes her well in her future endeavors. Motion by Rhodes, to approve the resignation beginning with the 2021-22 school year; seconded by Havey. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a letter of retirement from Slinger Elementary Special Education aide, Donna Beistle.

The Board wishes to thank Beistle for her 15 years of service to the District and work with our early childhood and special needs students. Motion by Hassler, to approve the retirement beginning with the 2021-22 school year; seconded by Feltz. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a letter of retirement from HS guidance secretary, Pam Bremer. The Board wishes to thank Bremer for her 25 years of dedication to the District and wishes her well in her retirement. Motion by Rhodes, to approve the retirement beginning with the 2021-22 school year; seconded by J. Strupp. Motion carried.

Sievers announced the retirement of MS Special Education teacher, Mary Muehlius. Muehlius then proceeded to read her letter of retirement, in person, to the Board and thank them for their great leadership. The Board wishes to thank Muehlius for her 43 years of dedication to the District and wishes her well in retirement. Motion by Weninger, to approve the retirement beginning with the 2021-22 school year; seconded by Hassler. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a report on the Slinger Middle School Principal hiring process. After one round of interviews on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the interview committee offered the position to current HS Associate Principal, Kari Lutter. Administration is excited to see Lutter in her new role.

Weninger and Sievers presented a report from the Building and Grounds committee regarding the most recent matters related to the Gensman property.

- March 15<sup>th</sup> - EDWC leadership presented follow-up information on a prepared study that proposed concepts and costs associated with developing the properties and how those developmental costs impact the potential listing price for the combined properties of the District and Hetzels.
- Hetzel family expressed sincere interest in listing the properties for sale jointly but at this time are uncertain with a listing price. Once a price is determined, both parties will jointly interview and select a commercial realtor to take the entire 125 acres to market.
- Current update: there are two easements already established for access; Hillside Rd and Hwy 60.

Sievers presented a report regarding recent critical matters related to COVID-19 impacting the 2020-21 school year. (It is the one-year anniversary of supplemental agendas due to COVID issues/updates.)

1. Slinger School District Dashboard: <https://www.slinger.k12.wi.us/district/covid19.cfm>.
  - New cases - 1 staff and 3 students at this time after 3 days of zero/zero.
  - Importance of staying the course - We are proud to have been open since September. Feel it is important to continue the safety efforts in place until end of the school year. Encouraged by the continued vaccine roll out progress.
  - Post-spring break surge? - Probably not but more social activities will happen and we need to be cautious in order to reach our goal of staying open/in-person learning through June 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. Update from Health Department:
  - Masking Document/Stance from County- Urge to play it safe and keep masking in place. Schoemann is urging the County to reopen with an emphasis on churches and restaurants. School have done a good job so far. Board is encouraging to keep masks on and stay the course. We have been successful with school and extracurricular activities thus far so we will continue our practices. Virtual students are coming back because they are comfortable so we need to stay status quo. Fall looks like it will be able to be a more normal school year.
  - Update on vaccine dispersal efforts - We have been able to scatter the appointments without any big spike in absences.

- Concerns about second dose and potential absences – 10 days after the final vaccine there is no contact tracing rule. The 90 days after rule has been dropped. We have/are able to scatter the shots so we should be able to sustain the vaccine push and not need a mass subbing pool.
3. Update from CDC:
    - 3 feet vs. 6 feet – With masks on we can now separate students by 3 feet instead of 6 feet. We will continue to urge 6 feet apart between teachers and students. This should result in less contact tracing.
    - When 6 feet still applies – covered above.
    - Affirmations of yearlong efforts-CDC guidance is now nationwide and Slinger has been doing the right thing since September when we opened our doors to students.
  
  4. Federal COVID relief monies (ESSR):
    - 90% of the monies will continue to be divided up by using the Title I formula (with a minimum distribution amount). Hopefully by next month, we should know how much we will be getting from the state and federal governments.
  
  5. District Provided Covid Relief time-off (DPCR):
 

Administration is recommending the Board of Education to approve the District Provided COVID Relief (DPCR) hours to be extended through the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. This is an extension of the approved time off from January to be reviewed at the March meeting. This is to take the place of the voluntary federal FFCRA extension program that is available from April 1 through September 30, 2021. Motion by Hassler, to approve the recommendation to extend the DPCR through the remainder of the school; seconded by Rhodes. Motion carried.
  
  6. Fall Intentions Survey:
 

Survey to families to see how many are entertaining the virtual option for the 2021-22 school year. District needs this information in order to know staffing impact for the fall. District wants to offer contracts to three virtual teachers in order to address potential learning loss. Board has requested administration to wait to send out the survey until further discussion on virtual programming is complete. Curler added that virtual options will be for one more year but it is not sustainable. If the Board will be offering virtual options past one more year; we will need to look into other sustainable options. The survey will be brought to the Board in April for approval before sending the final version out to families.

Motion by Weninger, to retain three virtual teachers by offering one-year contracts for the 2021-22 school year; seconded by Hassler. Motion carried.
  
  7. Summer School Update:
 

Curler stated that the District’s summer school program is up and running in high demand and will be delivered at the MS location (4k through HS options available). The program will be run as normal (prior to COVID). No fee for enrichment courses but a small fee for fun classes and course materials.
  
  8. School Events for Consideration:
    - Euro-trip (delayed) Seniors will be reimbursed by the District for any loss funds.
    - Peru-trip (June-pending) We will know more in April.

- SHS Musical (June) – Auditions this week. Not sure on audience capacity. They will hold as many shows as possible so everyone can attend.
- Spring Concerts (limited capacity) - 2 guests per member of choir/band; same ratio as athletic programs to stay within the limits.
- Honours, Inc. (limited capacity) - same as above; 2 guests per member.
- Prom (Slinger Students only) – Separate senior and junior prom will be held two weekends in May. Students may attend one event only. It will be a masked event. NO post prom.
- History Night (pending)
- Graduation – Wait and see how capacity limits progress. Because it will be held at our facility (indoor or outdoor), we can hold off on a decision for another month and bring back in April. Board will need to pick a date, rain date, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ceremony date.
- Charlie Berens Rotary Event – rescheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>. Watch for updates on the website as they become available. <http://slingerallentonrotary.org/>

Review the above school events for updates monthly.

**Public Comments and Questions:**

**In-Person:**

Candi Martin: Question in reference to graduation; will it be streamed? Yes. Scheduling of dates and rain dates the sooner the better as it is important to plan for out of town guests.

Kristi Bares: Thank you for in person education. Masks are a big deal to kids; they want to see faces again. The School District of Slinger needs to keep setting the trends for others. Thank you for listening.

David Leider: Can recess be lightened up and let kids mix with other classes? Sievers responded that it will be addressed at the next Administrative Council meeting. Can plastic barriers be lifted? Sievers responded that this too will be brought up at the meeting.

**On Phone:**

April Brodzeller: Question regarding in-person 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation/promotion and HS graduation; can there be a 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation/promotion this year? Sievers responded that it will be discussed at the next Administrative Council meeting.

**Future Dates to Remember:**

|                        |                              |         |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| April 19 <sup>th</sup> | Building and Grounds Meeting | 6:00 PM |
| April 26 <sup>th</sup> | Regular Board Meeting        | 7:00 PM |
| May 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Regular Board Meeting        | 7:00 PM |

Motion by Feltz, seconded by Jody Strupp, to go into closed session at 8:12 PM

Motion by Havey, seconded by Weinger, to come out of closed session at 8:51 PM

Motion by Hassler, seconded by Havey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Rhodes, Clerk