

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR /VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2020**

The Regular /Virtual Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences Gallery, 23211 Prospect Street, Armada, MI 48005. The meeting was also available virtually to the public. The meeting was (virtually) called to order by President, Scott Kline.

Board of Education Present: S. Kline (virtually via google meet), M. Meerschaert, J. Tobey, C. Murray, J. Ackerman, S. Nieman, E. Cooper

Absent: None

Administration Present: M. Musary, P. Jankowski

20-78 Motion by J. Ackerman, supported by E. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: All: J. Ackerman, E. Cooper, S. Kline, M. Meerschaert, C. Murray, S. Nieman, J. