

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTH PEKIN-MARQUETTE HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 102
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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 Keith Knox. Present were Buhl, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Absent was Higdon. Also present were Superintendent Byron Sondgeroth, Principal Tom Brown, Principal Jennifer Dietrich and Principal Jennifer Lindsay.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD SALUTES

Sondgeroth gave a Board Salute to Mr. Woods for setting up the sound system for the last two Board meetings.

Knox gave a Board Salute to the custodial staff for the extra work keeping up with the snowfall indoors and outdoors.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Regular Board Minutes, January 26, 2021
- B. Closed Session Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2021
- C. Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2021
- D. Treasurer's Report, January, 2021
- E. Board Bills, February, 2021
- F. Imprest Fund Reports, January, 2021
- G. Activity Reports, December, 2020 and January, 2021

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

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

This was the Board's second public hearing to allow citizens and staff to voice concerns or comments related to the possible closing of Rogers School. Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Heaton, Miss Jackson, Miss Malin, Mrs. Massaglia, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Mooney, Miss Pardo and Mr. Woods were in attendance. No one addressed the Board.

BUILDING REPORTS

Jennifer Dietrich informed the Board:

Marquette Spelling Bee will be held on March 12, 2021. The Young Author stories will be collected on March 26, 2021. The Illinois 5Essentials survey is now open for teachers and parents to complete. The custodians have done a great job keeping the walks clear and salted. To celebrate "Read Across America" on March 2, 2021, Mr. Sondgeroth will be the guest speaker and will read to each class.

Jennifer Lindsay reported to the Board:

Mr. and Mrs. Woods started Beginning Band lessons with the 5th grade students who are interested in playing an instrument. The district spelling bee was held on February 3rd. Catherine Davis, Sierra King and Lillie Mast participated in the spelling bee. The ICC Dental Hygiene Program students presented to Rogers P.E. classes good oral health and brushing practices. Rogers' teachers collaborated with Mrs. Dietrich and Mr. Brown regarding changes that will occur in the event of a school consolidation. Current Special Education enrollment is 71 students.

Tom Brown reported to the Board:

Congratulations to this year's spelling bee champion Lillie Mast, 5th grade, and runner-up Sam Queen, 7th grade. Custodial staff removed many of the older SMARTBoards and replaced them with the 65" Cast TVs. IESA's recent change to spectators has now allowed the opportunity for families to view their student-athlete under restricted guidelines. Volleyball, basketball, poms and cheerleading 8th grade recognition will be able to occur under the new guidelines. NJHS helped students celebrate random acts of kindness week by promoting "thank you cards" and "encouraging post-it notes". They also provided hot-cocoa to all the GMS for "comfort others" day. Girls basketball will have a cooperative agreement with St. Joseph School. The season is scheduled to begin in early March along with boys and girls track and field.

ACTION ITEMS

Member Therry made a motion to approve the resolution of Participation in the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan. The motion was seconded by Williams. Voting "Yea" were: Buhl, Knox, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Motion carried 6-0.

Member Shockley made a motion to approve the amendment to the Superintendent's employment contract in regard to his accumulated, unused vacation days. Voting "Yea" were: Buhl, Knox, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Rogers School Closure Presentation: Mrs. Dietrich, Mrs. Lindsay, Mr. Brown and Mr. Sondgeroth presented to the Board their meetings with staff members.

Mrs. Dietrich met with Mrs. Heaton and the 1st and 2nd grade leaders. They discussed daily schedules, music, p.e., lunch, recess, the use of the library, what the classrooms would be, dismissal, special programs and different events. Mrs. Heaton had input and also asked questions. Mrs. Heaton, Miss Pardo, Miss Malin and Mrs. Geltmaker toured Marquette School on Friday, February 19, 2021. Board Member Therry asked Mrs. Dietrich if the consolidation was to move forward how many teachers would be at Marquette School? There would be 12 classroom teachers. Mr. Sondgeroth asked if the Board made the decision by March can Mrs. Dietrich begin preparing for the transition process early. Yes, things can be moved out of rooms that are not being used at this time.

