

**Bois Blanc Pines School Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 10, 2020**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

School Board President Cindy Riker called the meeting to order via conference call at 4:02p.m.

Board Members present were Board President Cindy Riker and Board Secretary Dan Reynolds. Board Members participating via conference call were Vice President Suzette Cooley-Sanborn and trustee Jessi LaPorte. Absent from the meeting was Administrator Dean Paul.

Public present were Francis Urbany, Michelle Satchell, Misty Sibbald, Brandon Schlund, Tom Bach, Ken Hasbrouck, and Chris Hasbrouck.

**Approval of Agenda**

D. Reynolds made a motion to approve the agenda. S. Cooley-Sanborn second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker (J. LaPorte had not joined meeting via phone yet). Nays, none.

Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

D. Reynolds made a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes from February 11, 2020. Suzette Cooley-Sanborn second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

C. Riker made a motion to approve special Board meeting minutes from February 21, 2020. D. Reynolds second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

**Communications**

None.

**Visitor Comments**

Chris Hasbrouck asked the Board what the 2020-2021 school year would look like, if students were to be re-enrolled. She stated that she and her family do wish to enroll their student for the 2020-2021 school year, and will be submitting a letter to the School Board to that effect.

C. Riker explained that the School Board would begin seeking a new teacher upon receiving solid interest in student enrollment from Island parents and families with school-age children. Discussion ensued regarding the challenge of committing to hire faculty when parents and families cannot be asked to commit to re-enrolling their students. D. Reynolds stated that the Board was not asking families to commit to enrollment at this stage, only to express their desire to re-enroll students contingent on the hiring of qualified faculty.

Misty Sibbald expressed interest in enrolling her students in the school, as long as a satisfactory teacher candidate can be hired and held accountable for meeting all job requirements. S. Cooley-Sanborn stated that the Board would not micromanage faculty, but would maintain awareness of classroom activities, with the help of its Administrator. Ms. Sibbald asked whether the current Administrator, Dean Paul, is committed to staying on and working with new faculty to ensure success. C. Riker stated that Dean Paul's contract is up for renewal in June; he may decide to continue, but the Board cannot speak for him in his absence.

C. Riker suggested that families and parents interested in enrolling students write letters or emails of interest that include what they most want to see in a teacher and in the curriculum. Letters may be sent to the Bois Blanc Pines School, P.O. Box 876, Pointe Aux Pins MI 49775, emailed to [cruker@eupschools.org](mailto:cruker@eupschools.org), or delivered during a scheduled School Board meeting.

Ken Hasbrouck inquired whether a teacher aide/paraprofessional would be hired; C. Riker stated that one would be hired if the need exists, as in the past.

J. LaPorte stated that the search for teaching candidates should identify those who can bring more cutting-edge teaching practices to the classroom.

Speaking as a parent, J. LaPorte expressed her desire to re-enroll her students in the Pines School, and also stated she would like to see the school expand to teach all grade levels through the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. She reiterated that she wants to create an educational environment that exceeds requirements.

J. LaPorte inquired about the possibility of re-enrolling students to finish out the current 2019-2020 school year. C. Riker stated that she would need to check with the Michigan Department of Education on the feasibility of restarting the school year at this late date, as there would be many issues to resolve following the school closure and large segment of the school year that was missed. She added that, if such arrangements could be made, it would require contracting with qualified a long-term substitute prior to finding permanent faculty.

## **Committee Reports**

None.

## **Old Business**

Substitute Pay: The current rate of pay for substitute teachers at the Pines School is \$75 per day. C. Riker researched rates around the state, and found that districts generally pay between \$108 and \$125 per day. D. Reynolds abstained from voting on the matter, but stated that the pay rate should reflect the new process for signing up through EDUStaff as a substitute teacher, which is much more onerous and time-consuming than what substitutes had to do in the past.

C. Riker noted that the rate of pay for a long-term substitute, should one be needed to complete the 2019-2020 school year or any future period, would be negotiated separately as part of a long-term teaching contract and not treated as the normal substitute rate of pay.

C. Riker made a motion to increase substitute pay from \$75 per day to \$125 per day, effective immediately. No second; motion did not carry.

S. Cooley-Sanborn made a motion to increase substitute pay from \$75 per day to \$100 per day, effective immediately. J. LaPorte second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none. D. Reynolds abstained. Motion carried.

Key/Access to School Supplies for Wagner Room: C. Riker will look for the key and make it available within the next day. Per SET SEG insurance requirements, D. Reynolds will draft a waiver for parents/guardians to sign in exchange for using the school's equipment at the Wagner Room. The signed waiver will be kept on file.

Re-Sending RFP for Door Replacement: C. Riker wishes to re-submit the request for contractor proposals on replacing the school's three main entry doors. Responses to the new RFP will be due by the next School Board meeting on April 14, 2020. The previous RFP was submitted to Brent Sharpe Construction, Island Contractors, Plaut Construction, and Red Oak Construction (John Wint), but no responses were received. D. Reynolds will review the RFP and assist in clarifying the school's specifications for the door replacement. C. Riker will deliver mailing supplies to D. Reynolds as needed to complete the mailing.

