

Saranac Community Schools
Board of Education
Meeting #4

The workshop meeting of the Saranac Community Schools Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 5, 2013 in the Library, Saranac Jr/Sr High School, 150 Pleasant Street, Saranac, MI.

Board President, Steve LaWarre called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Maury Geiger led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS: Superintendent, Maury Geiger, would like to add Administrative Update to the agenda.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS: None

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE: Elementary Co-Principal, Jason Smith, reported it has been a fun week getting students back in the building. They have started the "K-Patrol". This is 4th & 5th graders helping kindergarteners get to their buses. This is a two-month project, and at the end they will have a little ceremony for these students who have volunteered to help.

Elementary Co-Principal, Connie Hamilton, reported it has been a smooth beginning and they are implementing Thinking Maps. Mrs. Hamilton shared a story she posted on the Saranac Elementary Schools Facebook page regarding a little girl and the outhouse that has went viral.

Jr/Sr High Co-Principal, Beth Simpson, reported they are up and running. Teachers are embracing the "Hair on Fire" and are getting the curriculum aligned. They have six assemblies this year on "Character". Last year 187 students received t-shirts that were funded through National Honor Society. Next Saturday the National Honor Society will be helping with Adopt-A-Highway. The band is exploring a three day trip to Chicago. The cost is approximately \$649 and they are just in the beginning stages of planning the trip. They have six exchange students this year from China, Thailand, Norway, Australia and Mexico. They have 5 students enrolled in the seat time waiver program, and five students enrolled in the Certificate of Educational Achievement and Employability Skills Program.

Jr/Sr High Co-Principal, Josh Leader, reported it's been a very smooth start to the school year. The 7th & 8th graders have been very excited and Mr. Leader asked them to maintain that excitement and enthusiasm throughout the school year. They have started doing the Pledge of Allegiance in the mornings.

Homecoming is the week of September 16th. They will be hosting Potterville. They have 7 games lined up for JV Football and they have changed the Athletic Pass policy to

accommodate some who only want to attend one season of games. Golden passes are still available in the Jr/Sr High office.

S.E.S.A. LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING #2: Superintendent Geiger reported the board reviewed this at the last meeting. There are no changes to this letter of understanding so this will be brought back for action at the September 19 meeting.

OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP: Superintendent Geiger reported there are three Out-of-State field trips planned so far this school year. This will be brought back for action at the September 19 meeting.

RFP – TRANSPORTATION: Superintendent Geiger presented this proposal reporting this is the third year we have done this. This will meet the requirements of one of the eight best practices in seeking a bid for services in a non-instructional area, and will allow the district to continue to evaluate our services in the area of transportation.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: Jason Smith, Co-Elementary Principal reported he has worked to put together an Emergency Procedures Guide. This has been reviewed by the administrative staff and Ionia County Sheriff's Deputy/School Liaison Officer Chad Bustraan. Mr. Smith would like to present this to the whole staff.

ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT: Superintendent Geiger presented the Annual Education Report to the board.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT: Superintendent Geiger presented the latest enrollment numbers showing a projected enrollment of 1,090 students. This number is changing daily as we get requests for records or students enrolling. There are a high number of kindergarteners this year, and we continue to monitor these large classroom sizes.

The board would like to know the cost if they were to add another teacher at the elementary school.

Mr. Geiger will be getting the cost together and present the information at the next meeting.

COMMON CORE PRESENTATION: Co-Elementary Principal/Curriculum Director, Connie Hamilton presented information on the Common Core State Standards and how it's going to affect students and staff on how they learn and how it's taught. These standards are for kindergarten through 12th grade in English language arts and math. The standards are designed to ensure that students, teachers and parents have a clear understanding of the expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and math in schools.

COMMON CORE RESOLUTION: Superintendent Geiger presented a suggested Resolution on Common Core that has been developed by MASB as a show of support for allowing our district to continue implementing it across our district. This resolution will be brought back for action at the September 19 meeting.

STAFFING UPDATE: Superintendent Geiger reported on the staffing changes for 2013-14 school year.

IONIA COUNTY ISD COUNTYWIDE ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE PROPOSAL: John Milewski, Technology Director presented information on a proposed ISD county-wide technology enhancement millage for the purposes of increasing technology capabilities in local districts throughout Ionia County. The distribution would be on a per pupil basis for that district. The election date would be scheduled for February 25, 2014.

Mr. Geiger reported that the ISD would like to have a county-wide school board meeting to discuss the process of this enhancement millage. The date they are looking at is October 3, which is our first meeting in October. Mr. Geiger asked that we move our meeting to earlier in the week so that board members could attend this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS: The board received public comment.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Superintendent Geiger reported on the annual MASB Conference at the end of October. There are great opportunities for board members to attend and receive professional growth in the areas of boardmanship.

Mr. Geiger reported that Jason Smith, Transportation Director and himself are looking for some options for students and parents on those late start Mondays. They will be looking to bring information to the board at the next meeting.

This Saturday is the board workshop with MASB, next Saturday is Adopt-A-Highway and then the following Saturday, we will have a booth at the Fall Festival at Bertha Brock Park.

BOARD REQUESTS/REPORTS: Board member Dan Lauer would like to know the what the cost would be of moving the Young 5's teacher to full time.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CLOSED SESSION FOR SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION: Motion by Denny, supported by Tutak-Hill that the Saranac Board of Education go into closed session at 9:40 p.m. for the purpose of the Superintendent's evaluation returning to open session at 10:07 p.m. Roll call vote was taken: Voting Yes: Adgate, Coulson, Denny, Hawkins, Lauer, LaWarre and Tutak-Hill. Motion Carried.

OTHER: Superintendent Geiger updated the board on a PA 152 and how this has affected a few staff members regarding their health insurance premium, and their health savings account.

Mr. Geiger updated the board on the recent payroll, and the errors that occurred and how they are being corrected.

Mr. Geiger updated the board on the employee issue.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, and no objection,

the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Adgate
Secretary