Mr. Brown met with Rogers' teachers, Miss Jackson and Mrs. Sadler, and his grade level representatives. They discussed how to facilitate the move to Georgetowne School. There were a lot of great ideas. On February 19, all Georgetowne teachers and the 4th and 5th grade teachers discussed schedules and the use of the library. There were a lot of ideas and a lot of notes were taken. Everything is logistically possible. Mr. Sondgeroth asked if there was anything that couldn't be tackled logistically of moving classrooms. If this consolidation was to move forward remodeling could begin before the school year ends. Board Member Buhl asked if the district would still have the crossing guard at Main and Rogers Streets in North Pekin. Mr. Sondgeroth said the crossing guard is provided by North Pekin.

Mrs. Lindsay met with Mr. Brown, Mrs. Dietrich and the special education department. There are three things that primarily determine staffing patterns for special education they are the workload or caseload size, variance in student abilities and eligibilities and statutory age range restrictions in classes. If the consolidation goes through, Marquette School will have Special Education teachers for Early Childhood; Kindergarten and 1st grade; and 2nd and 3rd grade. Georgetowne will have a Special Education teacher for 4th and 5th grade, 6 through 8th grade self-contained and 7th and 8th grade inclusion. Mrs. Livingston, Speech Teacher, would work with the 3rd through 8th grade students and Miss Mangieri, Speech Teacher, would work with the Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade students. There will be teacher aides at each grade level. With the school district's declining enrollment for the last few years, this has impacted special education also. There are currently 71 special education students enrolled in the district.

Mr. Sondgeroth addressed the Board regarding building improvements and transportation if the consolidation was approved. Georgetowne teachers will move from the lower level to the upper level. Outdated classrooms will be repaired with paint and new flooring, where needed. Work can begin in March. There have been multiple conversations with Justin and contractors that work could begin before the Spring Break. Transition will also involve accommodating the library with new shelving. The district has received a good portion of additional Title I Funds which will help with cost. The district will hire additional summer help. Adding an additional grade level at Marquette School will help with filling the buses by adding 5 to 10 students per bus. Rogers school has the largest transportation zone. With consolidating the schools there will be fewer bus riders at Georgetowne. Last year the district began to create a process to open bus routes to paid riders. The district could create a bus pass option for parents to use. Mr. Sondgeroth continues to hear misinformation about class sizes. Some residents think we are consolidating classes. There have been concerns about the timeline. Prolonging the issue until next year could add additional stress to staff and students. There have been comments about Georgetowne students being bullies. The Georgetowne and Rogers students who ride the bus together interact very well. Mr. Brown has had students ask about moving to Georgetowne School and they seem very positive and excited about the move. There has also been comments about consolidating the school would only save a "buck or two". By consolidating, the district could save over \$200,000 a year.

Advance Refunding of District #102 Bonds:

Mr. Sondgeroth discussed with the Board the advance refunding of the Districts Bonds. “Advance refunding” refers to the practice of taking the funds received from a new bond issuance to pay off a prior issue’s debt. The issue of the new bond is, usually, at a lower interest rate than the older, unpaid obligation. Municipalities typically use advance refunding to lower borrowing costs and to take advantage of lower interest rates.

2021-2022 School Calendar:

Mr. Sondgeroth informed the Board the calendar committee met virtually a couple weeks ago to discuss dates for next year’s calendar. This is the first draft after having discussed dates with the Pekin Area School and the district’s Calendar Committee.

IASB Constitution, Position, Statements and Belief Statements:

Mr. Sondgeroth distributed booklets to the Board members.

Vo made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:11 P.M. The motion was seconded by Buhl. Voting “Yea” were: Buhl, Knox, Shockley, Therry, Vo and Williams. Motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:43 PM.

Shockley made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:43 PM. Second by Therry. Motion passed by acclamation.

Keith Knox, President

Andrew Shockley, Secretary