

Saranac Community Schools  
Board of Education  
Meeting #22

The Workshop meeting of the Saranac Community Schools Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 5, 2014 in the Library, Saranac Elementary School, 250 Pleasant Street, Saranac, MI.

Board President, Steve LaWarre called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Present: Coulson, Doll, Hawkins, Lauer, LaWarre and Tutak-Hill.

Absent: Denny

Steve LaWarre led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADDITIONS & DELETIONS:** None

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:** The board received public comment.

**STUDENT REPORT:** Brendan Klynstra from Student Council reported June 6 is the “Last Chance Dance”, and they have begun discussing Homecoming plans for next fall.

**ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:** Elementary Co-Principal, Connie Hamilton, thanked Karen Rohrer and Amy Miles for all the work and planning for a successful field day. Technology teacher, Stacy Sanders got teachers and staff to participate in a “Lip Dub” video. Staff will be able to view this on the last day of school. School is nearing the end, and many teachers will continue working throughout the summer months on professional development opportunities. We thank them for their dedication to the education profession.

Jr/Sr High Co-Principal, Beth Simpson reported graduation went very smoothly. There is a community garden started in memory of Duane Patrick through memorial funds in his name. Thanks goes out to Susann Young, Tracy Dahms and Rob Koerner for sprucing up the grounds.

Jr/Sr High Co-Principal, Josh Leader reported the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes came to the Jr/Sr High School today. They will be working on their schedules for next year. They have two sessions of summer school planned. There is a summer athletic schedule up on the website with many opportunities for students. Physicals will be held on July 11 from 1-4 p.m. by Dr. Barker of Belding. The cost of this is \$25.

**INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHT:** Jr/Sr High teacher, Laurel O’Boyle presented on her 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading class. Mrs. O’Boyle discovered there were various reading abilities in her class. She tried to spark their interest in reading which leads to better comprehension. The class voted on a selection of books to read and narrowed it down to one. The book the class chose to read aloud in class was Alex Van Helsing – Vampire Rising. Some of the students were hesitant to read the book, but when they were all finished they were asking if there was a sequel. Mrs. O’Boyle wrote to the author and received a response back from him. The students were able to ask him questions via email and he answered back to every student. Mrs. O’Boyle said it has been a great experience for her as well as her students.

**PARENT REQUEST APPEAL:** Superintendent, Maury Geiger reported parent, Todd Langdon has requested an appeal to the school board based his decision to limit their role as a chaperone in school activities. The parent is encouraged to continue in their role as a parent and participate in various activities such as field trips, field day, musical performances, classroom celebrations, Very Important Person (VIP), etc. However, the person's role has been limited in certain areas as a volunteer and/or chaperone as a direct result of the volunteer check that was completed with the Michigan State Police.

Our volunteer process has been established to comply with State Law, and to assure our students, staff, parents, and community members of our goal to keep our schools as safe as possible.

Mr. Langdon reported he would like to volunteer for his child's field trips and to be a Watch Dog. He feels he is being unfairly treated because he has a felony on his record.

There was much discussion from everyone present and it was the consensus of the board to bring this back for action at the June 19 meeting.

**ACCEPT GIFTS:** Superintendent Geiger presented the gifts received totaling \$21,620.00. This will be brought back for action at the June 19 meeting.

**REVIEW STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY – 8453:** Superintendent Geiger reported there are a few changes that need to be made to the wellness policy, per state food guidelines. Food Service Director, Carmen Smith has reviewed this policy, and we have updated the necessary changes. This will be brought back for action at the June 19 meeting.

**RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:** Superintendent Geiger reported we have four retirements this year. They are Cindy Sanford, Pam Masterson, Bruce Klemm and Bonnie Winslow. Teri Bergy has prepared retirement resolutions for these staff members.

Motion by Coulson, supported by Hawkins and unanimously approved that the Saranac Board of Education waive board practice and approve the retirement resolutions as presented.

**OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP:** Superintendent Geiger reported we have a student who would like to attend the FFA Leadership Conference in Washington DC from June 23-29.

Motion by LaWarre, supported by Lauer and unanimously approved that the Saranac Board of Education waive board practice and approve the Out-of-State field trip for the FFA Leadership Conference in Washington DC from June 23-29, 2014 as presented.

**ATHLETIC UPDATE:** Athletic Director, Josh Leader updated the board on the 2013-14 athletic programs.

**2014-2015 EXTRACURRICULAR POSITIONS:** Superintendent Geiger along with Athletic Director, Josh Leader reviewed with the board the 2014-2015 extracurricular positions for next school year. This will be brought back for action at the June 19 meeting.

**JV FOOTBALL ASSISTANT COACH:** Athletic Director, Josh Leader reported they posted for this position and received two applicants. An interview team consisting of Dennis Cooper, Varsity Football Coach, Jill Veenstra, parent representative, and Ben Littlejohn, student athlete representative interviewed the two candidates for this position, and would like to recommend Jeff Videan to this position. This will be brought back for action at the June 19 meeting.

**PARTICIPATION IN THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION:** Superintendent Geiger reported the board is required to annually renew the membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This will be brought back for action at the June 19 meeting.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE:** Curriculum Director, Connie Hamilton reviewed the schools and districts school improvement plans for the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Hamilton also reviewed the assessments with the board.

This will be brought back for action to approve the district school improvement plan at the June 19 meeting.

**JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR 2014-2015:** Jr/Sr High Co-Principals, Beth Simpson and Josh Leader have prepared proposed changes to the student handbook. This will be brought back for action at the June 19 meeting.

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE:** Superintendent Geiger updated the Board on the current enrollment numbers and projected enrollment for next school year.

**BUDGET HEARING RESOLUTION:** Superintendent Geiger reported the board needs to set the time, date, and place for a public hearing on the proposed budget for the 2014-15 school year. The budgets will be presented at the June 19 hearing, with action for approval of the budgets to be requested following the hearing.

**SECOND BUDGET AMENDMENT OF 2013-2014:** Superintendent Geiger outlined the 2<sup>nd</sup> budget amendment adjustments. This will be brought back for action at the June 19 meeting.

**PRESENT FINAL DRAFT OF THE 2014-2015 BUDGET:** Superintendent Geiger presented the final draft of the budget for next school year. There are a few changes that need to be made, and then action to approve this will be at the June 19 meeting.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR PROPERTY & CASUALTY AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE:** Superintendent Geiger reported we have completed our RFP for Property & Casualty and Workers' Compensation Insurance as per our practice of bidding out for these services on a three-year basis. We received two bid proposals and will be bringing a recommendation to the June 19 meeting for approval.

**SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION & CONTRACT EXTENSION:** Board President, Steve LaWarre reported from the board workshop of May 29, it was discussed that the Superintendent's contract be extended for an additional year through June 30, 2016. This is based on the most recent effective evaluation & pending successful updated contract language.

This will be brought back at the June 19 meeting for action.

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:** None

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Superintendent Geiger reported the Saranac Community Schools alumni dinner is planned for June 14, where we will be presenting the \$50,000 donation to the Saranac Promise from a one of our community businesses.

**BOARD REQUESTS/REPORTS:** Board President, Steve LaWarre reported there will be a Board Workshop on June 12 at 6 pm with MASB working with the superintendent regarding setting the vision and expectations for the superintendent; what the board expects for this year. Also, what will be the best practices changes for next year.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**CLOSED SESSION FOR NEGOTIATIONS PLANNING:** Motion by Coulson, supported by Tutak-Hill that the Saranac Board of Education go into closed session at 10:59 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations planning returning to open session at 11:14 p.m. Roll call vote was taken: Voting Yes: Coulson, Doll, Hawkins, LaWarre and Tutak-Hill. Voting No: Lauer. Motion Carried.

**OTHER:** None

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, and no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Hawkins  
Secretary