



SAUGATUCK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2024

PLACE OF MEETING: Douglas Elementary School
Upper El Learning Commons
261 Randolph Street, Douglas, MI 49406

TIME OF MEETING: 6:00 pm

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Tim Travis, Superintendent; Kim Sharda, Executive Assistant,
Jeff Malloch, Director of Business

1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Bernie Merkle, Amanda Frank, Eric Birkholz,
Laura Zangara, Nicole Lewis, Frank Marro III, Karen Sherwood

ABSENT:

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – a number of community member and parent shared their views on Douglas Elementary and the Middle & High Schools having an SRO on-site daily.

4. ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - NONE

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. President

It was moved by Bernie Merkle with support from Frank Marro III to nominate Laura Zangara as President of the School Board for the period of February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025.

It was moved by Eric Birkholz with support from Nicole Lewis to close the nominations. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously.

b. Vice-President

It was moved by Bernie Merkle with support from Karen Sherwood to nominate Nicole Lewis as Vice President of the School Board for the period of February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

It was moved by Frank Marro III with support from Amanda Frank to close the nominations. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously.

c. Treasurer

It was moved by Bernie Merkle with support from Nicole Lewis to nominate Eric Birkholz as Treasurer of the School Board for the period of February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025

It was moved by Nicole Lewis with support from Bernie Merkle to close the nominations. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously.

d. Secretary

It was moved by Eric Birkholz with support from Bernie Merkle to nominate Karen Sherwood as Secretary of the School Board for the period of February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

It was moved by Bernie Merkle with support from Frank Marro III to close the nominations. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously.

e. Legislative Liaison

Every year the board must appoint a person to communicate legislative updates to the board at each meeting.

It was moved by Eric Birkholz with support from Frank Marro III to nominate Amanda Frank as the board legislative liaison from February 1, 2024 through January 31 of 2025.

It was moved by Bernie Merkle with support from Bernie Merkle to close the nominations. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously.

f. SPS Education Foundation Representative

Due to a resignation, Karen Sherwood has been appointed as the School Board representative on the Saugatuck Public School Education Foundation for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

6. **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION** – January is School Board Recognition Month. Members of the Saugatuck Public Schools Board of Education were recognized for their service to the district. The board was presented with a video of students and staff thanking the Board for their service.

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. Consent Items

- i. Minutes from December 18, 2023 Regular Meeting
- ii. Agenda for January 22, 2024 Agenda

It was moved by Frank Marro III with support from Bernie Merkle to approve the consent items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- a. Board Communication – Secretary Nicole Lewis shared there was one communication directed to the board of education on the topic of a School Resource Officer.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. District Communications Support - The District recently contracted for support in telling the District's story and highlighting our incredible faculty, staff, and students using social media. The District welcomed former TV Sports Anchor, Zach Harig.

- b. Be Smart – Carolyn Buck, co-founder of the Holland Chapter of Moms Demand Action, provided information on the Be Smart program, a safe gun storage community education program.
- c. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan – the Board reviewed the draft 2024 Tri-Community Parks and Recreation plan developed in partnership with Saugatuck Township, the City of the Village of Douglas, the City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Public Schools.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT – an additional parent/community member shared their view on the subject of having an SRO in each building.

11. REVIEW UPCOMING DATES/MEETINGS

January 22	Regular/Organizational Meeting
January 26	NO SCHOOL
February 5	Workshop Meeting
February 9 – 12	Mid-Winter Break
February 19	Regular Meeting
March 4	Workshop Meeting
March 8	½ Day of School
March 15	NO SCHOOL
March 18	Regular Meeting
Mar 29 – Apr 5	Spring Break
April 15	Regular Meeting
May 20	Regular Meeting
May 23	Graduation
May 27	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
June 3	Workshop Meeting
June 7	½ Day of School – Last Day of School
June 17	Regular Meeting
July 15	Regular/Organization Meeting

9. ADJOURN - there being no further business; the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary, Nicole Lewis