

**MIO AUSABLE SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 8, 2021**

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PRESENT: Holzwarth, Hunter, Irelan, La Vigne, Long, Szymanski, Whaley (6:35)  
ABSENT: None  
ADMINISTRATION: Ciske, Shiffer  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: None  
RECORDING SECRETARY: McVeigh

President Irelan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Consent Agenda**

**2020-2021-53**

Hunter/Holzwarth to approve consent agenda items:

- a) Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 8, 2021
- b) Monthly finance

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**Bolt of the Month Awards** – Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students were honored as Bolt of the Month recipients. Twelve students received these awards for the months of January and February. These students were honored for their academic and citizenship achievements. Two students and their parent/guardian attended the meeting. President Irelan stressed what an achievement and honor it is to receive this award. She also thanked parents/guardians for their role in assisting their child to be the best they can be, not only through grades but through citizenship as well.

**Discussion of Board Goals and Committee Assignments for 2021.**

Board members discussed and reviewed assignments, with board member Whaley commenting that she feels the current goals should be retained. No additional goals or committees added for the upcoming year. COVID guidelines are being followed as mandated for the safety of the district.

**Athletic Director's Report** – Athletic Director report was presented by Superintendent Ciske. Spectator limits for sporting events have increased throughout the state to a maximum of 375. Games will continue to be live-streamed. No concessions or food/drink are allowed in the gym. Interviews were held for the position of Head Baseball Coach. Calvin Fox was offered, and accepted, the position. COVID testing for wrestling has been going well, with no positive cases. Girls Basketball Districts will be held the week of March 22. Spring sports will also begin their practices the week of March 22.

**Elementary Principals' Report** – Mrs. Shiffer reviewed elementary information. March is Reading Month activities have begun. Learning & Loving Literacy tutoring has also begun. This program targets 2-4 grade students. Mrs. Downer, Mrs. Marlatt and Mrs. Eurich are leading these groups. DRA testing has been completed. Conferences were held on March 4. Mrs. Shiffer will have information regarding conference attendance at the April meeting. Math support/intervention continues with Mrs. Ewald. Enrollment is at 231, with 36 of those students virtual. The focus for the Spark Award for the month of February was Kindness. Mrs. Shiffer thanked Mrs. Beek, Ms. Costello and Mrs. Eurich for establishing the March is Reading Month Calendar. In addition, Mrs. Shiffer thanked Ms. Lewis in the library for organizing free book drawings.

**Buildings and Grounds Report** – Mr. Ciske reported that he met with a representative from Control Solutions in Alpena regarding the updating of the HVAC control system. The current system was installed by Trane and can only be serviced by them. Updating the system will allow us to better control the heating units. Control Solutions is also going to provide a quote for updating the camera system. We are also seeking a quote from Omega Electric in Alpena to replace the bus compound lighting system with LED lights. At the same time, we would like to replace the two lights on the east end of the parking lot which are currently managed by Big Creek Township. The fire alarm update is nearing completion. The Wellness Center is nearing completion.

**Middle School / High School Principals' Report** – Mr. Ciske reviewed middle school/high school information and provided an update regarding the Trip Club being organized by Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Beltz. Plans are underway for a trip to Chicago in 2022 and to Europe in 2023. The COOR ISD CTE staff are putting together promotional materials to inform students about CTE class options. We are currently in the process of informing students and getting them scheduled for next year. Arrangements are also being made to bring in a portable classroom for the Rec Engines Class. Mr. Ciske thanked COOR ISD Superintendent Shawn Petri for getting the CTE programs going. Negotiations are currently taking place between the Departments of Education in Lansing and Washington DC regarding what testing will be required. The math curriculum is looking at new text books for the math program.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Ciske provided an update. Three retirement letters have been received and will be approved as action items. Those retiring are: Larry Lubitz, Cindy Thomey and Dianna Hiser. Although we are happy for them, we are sorry to see them leave. The high school principal position is posted with seven applications received to date. The posting ends on March 25. We will soon post for the HS secretary position, as well as special education teacher positions. In addition, due to the district receiving significant Federal COVID funds, the plan is to hire a few more teachers. These additional teachers would allow us to increase the number of sections, thus reducing class sizes for the next couple of years. There will be a few more teachers retiring during that time. When those do retire, they will not be replaced. This increase in teaching staff would also allow us to better cope with the learning loss during the next couple of years. Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Ciske are looking at scheduling to determine what positions will be needed to achieve this.

**Public Comment(s) on Extended Continuity of Learning Plan - None**

**Citizens' Comments** – Mr. McFalda inquired as to the Rec Engine Class being open to other COOR ISD school districts. In addition, Mr. McFalda thanked the board for allowing Mr. Ciske to begin negotiations and stated that the teachers really appreciate being able to work with him on behalf of the board.

**Action Items -**

**2020-2021-54**

Hunter/Holzwarth

consider the approval of the reauthorization of the Mio AuSable Extended COVID Learning Plan

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved

**2020-2021-55**

Whaley/Long

consider the acceptance of the letter of retirement for Larry Lubitz

YES: 7

NO: 0

Motion approved

**2020-2021-56**

Szymanski/Holzwarth consider the acceptance of the letter of retirement for Cindy Thomey

YES: 7  
 NO: 0  
 Motion approved

**2020-2021-57**

Holzwarth/Whaley consider the acceptance of the letter of retirement for Dianna Hiser

YES: 7  
 NO: 0  
 Motion approved

Board members expressed their sincere thank you to those retiring for their years of dedicated service to the district.

**2020-2021-58**

La Vigne/Szymanski consider approval of Board Goals and Committee Assignments for 2021.

YES: 7  
 NO: 0  
 Motion approved.

**Board Committee Assignments for the 2021 year will be:**

- **Finance Committee:** Holzwarth, Hunter, Irelan
- **Policy Committee:** Hunter, Irelan, La Vigne
- **School Improvement:** Long, Whaley
- **Athletic Policy Committee:** La Vigne, Long, Whaley
- **Safety Committee:** Holzwarth, Szymanski
- **Long Range Planning Committee:** Irelan, Szymanski, Whaley

**2020-2021-59**

Hunter/Whaley to go into closed session at 7:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations.

YES: 7  
 NO: 0  
 Motion approved

**2020-2021-60**

Hunter/Whaley to return to open session at 7:26 p.m.

YES: 7  
 NO: 0  
 Motion approved

**Board Members' Comments** – None

**Correspondence** - None

There was no other business.

**2020-2021-61**

La Vigne/Szymanski to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeannette McVeigh, Recording Secretary

Cheryl La Vigne, Board Secretary