

Bois Blanc Pines School Board of Education
Regular Meeting
May 12, 2020

NOTE: In cooperation with local, state, and national response guidance for the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via phone conference only. The public was notified, and the conference call-in information was provided to the public well in advance of the meeting, to support full participation.

Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Board Members participating were Board President Cindy Riker, Vice President Suzette Cooley-Sanborn, Secretary Dan Reynolds, and Trustee Jessi LaPorte. Administrator Dean Paul and Superintendent Angie McArthur also joined the conference call.

Numerous other callers joined the meeting via conference call, but most declined to identify themselves.

Approval of Agenda

C. Riker asked for a motion to approve the 05/12/2020 Board meeting agenda. D. Reynolds made the motion; S. Cooley-Sanborn second.

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

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

J. LaPorte made a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes from April 14, 2020. C. Riker second.

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

Motion carried.

Communications

None.

Committee Reports

None.

Administrator's Report

D. Paul stated that the school teacher candidate interview process could be discussed in closed session due to attorney-client confidentiality. The Board declined to go into closed session due to the difficulty of maintaining

confidentiality on the conference call. C. Riker noted that a special meeting could be convened for the closed session. D. Paul stated he and Superintendent McArthur would discuss and determine how to proceed.

Visitor Comments

Kathy Brown asked about the status of Board member applications and appointments. C. Riker explained that, since the Board position was not filled within 30 days, the process for Board candidate applications and review had to be turned over to the ISD and was no longer in the hands of the Pines School Board.

Kathy Brown asked if the number of school teacher applications was considered public knowledge. C. Riker said she didn't know whether that information would be discussed by representatives of the interview team later in the meeting.

Old Business

IPER Action Plan:

C. Riker made a motion to approve the guidelines for extended school year services. S. 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 incorporate the Child Find process into Board policies and school handbook. D. Reynolds second.

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

Motion carried.

C. Riker will make necessary edits to add these documents to policy book.

Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP):

As part of MICIP, S. Cooley-Sanborn asked the Board to consider defining "high-quality instruction"—what is the Board's interpretation of this term? This will be discussed during the June Board meeting, to be finalized by June 30. Board members can also send recommendations in advance to S. Cooley-Sanborn by June 5.

MICIP takes effect 01/01/2021.

Faculty Recruitment:

C. Riker asked the status of the schoolteacher posting and interview team. D. Paul stated that the posting was active "until May 15 or until the position is filled". He said there had already been five applicants. The interview team will decide who to interview, and the first round will be conducted via Zoom. The second round, taking place in June, will hopefully be in-person on Bois Blanc and will include a public meet-and-greet with prospective candidates.

D. Reynolds asked D. Paul to make his email information available to the general public, since he is requiring that all public questions be submitted directly to him.

RFP for door replacements:

D. Reynolds is going to assist with developing a new RFP. C. Riker will send to all prospective contractors.

Strategic Plan:

J. LaPorte expressed that strategic planning had been added to the agenda months ago, but there has not been any activity. It takes more than one person to move forward, and is especially important in light of the

recruitment of a new school teacher. J. LaPorte reviewed the school's mission statement, but added that there is no vision statement to identify and understand short and long-term needs. She questioned whether the current school can meet future needs. A proper visioning process will look at where we are now as a district, and as a student body, and provide clarity about where we want to go.

C. Riker asked J. LaPorte to discuss the strategic planning process. J. LaPorte outlined how the process works but acknowledged the lack of time on the part of each Board member to participate in the process.

Superintendent Angie McArthur stated that MICIP is a strategic planning process that includes a comprehensive needs assessment. She stated that a strategic plan will likely take about three years to finalize. She recommended that J. LaPorte and S. Cooley-Sanborn team up with Lindsay at the ISD, and possibly consider a Board workshop to analyze what is needed.

D. Reynolds stated he supports developing a vision statement, and thinking beyond current parameters. It may be necessary to consider what will attract faculty, attract families and individuals to reside on the Island, and how the school can support the growth we want to see in our Island community. He encouraged working with the Planning Commission, and considering the addition of an on-site school administrator position.

J. LaPorte stated there is a need to "re-brand" our district as a model of academic excellence with community participation.

