

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SLINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT
SLINGER, WISCONSIN
May 24, 2021
High School IMC

Routine Business:

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

President Ken Strupp provided opening remarks to the community, both in person and on-line, regarding the past 14 months of decision making and working together as one unit for the good of our students. Knowing the decisions that would be made in the meeting tonight would not please everyone, he asked that the Board of Education and community would continue to work together in the same manner as in for the past year knowing the common goal is what is best for the students, staff, and families of the community.

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, Karen Hug, Ben Frazer and 42 in person guests and 64 guests on the phone.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

Motion by Weninger, seconded by Rhodes, to approve the two (2) 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 Havey, 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 Feltz, to approve payroll check numbers 58692-58696 and payroll direct deposit numbers 901054889-901055249 totaling \$517,946.28 and A/P check numbers 135944-136091, A/P ACH numbers 202101050-202101137, and wire transfers totaling \$1,682,741.71. Voided check number 135900. Motion carried.

New Business:

Public Comments and Questions:

In Person:

Candi Martin – Concerned with graduation details (streaming info). When will they be shared?

Bill Brewer – Masks should be 100% optional for staff and kids, people are done with it. Please consider the information sent to you yesterday regarding neutralizing antibodies (COVID-19 natural immunity once you have had the virus) to be equal with antibodies generated through approved vaccines. HR/Budget Mtg (held prior to the Board meeting) comment: The extra tax burden on individuals is minimal compared to the rules and regulations put forth by the state/federal government for their funds. How can we eliminate federal funding?

Monica Ammerman– St. Pete’s mom asking for no masks as the Archdiocese says it is your choice. St. Pete’s has followed the Slinger School District thus far. Can we please finish the year seeing faces? Give the students a choice with NO limitations.

Dr. Michelle - Slinger has been awesome for being in session this year. Masks should be optional and the kids should know it is optional. Vaccines are a personal choice and cannot be required.

Claire Ammerman (Elem. Student) – I do not like masks; they are hot. Please let us not have to wear masks.

Robynn Hora- Masks should be optional with no singling out or separation from the rest of the group.
Brooke Zimmerman – Very proud of Slinger from the beginning. We were the leaders in the county, and our teachers were awesome. Concern that Riteway bus company is still enforcing masks, can they stop?
Janis Braden and Leah Knuepple (Riteway drivers) – It is a family choice/student choice for masks. Some drivers enforce the masks and some are more lax. Students had assigned seats in the beginning due to contact tracing.
Kathy Gevaart - Asking for no masks for 5 year olds. They need to see faces.
Phil Larson – Hartford parent with 2 SHS boys. We are playing games with the data, we have to move on and it has to end. End masks tonight...please.

On Phone: None

Correspondence:

Stolaski's HS class wrote thank you notes of appreciation to the Board that will be shared electronically tomorrow.

Sievers presented two letters of resignation. First, from Slinger Elementary library assistant, Amber Hansen. The Board wishes to thank Hansen for her 15 years of service to the District. Second, from Slinger High School instructional aide, Heidi Green. The Board wishes to thank Green for her 8 years of service to the District and providing support to some of our most needing students. Motion to approve the two resignations beginning with the 2021-22 school by Hassler; seconded by J Strupp. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a letter of retirement from High School physical education teacher, Steve Reinhardt. The Board wishes to thank Reinhardt for his 31 years of teaching and coaching for the District and wishes him well in his retirement. Motion to approve the letter of retirement beginning with the 2021-22 by Weninger; seconded by Havey. Motion carried.

Annual election of Board Officers: Motion by Rhodes, seconded by Weninger, to nominate K. Strupp as president. Motion carried. Weninger gave Havey praise for his efforts on the Board and asked Havey if he would consider a board position. Feltz offered to step down as treasurer; Havey accepted. Motion by Rhodes to nominate Havey as treasurer; seconded by Weninger. Motion carried. Motion by Havey; seconded by Weninger to nominate Hassler as vice president. Motion carried. Motion by Hassler, seconded by Feltz to nominate Rhodes as clerk. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a report on the hiring of the Slinger High School Associate Principal and introduced Mr. Kevin Bryant. Bryant was in attendance with his family. Warm welcome from all.

Sievers introduced the new District Pupil Services Director Angie Wikus, current Allenton building principal. Angie was present for the acknowledgment. Applause and congratulations from the group.

Sievers presented an administrative recommendation to accept a request by the High School music department for a November 2022 trip to Hawaii. Adam Kieckhafer and Graham Wesley, HS band directors, were present to make this request (every three years). A HS choir component is being added to the trip opportunity for students in the entire music program. Motion by Rhodes; seconded by J Strupp, to accept the request to travel to Hawaii and have the choir students be a part of the trip. Motion carried. Kieckhafer thanked the board for their consideration to keep the band and choir programs going all year.

