

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTH PEKIN-MARQUETTE HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 102
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021, 6:00 P.M.
GEORGETOWNE MIDDLE SCHOOL
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

All Board Members received their notices of the regular meeting at least 48 hours in advance.

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by President Knox. Present were Buhl, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Also present were Superintendent Byron Sondgeroth, Mrs. Dietrich, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Lindsay.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD SALUTES

Sondgeroth gave a Board Salute to the maintenance staff for their work in clearing the sidewalks, playgrounds and parking lots of snow.

Knox gave a Board Salute to Kathryn Moser for helping with getting wipes and masks.

Knox gave a Board Salute to Mrs. Lindsay for the grant at Georgetowne for tvs and touch screen chrome books.

Knox was glad to see the region is back to Tier 4 which opens up participation in sporting events.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Shockley moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Therry.

- A. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2020
- B. Closed Session Minutes of December 15, 2020
- C. Committee Meeting Minutes of the Board January 12, 2021
- D. December, 2020 Treasurer's Report
- E. January, 2021 Board Expenditures
- F. December, 2020 Imprest Fund Report

Voting "Yea" were: Buhl, Knox, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Motion carried 6-0.

CITIZENS TO SPEAK

Mrs. Angela Mahr addressed the Board with her concern with closing Rogers School. She is concerned with the sanitizing of the restrooms, the 4th and 5th grade in the stairway with the middle school students. She believes this is not the time to close Rogers School. It is not fair to the teachers and staff and also to the parents and students.

Ava Mahr, 5th grader, addressed the Board. She would like the Board to get the students point of view. She started a petition which at this time has 25 signatures.

CITIZENS TO SPEAK CONT'D

Mrs Kimberly Wood addressed the Board with her concerns of rushing the decision to close Rogers School. Have all the logistics been thought out? How much money would the district spend to move the classrooms? How will the district accommodate the library, congestion during drop off and pick up? She does not think it is a good time to make this decision. She stands by the teachers who are fighting to keep Rogers open.

Mrs. Ashley Althiser addressed the Board with her concern with where will the students eat at Georgetowne if Rogers School is closed. She feels the communication from teachers and principals are the best and the district has an amazing staff. She feels 3rd grade students will be stressed to go to Georgetowne for 4th grade. What will happen with sports? She feels the district should ask the students how they feel about closing Rogers. Mrs. Althiser will hate to see Rogers School sit vacant. She would like to see Rogers School kept open with small class sizes.

Mrs. Sara Hiles addressed the Board asking if we have considered letting TMC students attend our schools in the open classrooms. She asked if we have consulted with the students of the district.

Mr. Dale Hamm has a Georgetowne student his concern is “Why the Rush?” He feels the decision to close Rogers School is rushed way too fast and the Board is not giving the public and students enough time for feedback.

Mrs. Sara Sadler, 4th grade teacher and Miss Brooke Jackson, 5th grade teacher, addressed the Board. Mrs. Sadler has been teaching at Rogers for 12 years and Miss Jackson has been teaching at Rogers for 15 years. The teaching staff have a combined teaching experience of 124 years and 108 of those years have been at Rogers School. The staff would like the Board to Pause to Investigate, Pause to talk to the stake holders; teachers, staff, parents and the board, Pause for the stress of COVID and Pause for grace to students.

BUILDING REPORTS

Mrs. Dietrich informed the Board:

Marquette School has conducted middle of the year benchmark assessments. The school will review the data and share with teachers and parents. The data will be monitored throughout the year. Any concerns will be communicated to the parents. Marquette will continue with the Spelling Bee, Read Across America Day and Young “Authors. Marquette will celebrate the 100th day of school on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.

Mrs. Lindsay informed the Board:

The district Spelling Bee will be held on February 3, 2021. 5th -8th grade stuents will participate in the bee to be held in the Georgetowne Auditorium. We appreciate Miss Hickey and the classroom teachers for their work in allowing this event to continue in the midst of the pandemic. At this time, the US department of Education has not granted waivers for state assessments. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness will begin as early

BUILDING REPORTS CONT'D

as March 15, 2021. Current enrollment at Rogers' School is 132 students with 24 of those students' remote learning for the 3rd quarter.

