

## **MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

Held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.  
Niagara High School, Room 113

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Teresa Clement, Mrs. Lisa Swanson, Mrs. Kim Dumke, Mr. Joe Champeau, Mr. Brock Payette, Mrs. Karie Curran

**BY PHONE:** Mrs. Debra Tauriainen

**ABSENT:** Scott Trevillian

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nathaniel Burklund, Shawna Lindow, Rachael Butler, Terry Hanson, Sherri Petschar, Eric Heroux, Scott Sternhagen, Ginger Anderson

The meeting was called to order by Clement at 5:07 p.m.

Roll call was taken with members present as mentioned above.

Motion by Curran/Dumke to approve the consent agenda. Unanimous.

### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC**

#### **Correspondence**

- No correspondence to report.

#### **Gifts, Grants and Bequests**

- Thank you to Jan Maity and Abe Murray for donating sewing machines to the Life Skills Class.
- Thank you to Niagara students Finley Pengrazi (4th Grade) and Rahlee Amundson (2nd Grade) for donating toys to BadgerCare.
- Thank you to Marinette Elks for donating books for the classroom.
- Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their donation to Special Education.
- Thank you to Dr. John Nowicki for donating a special needs swing for the playground.

#### **Public Appearances**

- No public appearances to report.

#### **2024 Audit**

Mr. Sternhagen, representing CliftonLarsonAllen, presented a comprehensive review of the findings from the 2024 audit. He reported that there were no significant issues or discrepancies discovered during the audit process. According to his analysis, the district is in strong financial standing, with all financial records and practices being in full compliance.

### **Approve 2024 Audit**

Following Mr. Sternhagen's presentation, a motion was made by Swanson/Champeau to approve the 2024 Audit. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2025 Chromebook Refresh**

The School District of Niagara plans to refresh its student Chromebook inventory, focusing on replacing devices for 3rd and 8th graders to provide two Chromebooks per student during their school years. For next year, 65 units are recommended to cover projected class sizes (38 in 3rd grade, 22 in 8th grade) and potential losses. After evaluating three vendors—Insight, CDW, and Vivacity Tech— Director of Technology, Eric Heroux recommended Vivacity Tech for its 8GB RAM Chromebooks, which offer significantly better performance compared to the 4GB models from other vendors.

### **Approve the Purchase of 65 Chromebooks from Vivacity Tech.**

A motion was made by Curran/Clement to approve Director of Technology Eric Heroux's recommendation to purchase Chromebooks from Vivacity Tech. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that Quote PFMH527, which was listed on the agenda, was redacted as it referenced the incorrect vendor quote.

### **Approve Miranda Howell Contract**

Motion by Curran/Clement to approve Miranda Howell's contract. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Bus Driver Shifts**

Mr. Burkland addressed the district's job postings and proposed a plan to enhance recruitment and retention of bus drivers. He suggested implementing a policy to guarantee a minimum of four paid hours per day for all bus drivers, which would apply to both new hires and current employees.

### **Approve Bus Driver Time per Shift**

A motion was made by Curran/Swanson to increase the minimum paid hours for all bus drivers from 3.5 hours per shift to a guaranteed 4 hours per day. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approve Meal Per Diem Increases**

Motion by Curran/Dumke to approve Meal Per Diem Increases. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approve IncredibleBank Cash Management Services Master Agreement**

Motion by Champeau/Tauriainen to approve the IncredibleBank Cash Management Services Master Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approve Resolution Designating Public Depository and Authorizing Withdrawal of County, City, Village, Town, or School District Moneys**

Motion by Curran/Swanson to approve the Resolution Designating Public Depository and Authorizing Withdrawal of County, City, Village, Town, or School District Moneys. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval to Decline Public Requests for School Forest Usage**

Motion by Swanson/Champeau to approve declining Public Requests for School Forest Usage. The motion passed unanimously.

### **UW Madison Partnership to Support Student Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Skills**

Mr. Burklund reviewed the UW Madison Partnership to Support Student Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Skills.

### **School Report Card**

Mrs. Petschar presented and reviewed the School Report Card, providing an overview of the school's performance in key areas, including academic achievement, student growth, and proficiency rates. She highlighted areas where the school has shown improvement and discussed specific goals for continued progress.

### **Spring Election Deadlines**

Mr. Burklund and Ms. Butler reviewed the Spring Election deadlines, citing the following:

- December 27, 2024 – Deadline (5:00 p.m.) for incumbents not seeking re-election to file the Notification of Noncandidacy.
- January 7, 2025 – Deadline (5:00 p.m.) for candidates to file nomination papers, declarations of candidacy, and campaign registration statements.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

### **Finance Manager**

Mrs. Lindow discussed the timing of receipt of property tax payments from the municipalities.

### **Director of Pupil Services**

Mr. Hanson reviewed the highlights of the Pupil Services Report, including:

- Reviewing the ACT 20 requirements and participating in fall reading teachers' networking meetings with Megan Wagner at CESA 8. Elementary staff are discussing assessment results and preparing for ACT 20 requirements, which will start in January.
- Attended the Special Education Directors/RSN meeting at CESA 8.
- Collaborated with Mrs. Brown on the WI DPI Data Snapshot on December 10, working together to correct errors and preparing for the related workshop.

### **Principal**

Mr. Trevillian was not present at the meeting. His highlights were included in the board packet for review.

### **Superintendent**

Mr. Burklund reviewed the highlights of the Superintendent's Report, including:

- Regular meetings and collaboration sessions are ongoing.
- Participated in the PAC meeting on December 13.
- Monitoring an increase in Act 10 cases related to collective bargaining; advised not to make any changes.
- New scoreboards will be installed during Winter Break.
- Positive feedback was received from the Department of Justice regarding the annual Safety Assessment.

- Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Future Meeting**

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting, in room 113.

Motion by Curran/Dumke to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.