

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SLINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT
SLINGER, WISCONSIN
June 21, 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 (via phone). Also present were administrator and directors: Daren Sievers, Jim Curler, Patrick Armstrong, Karen Hug, Ben Frazer and 27 in person guests and 5 guests on the phone.

Sievers affirmed the public notice.

Motion by Weninger, seconded by Feltz, to approve the two (2) sets of minutes as 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 Rhodes, seconded Feltz, 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 Hassler, seconded by Weninger, to approve payroll check numbers 58697-58701 and payroll direct deposit numbers 901055250-901056261 totaling \$3,144,966.01 and A/P check numbers 136092-136388, A/P ACH numbers 202101138-202101301, and wire transfers totaling \$2,272,104.56. Motion carried.

New Business:

Public Comments and Questions:

In Person:

Bill Brewer – Shared his beliefs/perspective on critical race theory “CRT” as a black man, parent in the district, grandparent and coach in district. Personally, he has only experienced kindness and respect in Slinger and wants to keep it that way. He addressed the presence of a lot of recent attention in our country regarding critical race theory or “CRT”. The goal of CRT is to divide America along racial lines and create conflict. It is accurate to say that it is Marxist at its core; feeding lies that whites are all racist and evil people. School curricula, based on these horrific ideas (e.g., The 1619 Project), is being pushed to schools all across the county, in our state and in our county. He feels we need to audit and ban CRT from the curriculum, review and train staff, and use WI state senate bill 411 to help draft the ban. He is urging the Board to take this seriously.

Weninger – In 1860 President Lincoln was the first Republican President elected and went to war with the South to abolish slavery. Three hundred thousand Union soldiers died fighting for freedom and liberty for all.

- Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director Jim Curler – CRT is not in our curriculum this year or in the future. If there are any questions on what is being taught please ask the teacher and escalate to the principal if necessary. We would notify the parents in advance should we change the curriculum our normal curriculum review process.

Bill Brewer – Reiterated he would like to see an audit of our curriculum to be sure CRT is not being covered.

We cannot assume ideologies are not being filtered into our system in some way.

Eric Spaeth – What are the District plans for fall as far as the visitor policy? Slinger did a great job at the last meeting in May by opening up and allowing end of year celebrations however, there was no visitors for 4K graduation...disappointing.

- Superintendent Daren Sievers – The board has approved a return to all policies for the 2021-2022 school year. Including allowing visitors in the buildings.

On Phone:

Robynn Hora – High School parent that signed up to help in a classroom and has proof that the subbing agency used by the district (Teachers on Call) is training approved subs to treat skin color differently in the classroom. CRT is present in the curriculum and on-line courses. Quizzes have questions about racism that would violate privacy regarding gender, race, sexuality, etc... Teachers and substitute teachers are made to take classes to separate students of color and other differences. Wants to help with a CRT audit should one be conducted.

Correspondence: 2 items

- 1) Sievers presented a letter from graduated senior Tyler Strupp regarding his views on the state of the District's current lunch program. Main concern is that there is not enough food for the price paid for a single lunch. Concern is being looked into with the Food Service team for further understanding.
- 2) Sievers presented a letter from local business owner Chris Hitler. He wants a protective netting for his storage sheds located by the new JV ball diamond. He also wants a dead tree removed from the lot line. There was safety netting installed for the varsity field and he would like the same for the JV field. The cost could be about \$50,000- 60,000 for the netting. There is no damage yet, but the concern is warranted. Sievers will be looking into the situation and report back.

Sievers presented a report regarding the 2020-21 FFA program. Participation has soared from 40-50 members to over 140 since Katelyn Dei has become the advisor. Dei gave a very impressive state of the program to the Board. Past and present FFA members were in attendance to help present their accomplishments.

Sievers presented three letters of resignation. First, from Slinger High School english teacher, Janalee Bach. The Board wishes to thank Bach for her 5 years of service to the District. Second, from Allenton Elementary instructional aide, Jill Pfund. The Board wishes to thank Pfund for her 2 years of service to the District and providing support to some of our most needing students. Third, Slinger Elementary music teacher, Elizabeth Schulz. The Board wishes to thank Liz for her 7 years of part time service to the District. Motion to approve the three resignations beginning with the 2021-22 school by Weninger; seconded by Havey. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a report on the hiring of Allenton Elementary Principal, Rebecca Schneider. Schneider was publicly introduced and in attendance with her family. Warm welcome from all.

