

Board of Education

The meeting of Northwest Education Services Board of Education was held on April 2, 2024. Board President Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call

Board Members Present:

Birgy
Brown
Fisher

Lajko
Scherrer
Thomas

Board Members Absent:

Petrella

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Scherrer, to approve the April 2, 2024 agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Welcomed Visitors & Public Comment

There were none

Student/Staff/Local District Highlights/Presentations/Recognitions:

SAIL(ORS) On Deck – Organizational Recognition System

Board of Education members recognized this month's SAIL(ORS) On Deck. This month's standout is Mollie Blasius, School Psychologist, who has exemplified strengths in the organizational value of Relationships, presented in recognition of recognizing the power of collaboration.

Month of the Young Child – Early Childhood Preschool Mental Health Specialist (31N)

Dr. Yvonne Donohoe McCool, Early Childhood Supervisor, Stephanie Stedman, Preschool Mental Health Specialist, and Tracy Spincich, Early On Coordinator provided information and data supporting the work around the need for 31N services. The grant can support any child that is enrolled in a Preschool Classroom so long as that classroom is located with a school building setting and the child does not have an IEP. Some of the serviced classrooms include Montessori, Strong Beginnings, Tuition, and Great Start Readiness Program. We are the only ISD in state utilizing those funds around children who are being supported within local districts. The need for 31N services support data from kindergarten related to behavior, preschool special education evaluation data and Great Start Readiness GOLD data. Within the referral data of 3-5 year include challenges around speech, behavior and social/emotional learning. These are really critical areas of learning that our young learners need that our preschool specialist supports within early childhood.

Motion by Board Member Scherrer, supported by Board Member Birgy, to approve consent grouping items 1-3 as presented.

1. Minutes of March 5, 2024 regular meeting
2. Monthly Accounts Payable Check Summary and Financial Report March 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024. Check Numbers: 195728-196041. Total for Month: \$5,976,406.73
3. Personnel:
 - a. New Employees:

- Jill Vigenski, Service Area Supervisor, July 1, 2024
- Hannah Johnson, Teacher Assistant, effective April 2, 2024
- Kayley Hincks, Teacher Assistant, effective April 8, 2024
- Emily Borowski, Payroll/Accountant, effective April 24, 2024

b. Employee Resignations:

- Darren DePuydt, Speech Pathologist, eff. June 10, 2024 (Retirement 27 years)
- Sandra Hingston, Teacher Assistant, eff. June 30, 2024 (Retirement 39 years)
- Isaac Mead-Renius, Custodian, effective March 22, 2024
- Sara Larsen, Paraprofessional, effective March 22, 2024
- Elizabeth Miller, Teacher Assistant, effective March 15, 2024
- Braxton Platt, LEA Accountant, effective June 14, 2024
- Melissa Riffert, Accountant, effective June 7, 2024

Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Scherrer, supported by Board Member Brown to approve extension of Administrator Contracts for 2024-26 for the following: Shawn Biddle; Matt Olson; Carol Greilick, and Patrick Lamb. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Thomas to approve Regional Common Calendar 2024-2029 as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Lajko, supported by Board Member Thomas to approve changing the August 6, 2024 Board Meeting to August 13, 2024. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Birgy, supported by Board Member Thomas to approve Career Tech Roofing Replacement and Life Skills Center Interior Renovation Bid Award to Eckler Building Solutions in the amount of \$1,505,000. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Thomas to approve Contract Extension with ESS Midwest, Inc. for one year for substitute teacher and teacher assistant placement services. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Scherrer, supported by Board Member Thomas to approve Marzano iObservation for 2024-25 in the amount of \$70,980. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Birgy, supported by Board Member Scherrer to approve Renewal of Student Information System & HR Software License in the amount of \$63,003.90. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Scherrer, supported by Board Member Lajko to approve Amendment for Consortium Agreement with Michigan Virtual University in the additional amount of \$150,000. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Birgy, supported by Board Member Scherrer to approve Device Purchases for Staff and Students through REMC SAVE in the amount of \$215,000. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Birgy to accept SME Prime Award and Gift in the amount of \$300,000 plus. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Discussion Items:

April Budget Presentations/Outreach to Local Districts – our 2024-25 budget overview information was presented. Local districts will be provided these budgets and assumptions. We will offer an in person or virtual meeting for local districts if requested.

Information Items:

Distributed first read board bylaws and policies to consider for May approval.

Updates:

Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Nick Ceglarek:

1. Thank you for approving the extension for our administrative team contracts. It is an honor to work with the administrative team.
2. The early childhood presentation uplifted some issues our schools are facing especially with mental health even at a young age. He thanked Yvonne Donohoe, Tracy Spincich and Stephanie Stedman for their presentation tonight.
3. End of year activities lead us to a variety of events and celebrations. Some of those are listed under dates to remember. Board members are welcome to attend.

Board Member Reports/Requests:

Board Member Thomas asked for clarification on board meetings for June, July and August meetings scheduled for 8:00 a.m.

Dates to Remember:

- May 7, 2024 Staff Appreciation Breakfast, Career Tech, 7 – 9:00 a.m.
- May 7, 2024 Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- May 14, 2024 Staff Recognition Night, Barns, 5:00 p.m.
- May 31, 2024 Life Skills Center Graduation, 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Joseph Fisher, President

Rachael Birgy, Secretary