Rhodes presented a report from the most recent Human Resources Committee meeting in regards to personnel decisions made for the 2021-22 school year. ELL need at Allenton Elementary; ELL need and reading specialist at Slinger Elementary; reading specialist, principal, 8th grade math teacher, and part time German teacher needed at the Middle School, and Associate Principal, guidance secretary, alternative ed teacher, and pay/stipend for NHS advisory at the High School. The District is looking for versatility in their

hiring and the compensation formula is working to get individuals to join the team. True Time is in place for next year in order to have time tracking for our hourly support staff. Updates on insurance rates will be forth coming in June. Sievers followed with updates on the positions mentioned above.

Havey presented a 2nd reading of policy #671.5. A new policy regarding employee compensation paid from federal grants during extraordinary circumstances. Motion by Rhodes, seconded by Feltz to accept policy #671.5 as presented. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a report regarding recent critical matters related to COVID-19 impacting the 2020-21 school year and plans for the 2021-22 school year.

1. Slinger School District Dashboard: <https://www.slinger.k12.wi.us/district/covid19.cfm>.
Armstrong pulled up the site to demonstrate where Slinger stands. We are very favorable-best all year. Slinger is lowest in the region since it has been tracked in the Oz-Wash region.
 - New cases – Most favorable snapshots continue, 0 staff/0 students
 - Vaccine Progress - 70% of staff receiving their first dose; 66% receiving their second dose
2. Update from Health Department:
 - Masking- nothing new/no changes; they will not require masks but remain recommended
 - New CDC guidance – same as above
 - Contact tracing/quarantining – new director said that maybe isolate positive cases but not to quarantine others/contact trace; trying to be fair to all
 - Director Turnover – 3rd director in 6 months

Sievers asked the Board to discuss their direction on masking for the district. 160 students are now situationally exempt because of mental health, hygiene, and religious reasons.

- ✓ Isolation vs Contact Tracing: Motion by Rhodes, seconded by J Strupp to isolate a positive case but not require the individual(s) that are contract traced to quarantine effective tomorrow morning. Motion carried unanimously.
 - ✓ Masking: Motion by Feltz, seconded by J Strupp that masks are not required on district grounds for all stakeholders. Motion carried unanimously.
 - ✓ Timing of mask decision: Motion by Weninger, seconded by Rhodes for no masks required for all district events effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Federal COVID relief monies (ESSR): Stay tuned – several formulas on the table at the state level. Title I formula is a guarantee. We still do not know what we will end up with after the Title I distribution.
 4. Summer School – masks are not required.
 5. Fall Intentions Survey – Counts and staffing impact. Curler presented that there were 936 responses; 27 students expressed interest in virtual next year. Not set in stone as anyone could change their decision. 2 virtual teachers are currently hired.
 6. Fall Planning – masks are not required. A return to a normal school year is being planned.
 7. School Events for Consideration:
 - Choir Concert – 2 guests per member tonight
 - History Night – Military and music theme in May – 100% capacity
 - SHS Graduation and 8th grade Promotion plans –
After a discussion by the board with Ourada & Sievers regarding logistical impact of a potential change in capacity guidance, there was a motion by Rhodes, and a second by Weninger to allow 100% capacity in gym with masks not required. Access to the PAC will be provided where socially distant seating and live streaming of the

ceremony will take place. Will be keeping the limited band/choir plans in place for the ceremony. Motion carried.

Weninger thanked the administration for making this year work with success and special thanks to Sievers for his communication with the county, CDC and surrounding area school districts.

- SHS Musical (June 24, 25, 26) - 100% capacity

Public Comments and Questions:

In-Person:

Bill Brewer – thanks for listening and taking quick action.

Kevin Schneider - thank you for making the year successful.

Phil Larson – Hartford parent. When the numbers start spiking, please keep an open mind.

Dr. Trista Bringa- thank you for the 4k exemption this year. When looking forward to fall, consider taking precautions and informing families on the recommendations of vitamin D,C to boost immune systems.

Aaron Kurth – thank you for listening to the community, it is pretty cool.

Sievers – thank you to the community, it has not been easy for any of us.

Kristi Bares – her student was exempt from masking and was singled out this past year; it will be helpful to not have masks going forward.

Kathy Gevaart – lock down and virtual learning was different this year so tomorrow and next year will be great. Keep in mind next year that quarantining does not work.

Dr. Michelle – take the information from this year and work with it. COVID is like the flu. We need to manage our school system with COVID as part of it. It is here to stay. Next year we need to change our strictness for the good of our kids.

On Phone: None

Weninger – Thank you to Ben Frazer for all his efforts in keeping our buildings clean & sanitized throughout this pandemic.

Future Dates to Remember:

June 6 th	SHS Graduation	1:30 PM (12:30 in DO Conf Rm)
June 21 st	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM
July 26 th	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM

Motion by Weninger, seconded by Rhodes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Rhodes, Clerk