Sievers introduced the District's health insurance agent, Ken Zastrow from National Insurance Services (NIS). Zastrow gave an update on the state of the District's health insurance due to the high renewal rates provided by Humana. NIS took the District to bid and another competitive carrier information was presented. Recommendation to switch carriers was proposed and a motion will be presented later on in the meeting.

Feltz presented a report regarding the June 16th CESA 6 Regional School Board meeting. CESA 6 presented their accomplishments for 2020-21; on-site COVID testing for participating districts and communication services for annual reports. CESA 6 will be in the black at the end of this fiscal year for

the first time in several years. They introduced four new services available for next year; school web communication, group engagement services (to reduce employee turnover rates), computer science program, and a diversity and equity program.

Hug presented an administrative recommendation to approve updated signature cards at Forte Bank for District banking authorizations. District has a treasurer change from Feltz to Havey and updates to the signer and wire agreements per district office availability. Motion by Weninger; seconded by Hassler, to accept the Forte Bank changes as presented. Motion carried.

Sievers presented an administrative recommendation to renew several insurance policies through R&R Insurance. Annual renewal of Property and Casualty, Crime, Liability, and Work Comp. Overall percent change for all coverages with R&R is -0.7%. Motion by Weninger; seconded by Feltz, to accept the renewal insurance policies as presented. Motion carried.

Sievers presented a report regarding federal funding questions asked during the public comment time at the May school board meeting. Slinger is in the lowest 2% of the state for spending. Federal dollars are largely special ed dollars and help us pay for the needs of these students. 9.8% are special ed students. Even with federal funding for special ed student costs, an average \$2.5M is transferred from Fund 10 to Fund 27 annually. Title funds are also necessary to help with the needs of ELL and mental health services for students. The three rounds of ESSER funds are for COVID related expenses but are still not final on the amount's districts will receive.

Sievers presented a report regarding recent critical matters related to COVID-19 plans for the 2021-22 school year. The District's visitor policy will revert back to prior COVID; parents will be able to volunteer and attend events. The masking policy will discontinue. Per the most recent parent survey results, 27 students (4K-12) have interest in virtual learning for next year. Three teachers were Board approved to be hired for virtual learning with one already assigned to a new district position. Expectations for next year will be a typical year with increased cleaning and enhanced ventilation systems. More parental education events for next year; i.e. vaping, social media speaker, and mental health specialist. These events will allow parents to get involved and see how COVID has impacted our student lives.

Sievers presented a report from the most recent Human Resource/Budget committee meeting. Two topics were discussed and action items were presented.

- 1) After renewal rates were presented by Humana, NIS, the District's health insurance broker, went to bid and compared Humana to other competitive proposals. A 2-year rate increase savings by switching from Humana to WCA. An administrative recommendation was presented to change health insurance carriers from Humana to WCA. Motion by Hassler; seconded by Havey, to accept the WCA 2-year contract as presented. Motion carried.
- 2) An administrative recommendation was presented on wage increases for the 2021-22 school year. The District will remain in mid-range of the county comparable. Low end/entry level rates will need to stay on the radar for the future as we are competing with other industries in our county. We need to stick to our mission statement of hiring, developing, and retaining a high-quality staff. Turnover rate is low and we need to keep it that way. Motion by Rhodes; seconded by J. Strupp, to accept resolution 21-9 Support Staff hourly Wages as presented. Motion carried. (Weninger and Havey sustained from the support staff vote.) A comparison to local nursing and police force staff was provided at the committee meeting and we have a shallow pool of teachers applying for positions. A teacher shortage is evident. Proposed teacher salaries are remaining regionally competitive and in the mid-range. Motion by Feltz; seconded by J. Strupp, to accept resolution 21-8 Teacher Salaries as presented. Motion carried.
Note: Increases to employees in good standing only based on evaluation process.

Public Comments and Questions:

In-Person:

Bill Brewer – Has received notice during the meeting of additional people willing to help with the CRT audit. Thank you for the clarification on federal funding. The CESA 6 report from Feltz is what he was talking about; the diversity and equity program can be introduction to CRT. Be careful not to be influenced.

Jessi Steenbekkers- Thank you for allowing parents to view last concert of the year.

On Phone: None

Future Dates to Remember:

July 12 th	Closed Session – Superintendent Eval	6:00 PM
July 14 th	Closed Session – Superintendent Eval	6:00 PM
July 26 th	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM
August 23 rd	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM
September 20 th	Annual Meeting	7:00 PM
September 27 th	Regular Board Meeting	7:00 PM

Motion by Weninger seconded by Hassler, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherie Rhodes, Clerk