

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
1076 N. 37th Street, Galesburg, MI 49053 * 269-484-2000
Regular Board of Education Meeting
December 21, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting – Meeting ID: 341 600 4497

To join Zoom Meeting by computer:

- Enter: <https://zoom.us/j/3416004497>
- Then Click Open Zoom Meeting
- Enter Password: **123456**

MINUTES

Superintendent: Wendy Maynard-Somers
Board Trustees: Jeff McCubbin, Diana Walker, Stephanie Knoblock, Archie Silkworth, Carolyn Martin, Kim Hubbard, Ben Overgaard

This is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jeff McCubbin, Diana Walker, Stephanie Knoblock, Kim Hubbard, Archie Silkworth, Carolyn Martin, Ben Overgaard
Members Absent: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by D. Walker and supported by A. Silkworth to approve the agenda as presented.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2020 and December 7, 2020.

B. Approval of Accounts Payable
Accounts payable in the amount of \$301,071.95 for the month of November, 2020.

C. Approval of Treasurer's Report
Treasurer's report dated November 30, 2020 in the amount of \$2,871,022.74.

D. Approval of New Hires/Resignations/Retirements
New Hires: Nancy Saline, School Nurse; Caleb Baker, Early Childhood Special Education Paraprofessional.

Motion by D. Walker and supported by C. Martin to approve the consent agenda as presented.

VI. REPORTS

- A. Celebration
- Retirement

Vision Statement:

To encourage learning, inspire pride and support all students. WE ARE G-A!

Mission Statement:

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will empower all students to be productive and responsible citizens.

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic, (collectively "Protected Classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The District's Compliance Officers shall handle inquiries regarding the Board's nondiscrimination policies and any complaint of discrimination.

Complaints or inquiries should be forwarded to:

1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
1076 N. 37th Street, Galesburg, MI 49053 * 269-484-2000

Cheryl Colvin was recognized for her service and retirement from her position as Kitchen Manager at the Middle School.

B. Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report

Diana Walker stated that the Superintendent Evaluation Committee met on December 15 to reopen discussion of the superintendent's contract. The committee agreed to offer a 2.5% pay increase with a \$5,000.00 bonus that was delayed from the 2019-2020 school year.

C. EPIC MRA Results – KRESA Special Education Millage

Superintendent Maynard-Somers stated that EPIC MRA results revealed that there is a significant amount of support in the county for the special education millage which will be on the May ballot. It is important to note that this is a renewal and not a new millage request.

VII. BUSINESS ITEMS – DISCUSSION

A. Monthly Budget Discussion

Phillip Heasley, business manager, stated that there is nothing out of the ordinary to report regarding the budget. He noted that the district's federal funds are higher because of the CARES Act. He also stated that daycare tuition funds will be monitored and will be looked at during the next budget revision.

B. Compensation for Administration and Other Support Staff

Superintendent Maynard-Somers informed the board that a pay increase for administration and support staff will amount to \$24,000.00 out of the budget.

C. Reconfirmation of Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

Superintendent Maynard-Somers reviewed the Extended Continuity Plan that needs to be approved monthly by the board.

D. KRESA Special Education Millage Proposal

Superintendent Maynard-Somers explained that six years ago Kalamazoo County voters approved a special education millage of 1.5 mills. The funds received from this millage in addition to the foundation allowance and 51C grant fully reimburse the district's special education costs. As a result, the district does not pay anything out of the general fund for special education costs. The board will be asked to approve a resolution declaring support of the special education millage proposal being placed on the May 4, 2021 ballot.

E. Resolution for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds

The board decided last spring to delay the ballot proposal for the addition/modifications to the Primary School, a multipurpose instructional facility for the High School and building a multi-purpose athletic facility. The Michigan Department of Treasury needs to approve the proposal before the decision to place it on the May 4, 2021 ballot.

F. Resolution to Permit Virtual Meetings

During the Covid-19 pandemic and consistent with executive orders and rules developed by MIOSHA, school boards have been allowed to hold their meetings virtually. Currently, the rules allow virtual meetings to be held through December 31, 2020, but current legislation could extend it through March 31, 2021.

G. Resolution Granting Emergency Powers to the Superintendent

As done last spring, pandemic learning often requires modifications to current board policy to accommodate changing executive orders and MIOSHA requirements. By adopting this resolution, the Superintendent has greater flexibility to respond quickly and appropriately to the evolving crisis-situation. The emergency powers expire at the end of the 2020-21 school year or earlier should circumstances change and the Board chose to rescind.

H. First Reading NEOLA Policies Volume 35 No. 1, and Special Updates

NEOLA Policy Updates -Volume 35 No. 1 and Special Updates were included with the Board packet. Second reading and request for approval will take place at the January 18, 2021 school board meeting.

Vision Statement:

To encourage learning, inspire pride and support all students. WE ARE G-A!

Mission Statement:

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will empower all students to be productive and responsible citizens.

