

**MIO AUSABLE SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 18, 2024**

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PRESENT: Hoffman, Irelan, Long, Mitchell, Whaley, Wyckoff  
ABSENT:  
ADMINISTRATION: Taylor, Margaritis, Wood  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Marsh  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Belanger

President Wyckoff called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading of the mission, vision, goals, and belief statements.

**2023-2024-92**

Mitchell/Long to approve consent agenda items:

- a) Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 12, 2024
- b) Minutes of Special Meeting on March 4, 2024
- c) Monthly Finance

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**Bolt of the Month** – 13 students announced as February Bolts of the Month.

**Staff Appreciation Presentation** – Board members read 9 staff appreciation submissions aloud from January and February. Mrs. Clapp and Mr. Wellman were selected to win the giveaway. Submissions will be accepted for the next board meeting.

**Strategic Planning/Safety Committee Update Presentation** – Mr. Taylor stated the administrative team met to discuss strategic planning goals and assign tasks. The team found that work for many goals is already underway. A staff engagement survey will be going out to staff soon. Mr. Wyckoff presented that the safety committee met to rank items from the safety audit report and create plans.

**Food Service Presentation** – Mrs. Miller presented the board with results from the recent School Nutrition Compliance Review carried out by the Michigan Department of Education. Mrs. Miller stated there were no fiscal finds and food service staff are doing things properly. There are wellness plan items that will need to be addressed and corrected, but that work has already begun. The next review will take place in the next three to five years.

**Robotics Team Presentation** – Mr. and Mrs. Mason along with four robotics team members demonstrated a tank drive robot they built to compete in two competitions this year. The newly formed team finished 30<sup>th</sup> out of 40 at Kettering and 31<sup>st</sup> out of 39 in Lake City. The team was awarded the Rookie Inspiration Award. The robotics team is seeking sponsors. Mrs. Whaley thanked Mr. and Mrs. Mason for their time and she commented on the growth she saw from the first competition to the second. Mrs. Mason commented that she saw growth amongst the students in regards to strategizing with other teams and taking initiative. Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Barve and Mr. Flint for donating their time as well.

**Elementary Principal's Report** – Mr. Wood presented the report. The library sponsored an assembly with Ruth McNally

Barshaw. The Mystery Reader feature has returned on Mondays. Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Morse-Bills, and Ms. Margaritis have been mystery readers. Representative Borton visited the fifth grade as a guest reader. Staff will attend a presentation from Bookworms which two teachers are currently piloting. Parent teacher conferences took place and data will be presented at a later meeting. State testing will begin in April. Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> will be popcorn day! Current enrollment is 227.

**Athletic Director's Report** – Mr. Marsh presented the athletic report. The varsity boys basketball team lost to Hillman in districts. Miss Burden placed 4<sup>th</sup> at Wrestling State Finals as a freshman. Varsity girls were North Star League co-champs and lost to Gaylord St. Mary's in the first round of regionals. Baily Bennett is the new softball coach. Softball, baseball, and track practices begin March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Middle School / High School Principal's Report** – Ms. Margaritis presented the report. Ms. Margaritis reported that all paraprofessional vacancies have been filled. Class ranks for seniors were released March 18<sup>th</sup> and the top ten students will be honored at the next board meeting. Senior awards night will be May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Sixth grade students have been attending Starbase in Alpena. Ms. Margaritis thanked Ms. Sposato and Mrs. McGregor for their investment of time and resources to the middle school NHS. The high school NHS induction ceremony was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>. State testing will begin in April and PSAT tests will be taken online this year. Ms. Margaritis thanked Mr. and Mrs. Mason for their hard work starting the Thunderbotz robotics team. Current enrollment is 267.

**Superintendent's Report** – Mr. Taylor presented the report. Mr. Taylor reported that the school was awarded a grant to help fund the robotics club. Quotes are being put together for the updated camera system. Quotes are also being requested for vaping detectors. The gymnasium floor work plans are being finalized for the summer. Mr. Taylor thanked Mrs. Beek and Mrs. Long for attending a job fair at Saginaw Valley State University in hopes to recruit talent for Mio AuSable Schools. They will also be attending a fair at Ferris State University soon. Mr. Taylor reported that the school should be receiving a student resource officer within the next six months. The spring NEOLA policies have been sent to the policy committee. Mrs. Oates from Thunder Bay took students to an ASIST training. Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Ciske for organizing solar eclipse events for the students. Mr. Taylor thanked Mrs. Ray-Welch for providing yoga classes for staff wellness. Mr. Taylor reported that Thunder Bay is close to hiring a nurse for the on-site clinic. At this time Mr. Wood and Ms. Margaritis excused themselves from the meeting.