New Board Member: C. Riker stated there were two applicants. Both were forwarded to Superintendent McArthur. A. McArthur explained that, after the initial 30 days elapsed with no applicants, the ISD Board had the authority to appoint members to the Pines School Board, in consideration of the fitness of the applicant. Her recommendation to the ISD Board will be to appoint Jim Gilligan, who will fill the term until the November election. A. McArthur will notify C. Riker if J. Gilligan is appointed, and C. Riker will handle the on-boarding process.

MASB Training:

S. Cooley-Sanborn is planning to schedule a 3-4 hour virtual Board workshop for Saturday, June 13.

School Kiosk:

Nothing to report, off agenda due to COVID-19.

Kathy Brown asked if the Township kiosk in front of the transfer station could be given to the school.

J. LaPorte recommended that the kiosk project should wait until students can participate in developing it, as there is no rush to complete the project. D. Reynolds agreed, noting that a kiosk design should tie in with the "re-branding" discussion, possibly including school colors, mascot, or other elements that would become recognizable in the community.

New Business

2019-2020 Budget Amendment:

C. Riker stated that the adopted budget needs to be amended from \$175,334 to \$249,040. S. Cooley-Sanborn made a motion to approve the budget amendment; D. Reynolds second.

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

Motion carried.

School elections:

Three (3) Board positions will be up for election in November: Board President C. Riker, Secretary D. Reynolds, and the vacant Trustee position. C. Riker will handle online/public postings. Deadline is July 21 to submit all documentation.

EUPISD 2020-2021 Proposed Budget:

C. Riker made a motion to approve the EUPISD 2020-2021 proposed budget. D. Reynolds second. Roll call vote: Ayes were J. LaPorte, D. Reynolds, S. Cooley-Sanborn, C. Riker. Nays, none. Motion carried. D. Reynolds will scan and send BOE approval to Jill Coates at the ISD.

Public Forum:

Superintendent A. McArthur stated it is important for all Board members to participate in a public forum on Bois Blanc. It was not possible to get commitment on a date in May for the forum. She added that the forum needs to be student-centered and community-oriented.

D. Reynolds stated that the Island population is at its peak during the Fourth of July time frame. It would be best to have as many people physically present as possible, but the forum should also have the option to participate remotely for those who can't be on the Island.

J. LaPorte suggested that it would be ideal to be able to present a vision statement to the community during the forum.

C. Riker stated that late June or early July is probably the best time frame to schedule a forum.

A. McArthur will work on determining a date and get back to the Board.

Tech grant:

The EUPISD is partnering with LSSU on the USDA's Distance Learning and TeleHealth Grant. A. McArthur recommends adding Bois Blanc Island as a site for the grant; the intent would be to acquire better technology for distance learning for the District and the community. There is a 15 percent match. The Pines School Board needs to send a letter of commitment; A. McArthur will provide a template. Deadline is July 15. It would entail a capital expense to the Pines School, but that expense should be minimal.

S. Cooley-Sanborn made a motion to support the USDA's Distance Learning grant. J. LaPorte second.

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

Motion carried.

Custodial/Maintenance Contract:

Contract expires June 30. C. Riker does not feel any changes need to be made.

J. LaPorte noted that the water quality at the school facility is poor and asked if a water sample had been analyzed.

Interim solution for water quality may be bottled drinking water.

School custodian Michelle Satchell stated that it is impossible to keep toilets free of mineral deposits from the water when the school facility is not in regular use.

There is no known documentation of the school's septic system. C. Riker will check with the Township, which owns the school building.

D. Paul suggested looking toward building a new, fully-compliant, up-to-date facility to accommodate current and future student needs. This would also create additional attraction to the community for prospective residents, families and students.

C. Riker indicated the school's insurance provider, SET SEG, had done a recent site inspection and walk-around of the current building.

Other:

C. Riker stated that the ISD needs to re-evaluate current school laptops, upgrades, and other technology concerns before the next school year.

J. LaPorte stated she had received a link to a mobile farm science lab as a potential field trip opportunity. A. McArthur added that the lab had come to the eastern U.P. and would check on whether it could be arranged for the Cheboygan area.

Financial Statements


No need to transfer funds for the current month's bills. D. Reynolds made a motion to pay the bills for the past month. J. LaPorte 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