Board Trustee Recruitment: C. Riker stated that the Board has not received any applications or interest, to date. EUPISD Superintendent Angie McArthur put out another notice through the ISD, and has also received no responses to date. Tom Bach stated to the Board that he might be interested in joining, but wanted to continue gathering information before making a commitment. Board members agreed to provide Mr. Bach with any additional information he may desire, or to meet with him upon request.

School Kiosk: D. Reynolds spoke with two possible vendors about creating a kiosk to be installed in front of the Pines School. There are many options, and he recommended investing in one that looks more professional than what has existed elsewhere on the Island in the past. C. Riker stated that she would prefer something plain and simple, with a budget in the range of \$500. The kiosk would be utilized for official school notices, and also possibly to display students' achievements and creations.

Education for School Board Members: S. Cooley-Sanborn has spoken with representatives from the MASB and will be putting together a program entitled Fundamentals of School Board Service. She attended a meeting and is waiting for a callback from the Assistant Director of Curriculum Development. She stated that it may be possible to deliver the program on-site for the Pines School Board, once it has been developed.

C. Riker suggested that topics of Strategic Planning and Project-Based Learning may fall under the heading of next steps to reopen the Pines School. J. LaPorte stated that Strategic Planning should remain on each agenda, as it is relevant at all times, even leading up to reopening the school in the future. She added that project-based learning should be addressed as a desired teaching model when reviewing faculty candidates.

S. Cooley-Sanborn emphasized the need for all Board members to read Superintendent Angie McArthur's newsletters. She specifically cited the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP), which will encompass and go beyond the current School Improvement Plan (SIP), outlined in the latest newsletter.

Township Bank Deposits: C. Riker has not yet reached out to Township Treasurer Anne Kennedy about the possibility of making deposits directly into the school bank account. She will contact her in the next day or so. This action will streamline and expedite the transfer of funds.

Other: S. Cooley-Sanborn noted that paint for the school has been ordered, and the painter will bring it to the Island as soon as possible after ferry service resumes.

### **New Business**

School Board Meeting Venue: S. Cooley-Sanborn proposed the idea of moving School Board meetings to the Wagner Room, to accommodate the larger public attendance occurring in recent meetings. D. Reynolds stated he felt that meetings should remain at the schoolhouse, to keep everyone connected to the school itself and its mission. C. Riker suggested ordering additional chairs for meetings with higher attendance. Meetings will continue at the Pines School for now.

SET SEG Insurance Coverage for School Building Use: SET SEG agreed to cover the school building for non-district use during period(s) of closure, provided school building maintenance continues as usual. Routine maintenance will continue; however, there is no current plan to open the school building for non-district use.

Social Media Presence: D. Reynolds recommended re-establishing a social media presence for the Bois Blanc Pines School District, stating it is essential for the District to have a Facebook presence that is independent of specific Board members and faculty. He offered to set up and co-administer the page with other Board and with future faculty. He will also contact the ISD about setting up a generic email address for the District, and will monitor that email account when created.

D. Reynolds made the motion to establish a Facebook page for the Bois Blanc Pines School District. J. LaPorte second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

IPER Action Plan: Connie Cullip had forwarded the Board some policy items to be addressed by 06/30/2020. C. Riker had hoped to review these with Dean Paul, who is not present for the meeting. C. Riker asked fellow Board members to review what Ms. Cullip had sent (or to ask her for another copy if needed), and to be prepared to adopt policy changes by the next board meeting on April 14.

Next Steps Toward Reopening the Pines School: Based on the interest expressed in student re-enrollment, C. Riker suggested scheduling public roundtable meetings to discuss the potential need for a long-term substitute during school year 2019-2020, as well as steps toward posting a permanent faculty position for school year 2020-2021 and beyond. The meetings would be an opportunity for Board members to refine the search process, and to consider input from student families and parents. Any such roundtable meetings will be scheduled and posted as special meetings of the School Board. C. Riker also noted that Superintendent Angie McArthur is interested in attending an upcoming regular School Board meeting.

Chris Hasbrouck spoke up to emphasize the importance of parent and family involvement in school activities. She stated that most school districts embrace that type of involvement through special projects, chaperoning, guest speakers, family activity days, and other similar means of public participation. D. Reynolds replied that the Board would encourage future faculty to embrace the involvement of parents, families, and the community, adding that community involvement creates a sense of ownership in the school, and builds trust.

S. Cooley-Sanborn wants Dean Paul to provide the building blocks for a new faculty position posting, to ensure the core requirements of the ISD are included. He may be able to offer an existing posting as a template.

S. Cooley-Sanborn referenced the idea of establishing a Parent Advisory Committee that includes family members of students with special needs. Chris Hasbrouck agreed to consider being a part of such a committee, if established.

D. Reynolds shared an offer from Michael Leppen to work with the Pines School in the event that new faculty may need lodging. Mr. Leppen has nearby living spaces that could be utilized for year-round faculty housing, and would be willing to negotiate a reasonable rate as needed.

### **Financial Report**

C. Riker reviewed bills for the month, and stated that the \$5,000 transfer indicated by the ISD should not be necessary at this time.


D. Reynolds made a motion to approve payment of the bills and to forgo the bank transfer this month. S. Cooley-Sanborn second.

Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Reynolds, Secretary  
Bois Blanc Pines School Board