

**MIO AUSABLE SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2023**

PRESENT: Irelan, LaVigne, Long, Mitchell, Whaley, Wyckoff
ABSENT: Hunter
ADMINISTRATION: Taylor, Ahearne
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Marsh
RECORDING SECRETARY: Belanger

President Irelan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Pledge of Allegiance.

2022-2023-66

LaVigne/ Whaley to approve consent agenda items:

- a) Minutes of Regular Meeting on January 13, 2023
- b) Monthly Finance

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

Bolt of the Month - Six students announced as January Bolts of the Month

Budget Amendment Presentation – Mr. Taylor presented the 2022-2023 budget amendment, including revenue/expenditure projections and fund balance. The revised budget reflects an increase in revenue and decrease in expenditures. The foundation balance is good and should continue to improve in the future. Mr. Taylor reminded the board that nine salaries are currently budgeted to be paid with ESSER III funds. Mr. Wyckoff inquired as to the decrease in expenditures to which Mr. Taylor responded that a major factor was the inclusion of two MS/HS special education salaries in the original budget. Only one MS/HS special education teacher position was filled during the 2022-2023 school year. A final budget will be presented in June.

Computers for Computer Lab Purchase Presentation – Mr. Taylor presented the board with information regarding an opportunity for the school to purchase 30-35 used (new in box) from Crawford AuSable Schools for \$20-25,000. Mr. Warren, IT Manager, estimates that purchasing new computers to replace current lab computers would cost \$60,000. Mrs. Irelan reminded board that one of the goals of the board is to keep technology updated and inquired as to what would happen to the current computer lab computers. Mr. Wyckoff asked for information regarding the age of the computers and if any kind of warranty would be transferred to Mio. Mr. Taylor agreed to get more information regarding the computers and report back to the board.

New Diesel Mechanic Contract Presentation – Mr. Taylor informed the board that Mr. Will Small will be retiring effective April 1st. Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Small for his hard work and commitment to keeping our bus fleet safe and in compliance. Mr. Stan Gardner currently works with COOR and has been a transportation director in the past. Mr. Gardner would be contracted at \$60/hour.

Elementary Principal's Report – Mr. Taylor presented the elementary report for Mrs. Shiffer. First grade held their annual drive in theater, which was well attended and overall a success. The third grade after school tutoring program is underway. Conferences were held on March 9, 2023. These conferences are longer for deeper academic and behavioral discussions.

CPI training was held in February. The book fair was a great success, bringing in more than ever before. Mrs. Marsh partnered with the American Heart Association and about 30 students earned a glow party. Elementary staff received test prep training with the digital tool, Moby Max. The Thunderbolt walking and sensory path is up and students are using it daily. Mr. Taylor recognized Mrs. DeGuzman and Ms. Lewis on behalf of Mrs. Shiffer for their hard work and the incredible support they provide students and the district. The March character trait is Encouragement. Current enrollment is 219.

Athletic Director's Report – Mr. Marsh presented the athletic report. The varsity boys basketball team ended the season 19-2. Districts were held in Mio. District finals brought in a packed house. The varsity girls basketball team finished their season with six players. Many schools and referees commented on the improvement they saw in the team over their season. The wrestling team sent three athletes to Individual State Finals, with one athlete placing 7th. Spring sports practices begin March 13th. Middle School track will begin after spring break.

Middle School / High School Principal's Report – Mr. Ahearne presented the report. Spring conferences were poorly attended. Only 33% of 6-12 students had representation from a parent/guardian. Next year there are talks of using sign ups for conference times and creating an open house to coincide with the conferences. Mr. Ahearne created and distributed a student relationship survey to staff and students. Results from this survey will be used to strengthen student-staff relationships and to make staff aware of the impact that they have on students. Test data dive took place, which hadn't been done in many years. Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Ahearne are working with Fairview Area Schools to determine if any classes may be shared to offer students more options. Mrs. Angel has proposed a rock band class for next school year. A lockdown drill took place in February including the Sheriff's Department. Test time is approaching and Mr. Ahearne thanked Mrs. McDonald for making sure testing goes smooth. Student count is 257.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Taylor presented the report. Mr. Taylor reported the final allotment of ESSER III funds has been made and approved. The consolidated application is completed. Modifications are currently being made, which is a normal part of the process. Once the entire application is approved, then plans for summer school will be made. A goal for next year is to complete two budget revisions throughout the year as opposed to just one. A trip to the Industrial Arts Institute in Onaway is planned for March 24. Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. McFalda for arranging this trip. Johnson Controls will be evaluating the PA system on April 3rd. Mr. Wyckoff asked when the PA system was last updated and whether the system would be replaced or repaired. Mr. Taylor replied that there are not enough funds at this time for a new system. The priority is to address any dead spots in the building. Plans are being made for Secure Education Consultants to assess the entire building for safety. Mr. Taylor is working with Kristin Eagle to create a plan for the mental health funds the district will be receiving.

Citizens' Comments – Mrs. Larrison inquired as to why no new paraprofessionals are being hired to replace those that have left the MS/HS level. Mrs. Larrison also asked what is being done for children that require full period support as she has been told that paraprofessionals are being switched around. Ms. Morse commented on how impactful the paraprofessionals are to students. Ms. Morse also inquired as to what the plan is to replace the lost paraprofessionals and move forward. Mr. Taylor responded that he too sees the importance of the paraprofessionals and that current staff are being moved to cover needs at the moment. Mr. Taylor invited Mrs. Larrison and Ms. Morse to speak about their concerns with him at any time. Mr. King thanked Mr. Wyckoff for the good questions asked about the computer lab purchase. Mr. King inquired as to how many computers were currently in the lab. Mr. King also commented that he is surprised by the high cost of the computers and would like to hear more about what exactly the district would be purchasing.

Safety Committee Report – The Safety Committee did not meet.

Strategic Planning Committee Report – The Strategic Planning Committee did not meet.

Finance Committee Report – The finance committee met to review the budget amendment in advance of tonight's board meeting.

Action Items

2022-2023-67

Mitchell/Whaley

consider the approval of the amendment to the budget as presented.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

2022-2023-68

Long/Mitchell

consider the approval of entering into a contract with Stan Gardner as a diesel mechanic for Mio AuSable School District.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

2022-2023-69

Long/Wyckoff

table the approval of purchasing computers for the computer lab until next meeting.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

2022-2023-70

Long/Wyckoff

accept the resignation of Nicole DeHetre.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

2022-2023-71

LaVigne/Mitchell

approve the hire of Rebecca Ward, special education teacher.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

Board Members' Comments – Mrs. Whaley thanked Mrs. Angel for the wonderful job she does singing the National Anthem at the basketball games and said how lucky our district is to have her as a teacher. Mrs. Mitchell said how impressed she is by the work Mr. Ahearne is doing and that it is really going to impact the kids. Mrs. Long commented that she would like to see conferences advertised more in the community. Mr. Wyckoff inquired as to the count differences between conferences. Mr. Ahearne commented that a drop off at spring conferences is normal. Mrs. Irelan commented about a recent letter from another school to Mr. Taylor commending the girls basketball team.

Correspondence -

None

There was no other business.

2022-2023-72

Whaley/LaVigne

to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Belanger, Recording Secretary

Cheryl LaVigne, Secretary