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic, (collectively "Protected Classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The District's Compliance Officers shall handle inquiries regarding the Board's nondiscrimination policies and any complaint of discrimination.

Complaints or inquiries should be forwarded to:

1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
1076 N. 37th Street, Galesburg, MI 49053 * 269-484-2000

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Public Participation

Marcie Barber, Topics: Hybrid learning option, Pfizer vaccine, Face to face learning option with precautions and a phased in process, Teachers have gone above and beyond to bring joys to kids and families during the holiday season.

Eric Curtiss, Topics: Hybrid learning option/Face to Face Learning, Public Input placement on agenda, Rational from Superintendent Evaluation Committee regarding \$5,000 bonus for Superintendent, budget line item for staff pay increases.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

A. Contract Negotiations

Motion by B. Overgaard and supported by C. Martin to enter closed session at 7:17 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations as permitted under 8c of the Open Meetings Act. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0. Motion Carried.

Open session resumed at 7:35 p.m.

X. BUSINESS ITEMS – DECISION

A. Approval and Reconfirmation of Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

Motion by K. Hubbard and supported by S. Knoblock to approve the district's Extended Continuity of Learning Plan as presented. Roll Call Vote: Silkworth-yes, Hubbard-yes, Knoblock-yes, Martin-yes, Walker-yes, Overgaard-yes, McCubbin-yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

B. Approval of Resolution Declaring Support of KRESA Special Education Millage Proposal

Motion by D. Walker supported by B. Overgaard to approve the Resolution Declaring Support of the KRESA Special Education Millage Proposal. Roll Call Vote: Hubbard-yes, Silkworth-yes, Martin-yes, Knoblock-yes, Walker-yes, Overgaard-yes, McCubbin-yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

C. Approval of Resolution for Preliminary Qualification of Bonds

Motion by B. Overgaard and supported by C. Martin to approve the Preliminary Qualification Application of Bonds as presented. Roll Call Vote: Knoblock-yes, Hubbard-yes, Martin-yes, Silkworth-yes, Overgaard-yes, Walker-yes, McCubbin-yes. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Approval of Resolution to Grant Emergency Powers to the Superintendent

Motion by C. Martin and supported by S. Knoblock to approve the resolution granting emergency powers to the Superintendent, Wendy Maynard-Somers for the 2020-2021 school year. Roll Call vote: Silkworth-yes, Overgaard-yes, Walker-yes, Martin-yes, Knoblock-yes, Hubbard-yes, McCubbin-yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

E. Approval of Resolution to Permit Virtual Meetings

Motion by D. Walker and supported by K. Hubbard to approve the resolution to permit virtual meetings as presented. Roll Call Vote: Overgaard-yes, Hubbard-yes, Knoblock-yes, Silkworth-yes, Martin-yes, Walker-yes, McCubbin-yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

F. Approval of Teacher GAEA Financial Agreement

Motion by C. Martin and supported by B. Overgaard to approve the financial agreement between the Galesburg-Augusta Education Association and the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Roll Call Vote: Knoblock-yes, Silkworth-yes, Walker-yes, Martin-yes, Hubbard-yes, Overgaard-yes, McCubbin-yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

Vision Statement:

To encourage learning, inspire pride and support all students. WE ARE G-A!

Mission Statement:

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will empower all students to be productive and responsible citizens.

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic, (collectively "Protected Classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The District's Compliance Officers shall handle inquiries regarding the Board's nondiscrimination policies and any complaint of discrimination.

Complaints or inquiries should be forwarded to:

1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
1076 N. 37th Street, Galesburg, MI 49053 * 269-484-2000

G. Approval of Financial Reopener of Superintendent Contract

Motion by S. Knoblock and supported by K. Hubbard to approve the financial package of the superintendent as presented. Roll Call Vote: Silkworth-yes, Hubbard-yes, Knoblock-yes, Martin-yes, Overgaard-yes, McCubbin-yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

H. Approval of Maintenance Truck Purchase

Motion by D. Walker and supported by B. Overgaard to approve the purchase of the Ram truck to serve as the grounds' vehicle at a cost of \$28,674.00 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Martin-yes, Walker-yes, Silkworth-yes, Hubbard-yes, Knoblock-yes, Overgaard-yes, McCubbin-yes. Motion Carried 7-0.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Board Comments

Board comments were made.

B. Superintendent Update

- School Board Appreciation – January
- Board Governance Workshop
- KCSOA Meeting – January 13, 2021

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Jeff McCubbin, President

Brenda Sutherland, Recording Secretary

Vision Statement:

To encourage learning, inspire pride and support all students. WE ARE G-A!

Mission Statement:

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will empower all students to be productive and responsible citizens.

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic, (collectively "Protected Classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. The District's Compliance Officers shall handle inquiries regarding the Board's nondiscrimination policies and any complaint of discrimination.

Complaints or inquiries should be forwarded to:

1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053