

North Pekin-Marquette Heights School District No. 102
Committee of the Board of Education
January 12, 2021
Georgetowne School Library

MINUTES

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Knox called the meeting to order at 6 PM in the Georgetowne library. Mr. Sondgeroth took board attendance. Members who were present are marked with an "X".

Knox	Higdon	Shockley	Buhl	Therry	Vo	Williams
X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Others Present: Mr. Sondgeroth, Mrs. Lindsay

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

Building and Grounds

Discussion Regarding Building Consolidation – After the presentation by Mr. Sondgeroth to the board at the December 15, 2020 board meeting, the board continued discussing this topic. Mr. Sondgeroth informed the board that during the district's January 6 institute day, he made himself available to all district staff members that wanted to discuss what had been presented to the board in December. Mr. Sondgeroth was only contacted by teachers from RES so he met with one small group of teachers (3 teachers) from 1:00-1:45 PM and another small group (4 teachers) from 1:45-2:30 to discuss the topic and answer questions. Mrs. Lindsay sat in on each of those meetings and took notes. Mr. Sondgeroth shared some of those concerns with the board.

The board also discussed the next steps it should take in the process, focusing on communicating the information presented at the December 15 meeting to the parents and community. Mr. Sondgeroth provided the board with a copy of the minutes from that meeting. The board agreed that sending out those minutes would be the first step in the communication plan. Mr. Sondgeroth also shared his thoughts regarding a question and answer document he had begun preparing. He had already begun gathering questions that were asked at the December board meeting, as well as questions from his meetings with the RES staff and from communications he has had with parents and community members. He indicated that he would provide his email address to parents when sending out minutes from the meeting. That way, parents could contact him with additional questions they might have. The goal is to share that Q & A document with the public the week of January 18.

The board discussed opening up the January 26 meeting for limited audience participation. Board policy allows the board to limit public comments for a single topic to 20 minutes. This could be done by having audience members sign witness petition slips when they enter the meeting if they want to address the board. The board could limit each witness to five minutes while limiting the total amount of time on the topic to 20-30 minutes. The board would hear comments and concerns from those witnesses chosen to speak during the time frame, but the board would not engage in discussion during the public comment period. Mr. Sondgeroth indicated that this was going to be his recommendation for one of the next steps in the communication plan. Given recent events over the weekend, where Miss Malin started an online petition to keep Rogers School open, this step becomes even more important so that the community can be heard at the January 26 meeting. The board agreed that this is a necessary step in the process. Mr.

Sondgeroth will look into the best location for the meeting and how that meeting can be conducted safely given the current COVID mitigation requirements. The meeting may need to be held in the GMS auditorium or the gym. Mr. Sondgeroth will also look into seeing if the meeting can be done virtually if necessary.

Finally, Mr. Sondgeroth shared a proposed timeline for discussion/action as the board continues to move forward discussing the possible closing of Rogers School. He indicated that the March board meeting would be the latest he believes a decision could be made to allow for the district to begin moving forward with a transition for the 2021-22 school year. This also allows the remainder of January, February and most of March to continue discussions and answer questions.

Finances

Monthly Budget Report – At the mid-point of the fiscal year, Mr. Sondgeroth took some time to walk the board through the monthly report and discuss the district's current state of financial affairs.

TIF District – At a meeting last fall, Mr. Sondgeroth discussed a proposed Pekin Court St. TIF District which could impact District 102. Initially, Districts 102, 108 and 303 were included in those discussions, but that has changed. Discussion on the TIF appears to have ended. Mr. Sondgeroth has touched base with the Superintendents of Pekin 108 and 303 and both indicate that there has been no further movement or discussion shared with them.

Second Round of CARES Act Money – The district has received notification that it will be receiving more money through the extended CARES Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). No final amounts have been shared at this point.

Personnel

New Superintendent – Mr. Sondgeroth informed the board that Mrs. Lindsay completed all her coursework and other requirements in December and submitted it through the ROE. Her Superintendent endorsement has been approved by ISBE and has been uploaded into her online portal. She is now official.

Employment of a District Secretary – With Mrs. Donahue retiring in August, 2021, the district will need to formally approve her replacement. As part of the transition, Mrs. Donahue has been working with Mrs. Crank (RES secretary) to replace her. Mr. Sondgeroth informed the board that he plans to add Mrs. Crank's transfer to the district office secretarial position to the January 26 agenda for approval.

Teacher Retirement – Mr. Sondgeroth also informed the board that he had received a letter of retirement from Jeanne Auffrey, RES teacher. The retirement is effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Sondgeroth complimented Mrs. Auffrey on the work she has done for the district over the years. Mr. Sondgeroth explained that after all resignations and retirement, the administration will look at the enrollment and other circumstances to determine if the position will need to be filled moving forward.

One-Year Extension of CBA – Mr. Sondgeroth reminded the board that the NPMH Federation of Teachers has ratified a one-year extension to the current CBA. The one-year extension will extend the current collective bargaining agreement which runs from 2017-2021 to 2017-2022. The board now must approve the agreement. This will be an action item at the January 26, 2021 board meeting. Mr. Sondgeroth explained that as part of the one-year extension, all provisions in the current contract will carry over into a 5th year including a \$1,600 increase in teacher salaries and a 1.5% increase to the

supplemental base in the Supplemental Pay Schedule. These are unchanged from the previous four years of the contract. The only other change is the elimination of section 2.7 regarding Fair Share.

Policy

PRESS Issue 106 Policy Updates – The board reviewed PRESS issue 106 which addresses policies 3:40, 4:10, 4:55, 4:80, 4:90, 4:150, 4:175, 5:30, 5:190, 5:270, 6:15, 6:20, 6:40, 6:280, ~~6:300~~, ~~6:310~~, 6:315, ~~6:320~~, 6:340, 7:100, 7:140, 7:300 7:325. Policies 6:300, 6:310 and 6:320 deal with high schools and do not need to be approved. Mr. Sondgeroth indicated that the policy updates will be on the January 26, 2021 board meeting agenda for approval.

Other Items from the Superintendent and Board Members

District Summary of Confirmed CV-19 Cases- Mr. Sondgeroth reviewed the charts summarizing the District's cases of CV-19 this year. The district did well up to mid-December before seeing a spike in cases at MES. A majority of those cases have recovered and have returned.

Board Elections – Mr. Sondgeroth shared a copy of the Certificate of Ballot from the Tazewell County Clerk's office. This Certificate of Ballot is for the April 6, 2021 election. The District only had one individual who submitted paperwork to run for one of the four vacant seats.

ADJOURN

Motion by Buhl to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Second by Higdon. Motion passed by acclamation.



Keith Knox, President



Andrew Shockley, Secretary