



SAUGATUCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2024

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in the public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

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

TIME OF MEETING: 6:00 pm

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – there were NONE

4. ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA – move 7.a to 7.b

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Consent Items
- i. Minutes from September 16, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - ii. Agenda for October 14, 2024 Agenda

It was moved by Nicole Lewis with support from Eric Birkholz to approve the consent items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Operating Procedures Report – Laura Zangara reported on the progress of the Board Operating Procedures Committee.
- b. School Safety Committee Report – Chairperson Amanda Frank reported on the progress of the School Safety Committee.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Construction Finance Report – Director of Business Services, Jeff Malloch and Chad Geenan, project manager from GDK provided a comprehensive finance report on the 2020 bond project.
- b. Teacher Travel Grant Presentation – Seven teachers were able to travel the world again this summer as participants in the Teacher Travel Grant program. Online learning coordinator, Jennifer Kierzek and Middle & High School guidance counselor, Tricia Schrottenboer shared their travels to Iceland, Norway and Finland.
- c. National Principal's Month – Great schools have great principals. Saugatuck Public Schools extends its appreciation for the outstanding educational leadership demonstrated by principals Mark Neidlinger and Michaelle Gust during National Principal's Month.

8. **CLOSED SESSION** – As allowed by the Open Meetings Act, the Board will consider going into Closed Session for the purpose of planning to prevent potential threats to the safety of district students and staff. Secure Environment Consultants will review the final report summarizing their site assessments of Saugatuck Middle and High School, Douglas Elementary and the Saugatuck Preschool.

It moved by Frank Marro III with support from Amanda Frank to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of planning to prevent potential threats to the safety of district staff and students as allowed under the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously. At 7:09 pm the board moved in to Closed Session.

9. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

It moved by Frank Marro III with support from Nicole Lewis to return to Open Session. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously. At 8:46 pm the Board moved back into Open Session.

10. **CLOSED SESSION** – As allowed by the Open Meetings Act, the Board will consider going into Closed Session for the purpose of considering applicants for employment by the district in the position of Superintendent.

It moved by Nicole Lewis with support from Eric Birkholz to enter into Closed Session for the purpose of considering candidates for the position of Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. At 8:53 pm the Board went into Closed Session.

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

It moved by Bernie Merkle with support from Eric Birkholz to return to Open. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously. 9:21 pm. At 9:21 pm the Board moved back into open session.

12. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Selection of Candidates to interview - The Board will formally take action to invite applicants to interview for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

It was moved by Nicole Lewis with support from Eric Birkholz to invite Mark Neidlinger for an interview for the position of Superintendent of Schools. A roll call vote showed the motion carried unanimously.

- b. Plan for Interviews – the Board considered plans for conducting interviews for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

It was moved by Nicole Lewis with support from Frank Marro III to conduct interviews for the position of Superintendent of Schools on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 6 o'clock pm at Douglas Elementary School. The motion carried unanimously.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT – there were none

14. UPCOMING DATES

November 4	Workshop Meeting
November 15	½ Day of School
November 18	Regular Board Meeting
November 27-29	Thanksgiving Break
December 16	Regular Board Meeting
Dec 23 – Jan 5	Holiday Break
January 13	Regular/Organizational Meeting
January 20	MLK - NO SCHOOL
January 31	NO SCHOOL
February 3	Workshop Meeting
February 7 – 10	Mid-Winter Break
February 17	Regular Meeting
March 3	Workshop Meeting
March 7	½ Day of School
March 14	NO SCHOOL
March 17	Regular Meeting
Apr 4 – Apr 13	Spring Break
April 14	Regular Meeting
May 19	Regular Meeting
May 22	Graduation
May 26	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
June 2	Workshop Meeting
June 6	½ Day of School – Last Day of School
June 16	Regular Meeting
July 14	Regular/Organization Meeting

15. ADJOURN – there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9: 47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary Pro Tem, Bernie Merkle