

North Pekin-Marquette Heights School District No. 102
Committee of the Board of Education
February 9, 2021
Georgetowne School Library

MINUTES

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Knox called the meeting to order at 6 PM in the Georgetowne library. Mr. Sondgeroth took board attendance. Members who were present are marked with an "X".

Knox	Higdon	Shockley	Buhl	Therry	Vo	Williams
X	absent	X	X	X	X	X

Others Present: Mr. Sondgeroth, Mrs. Lindsay

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

Building and Grounds

Discussion Regarding Building Consolidation – The board continued its discussion regarding the possible closure of Rogers School. Mr. Sondgeroth shared an updated copy of the timeline he created and reviewed with the board in January. He reported that the administrative team met last week and is planning its presentation for the February board meeting. Building level planning meetings were held on Friday, Feb. 5 during the district’s Remote Planning Day. Mrs. Dietrich met with representatives from grades K-3. Mr. Brown met with representative from grades 4-8. Both principals reported that the meetings were productive and that many items and issues were discussed at each meeting. None of the issues were insurmountable and all issues can be planned out. The board also took about 20 minutes to do a short walkthrough of GMS to view the empty spaces in the building and to discuss some of the upgrades that would need to occur.

Transportation

Discussion of Bus Routes if Rogers is Closed – Mr. Sondgeroth reported that he had already created bus routes for next year based on having two buildings instead of three. The MES route for next year is easy. The current K-2 students who qualify for bussing now remain on the bus next year in grades 1-3. He just needed to add the incoming Kindergarten students. There will likely be more added as students move in and as the district identifies more incoming Kindergarten students for 2021-22, but the addition of the 3rd grade to the MES bus routes will add approximately 15 to 20 students to those routes.

Planning for the GMS routes next year is not as simple and will take some extra time. Mr. Sondgeroth reported that he has created routes for the GMS students if it consisted of grades 4-8. He reported that there were approximately 50 students in 4th and 5th grade that, if at Rogers School, would have qualified for the bus, but at GMS will not. Mr. Sondgeroth reviewed a map of eligible bus streets for RES and GMS. He discussed moving forward to plan a process where parents can purchase a bus pass to be eligible to ride using planned stops. This was a topic the board had been discussing early in 2020 before the pandemic closed things down.

Bus Lease Extension – Mr. Sondgeroth reported that the district’s current bus lease is \$11,847 per bus per year for three years. That 3-year lease expires at the end of June 2021. Since the buses did not have a full year of usage in 2019-20 and have only been used for daily routes this year (no field trips and limited extra-curriculars), the current mileage on the buses is lower than usual. The current mileage is

much less than it would normally be approaching the end of a 3-year lease. Mr. Sondgeroth approached Randy Swanson, the district's salesman from Midwest Bus Sales, about extending the lease on its current buses because they are all in excellent condition and are kept inside out of the elements. Mr. Swanson has proposed a 2-year extension with an annual cost of \$12,470 per bus. Mr. Sondgeroth also checked on the cost to lease three new buses. That cost was going to be roughly \$14,900 per bus per year for three years. Mr. Sondgeroth is recommending the 2-year extension to the current lease and indicated that he will likely take that to the board for approval at the March board meeting.

Finances

Monthly Budget Report – Mr. Sondgeroth shared a copy of the January 2021 budget summary report for the board's review.

Financial Strategy – Mr. Sondgeroth reported that he had been talking with Mrs. Lindsay and working with the district auditor to create a strategy for addressing many of the district's capital project needs moving forward. He shared his thoughts with the board regarding using money from the state's Evidence Based Funding formula to help address some of the needs.

Second Round of CARES Act Money – Mr. Sondgeroth reported that the district has received notification that it will be receiving more money through the extended CARES Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). He discussed his thoughts for expending those funds. He hopes to use the fund to address air quality at GMS as per the recommendation of the grant.

Additional Title I Funds – Mr. Sondgeroth reported that he will need to amend the Title I grant to expend some extra funds that have been allotted to the district. Funds will go for additional Smartboards and library shelving.

Personnel

Review of District Enrollments by Grade Level – Mr. Sondgeroth shared the current grade level enrollments with the board. Those enrollments are included below and are current as of the end of January.

Marquette		Rogers		Georgetowne	
Kind.	41	3 rd Grade	43	6 th Grade	40
1 st Grade	50	4 th Grade	46	7 th Grade	53
2 nd Grade	42	5 th Grade	43	8 th Grade	42

Amendment to the Superintendent Contract – The board reviewed a proposed amendment to the superintendent's contract that will ensure that the district is not penalized by TRS at the end of the superintendent contract when accumulated, unused vacation is paid out as per the requirements in the Illinois Wage Payment and Collections Act.

District Social Worker – Mr. Sondgeroth reported that he and Mrs. Lindsay intend to begin the process of seeking applications for a district social worker to replace Mrs. Burdick who will be retiring at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Policy

Possible Change to the 2020-21 Return-to- School Plan – Mr. Sondgeroth shared that most of the district's students in remote learning are doing well, but there have a handful of students who are not

being successful. Between the three schools, there are roughly 6-10 students who are in remote learning, but are doing poorly and have no real reason for remaining home in remote other than preference. The state only required that remote learning be offered to medically fragile students or to students with medically fragile family members. They recommended it be offered to all, but did not require it. Consistent with what many local districts are doing, District 102 plans to start requiring a note from a physician for a student staying home in Remote Learning if that student is failing. The note would provide verification that the student is medically fragile or that the student has medically fragile family members requiring them to remain home in Remote Learning. Other students who are doing Remote Learning, but are doing the work and passing can remain in Remote Learning.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Sports Restrictions/Guidelines – Mr. Sondgeroth briefly discussed the constantly changing guidelines that deal with the return-to-sports at the middle school level.

Other Items from the Superintendent and Board Members

GMS Graduation – GMS graduation has been set for Wednesday, May 19. It is highly unlikely that the state will be in a place where schools will be allowed to have an indoor ceremony. At this time, GMS plans to move forward with a program similar to what it did last year with a parade and an outdoor presentation of diplomas at GMS. Those plans could change if the circumstance in the area and state improve.

ADJOURN

Motion by Shockley to adjourn at 8:13 PM. Second by Vo. Motion passed by acclamation.



Keith Knox, President



Andrew Shockley, Secretary