**Audit Quote Discussion** – Mr. Taylor presented quotes for 2024-2026 from Weinlander Fitzhugh for audit services. The board voted to employ Weinlander Fitzhugh for audit services in July 2023.

**Overnight Middle School Trips Discussion** – The middle school trips have been scheduled as follows:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade May 8-11, 2024

7<sup>th</sup> Grade April 24-27, 2024

8<sup>th</sup> Grade April 3-7, 2024

**Superintendent Vacancy/Personnel Committee Discussion** –Mr. Wyckoff presented the board with five administrative structure scenarios that were created after meeting with Mr. Wood and Ms. Margaritis. Board members discussed which scenarios they preferred. Mr. Wyckoff reminded board members that if an external search for a superintendent is wanted, the time is short. Board members discussed the possibilities of admin having more than one title. Mr. Wyckoff opened citizen's comments for this issue. Mrs. Tappan expressed concerns about having permanent administration and asked that some scenarios be repeated. She also wondered if combining roles would be beneficial to the school. Mrs. Miller commented about staff members being considered for Superintendent position. Mrs. Ray-Welch asked the board to not combine the Elementary Principal position with any other positions and voiced concerns about the curriculum director being K-12. Mr. King commented on whether the Elementary Principal position being posted as interim would limit the employee pool. He also commented that if the Business Manager was separated from the Superintendent, that would free a lot of time from the Superintendent's position. Mr. McFalda commented on whether duties assigned would be reflected in wages. Mr. McFalda also commented on the negotiations process with a new Superintendent. Mrs. Ward asked board to not combine the Principal and Superintendent positions. Mrs. Mason also asked the board to not combine

the Principal and Superintendent as it's too much work dealing with student issues. Mr. Wyckoff commented that scenarios were created based on conversations with current administration and interest/strengths. Mr. Wyckoff also commented that there are many factors involved and many moving parts. He also said that separating the Business Manager from the Superintendent will be a positive move for the school in regards to staffing and reminded board members that this is for the 2024-2025 school year and discussion will be brought up again for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Wyckoff commented that the creating a Curriculum Director position aligns with the strategic planning goals. Mr. Hoffman stated which scenarios he liked and agreed that there is a need for an Elementary Principal.

**2023-2024-93**

Wyckoff/Ireelan

that board president and another board member go into negotiations with Gary Wood for 6-12-month Superintendent/Business Manager contract.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-94**

Wyckoff/Whaley

to go into negotiations with April Margaritis for 1-3-year contract for MS/HS Principal and K-12 Curriculum Director.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**Citizens' Comments –** Miss Fuhr informed board on ASIST activities. Miss Miller also commented on ASIST opportunities for students and staff.

**Action Items**

**2023-2024-95**

Whaley/Long

accept the resignation of Marvin Taylor, Superintendent.

YES: 5

NO: 1

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-96**

Mitchell/Long

consider the approval of Dr. Mandie Willey's contract as virtual Spanish consultant until the end of the 23-24 school year.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-97**

Mitchell/Whaley

consider the approval of the audit quote from Weinlander Fitzhugh as presented.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-98**

Irelan/Hoffman

consider the approval of hiring Krystal Treadwell, Charles Stevens, and Mark Schmidt as paraprofessionals.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-99**

Mitchell/Long

consider the approval of overnight middle school trips as presented.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**2023-2024-100**

Long/Irelan

consider the acceptance of the retirement letter submitted by Mary Miller.

YES: 5

NO: 1

Motion approved.

**Board Members' Comments** – Mr. Wyckoff asked for board member volunteers for administrative negotiations committees. Mrs. Irelan reminded board members of the board vacancy that needs to be filled by next month's regular meeting. Mr. Wyckoff also commented that the vacancy will be published in the Herald.

**Correspondence -**

None

There was no other business.

2023-2024-101

Whaley/Mitchell

to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

YES: 6

NO: 0

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Belanger, Recording Secretary

Kathi Mitchell, Secretary



