

Saranac Community Schools  
Board of Education  
Meeting #14

The Workshop meeting of the Saranac Community Schools Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 in the Library, Saranac Jr/Sr High School, 150 Pleasant Street, Saranac, MI.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Board President, Steve LaWarre gave the Oath of Office to new board member Sarah Doll.

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

Brent Denny led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADDITIONS & DELETIONS:** Superintendent Geiger would like to add Board Book Training and S.E.A Letter of Understanding under Reports/Presentations to the agenda.

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:** None

**STUDENT REPORT:** None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:** Elementary Co-Principal, Connie Hamilton, reported during our snow days, we offered a snow day challenge for students and teachers to create a multimedia message based on one of the following 3 prompts: Recreate a snow day from your parents' schooldays; Create a video for younger students to teach them something you've learned this year; and create a message that leaves others "something to think about" and could be read during the "Words of Wisdom" morning announcements. The top 5 student submissions and the top 3 teacher submissions will win a free lunch. Next Tuesday, Clare School District will be coming to see our Thinking Maps and how the school has implemented them into the classrooms.

Jr/Sr High Co-Principal, Beth Simpson, reported they gave a practice ACT test to 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The actual testing for the ACT/MME will be the first week of March. Incentives are in place for students who exceed the state average and/or increase their scores from previous PLAN testing. FFA District competition was held this week. There were two teams from Saranac competing. One of the Demonstration Teams will be going on to Regionals at Lowell next week. Wednesday we had members of the Student Council travel to Traverse City to help with Special Olympics.

**INSTRUCTIONAL HIGHLIGHT:** Jr/Sr High Co-Principal, Beth Simpson shared a video put together by teacher, Joel Manion and his Audio-Visual Class. Mrs. Simpson reported that the students put together a weekly newscast from beginning to end by using digital camcorders to capture footage, and then learn how to upload and edit that footage to create a finished product.

**BOARDBOOK TRAINING FOR BOARD MEMBERS:** Technology Director, John Milewski gave an overview of Boardbook, the program used to produce the Board Packet; explaining that the goal is to have the board go paperless with board packets and to use the computers at board meetings to follow through the board meetings using Boardbook.

Mr. Milewski also gave an updated on the upcoming Technology/Safety Enhancement Millage, which is scheduled for February 25.

**SCHOOL BOARD OPERATING PROCEDURES:** The Board has been reviewing the board operating procedures manual and will continue to review this document until it is completed and board approved.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR OPEN COACHING POSITIONS:** Superintendent Geiger reported that Athletic Director, Josh Leader along with an interview team comprised of Jeff Videan, Dawn Videan Tim Ward, (all parent representatives), Mandy Mutschler (athletic secretary), Dennis Cooper (coach representative), Dustin Updyke (student athlete representative) interviewed three candidates and would like to make these recommendations: Varsity Assistant Coach – Joe Cooper; JV Head Coach – Andy Lytle the third candidate declined the position. This will be brought back at the February 20 meeting for action.

**JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS:** Jr/Sr High Co-Principal, Beth Simpson, reviewed the changes to the 2014-2015 course offerings guide, which were just a few. This will be brought back for action at the February 20 meeting.

**BEST PRACTICE RESOLUTION:** Superintendent Geiger reviewed the 2013-14 Best Practice Resolution noting that we have met 7 out of 8 best practices. This will come back at the next board workshop meeting for another review and update.

**ACCEPT GIFTS:** Superintendent Geiger presented the gifts received totaling \$1,706.84. This will be brought back for action at the February meeting.

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE:** Superintendent Geiger updated the Board on the current enrollment numbers of 1,074. The next student count date is Wednesday, February 12.

**PROPOSED 1<sup>ST</sup> BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR 2013-14:** Superintendent Geiger reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> budget amendment figures with the board. This will be brought back for action at the February 20 meeting.

**PRELIMINARY PROJECTED 2014-2015 BUDGET:** Superintendent Geiger presented the 2014-15 general fund projected budgets as we begin planning the next school year.

**S.E.A. LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING #1 (2013-14):** Superintendent Geiger presented this letter of understanding for S.E.A. staff that has been substituting for a member on administrative leave. This will be brought back for action at the February 20 meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:** None

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Superintendent Geiger updated the board on the S.E.F. 2014/15 budget and what the funds are used for.

Mr. Geiger will be sending out a parent letter regarding the staff person on administrative leave.

The district received a certificate from the State of Michigan for 100% bus inspection for the 2012-13 school year and thanked the transportation department for their hard work to keep our buses safe and on the road.

Transportation Director, Jason Smith would like to request adding additional help to assist our current mechanic. The responsibilities of the assistant would include light garage duties.

Next Monday & Tuesday Mr. Geiger will be helping with interviews at the ISD for Mike Keast's position as he plans to retire at the end of the school year.

*Board member Dan Lauer had to leave at 8:30 for other obligations.*

**BOARD REQUESTS/REPORTS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**CLOSED SESSION FOR NEGOTIATIONS PLANNING:** Motion by Coulson, supported by Denny that the Saranac Board of Education go into closed session at 9:44 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations planning returning to open session at 10:30 p.m. Roll call vote was taken: Voting Yes: Coulson, Denny, Doll, Hawkins, LaWarre and Tutak-Hill. Motion Carried.

**OTHER:** None

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, and no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Hawkins  
Secretary