Mr. Brown informed the Board:

Current enrollment at Georgetowne School is 135 students with 24 of those students' remote learning for the 3rd quarter. Pekin High School freshman placements are scheduled in February. The tech grant will allow teachers to have touch screen chromebooks. Since our area has moved to Phase 4 this has allowed schools to participate in sports. The athletic director is scheduling volleyball and basketball games.

ACTION ITEMS

Member Buhl moved to approve the Addendum to the Master Contract between the North Pekin-Marquette Heights Federation of Teachers and the Board of Education of North Pekin-Marquette Heights School District #102 which extends the contract one full year through June 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Therry. Voting "Yea" were: Buhl, Knox, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Motion carried 6-0

Member Williams made a motion to approve the updates to the following Press Issue 106 board policies 3:40, 4:10, 4:55, 4:80, 4:90, 4:150, 4:175, 5:30, 5:190, 5:270, 6:15, 6:20, 6:40, 6:280, 6:315, 6:340, 7:100, 7:140, 7:300, and 7:325. The motion was seconded by Vo. Voting "Yea" were: Buhl, Knox, Shockley, Therry, Vo, and Williams. Nays: 0. Motion carried 6-0.

Vo made a motion to transfer Mrs. Patty Crank from Rogers School Secretary to District Secretary for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was seconded by Shockley. Voting "Yea" were: Buhl, Knox, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Motion carried 6-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Possible Closure of Rogers School: Mr. Sondgeroth addressed the Board and the public in attendance about the possible closure of Rogers School. He explained that the "Possible closure of Rogers School" was an agenda item for the Board Meeting on December 15, 2020. The Friday before the board meeting as a courtesy to the staff he informed them this item was on the agenda. He gave this same presentation to the board in December 15 meeting. The Board made a decision to continue moving forward. Mr. Sondgeroth discussed the District has strong fund balances. The state's financial future is very unsure at this time. The state could cut funding by 5% for next year and 10% the following year. The state has also discussed adding 16 more days to the school year, which in turn would cost the district upwards of \$400,000. The state could also change the funding formula to schools. With the increase to minimum wage the district is looking at an increase of \$50,000 per year. In addition, the board has a fiscal responsibility to protect the districts assets. Mr. Sondgeroth addressed the 3 common concerns the community has expressed. "Change": People don't like change and why close Rogers. The world hates change but change is also an opportunity for progress.

DISCUSSION ITEMS CONT'D

“Combine 4th and 5th grades at Georgetowne”: Many people are concerned about the younger students attending the same school as the 6th through 8th grade students. There is no regulation from the state for grades in a building. “Transportation”: This concerns many parents. Rogers has the largest transportation area in the district. Before the pandemic the board was looking at paid bussing. His recommendation is to open transportation for paid students. What is closing Rogers School going to save the district? It will save salaries and benefits, potential utilities, internet, fire. The district could lease the building the cost could be paid by the lesser. There isn't any interest in leasing classrooms separately. A conservative annual savings could be \$150,000 to \$200,000. How would the savings be used? Savings from the Education Fund, transfer funds appropriately per auditor, the biggest expense is replacing 3 mammoth roof top units at Georgetowne, the lifespan of these units is 20 years (our units are going on 22-23 years), fix the roofs at Marquette and Rogers, new asphalt at Georgetowne and Rogers, the bridge needs extensive maintenance and consider eliminating book fees. The Board continues to gather information and address the community concerns. An upcoming meeting will be scheduled with representatives from grades 4th through 8th and grades K - 3 with the principals.

District 102's Financial Profile Designation Based on FY20 AFR Data: Mr. Sondgeroth discussed with the Board the 3.90 rating. This is due to the long term bonds the district still has.

Potential Summer Projects: Mr. Hoffman is getting bids for asphalt at each building.

Other items as presented: Due to the pandemic, Georgetowne could not present the new gym to the community. He pointed out all the updates to the gym. The new roof, ceiling and walls painted, gym floor sanded and stained, new mats and new scoreboards. Mr. Brown was able to sell the old scoreboards.

Shockley moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:33 P.M. The motion was seconded by Vo. Roll call vote. Ayes: Buhl, Knox, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Motion carried 6-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:49 PM.

Vo made a motion to adjourn at 8:49 PM. Seconded by Therry. Motion carried by acclamation.

Keith Knox, President

Andrew Shockley, Secretary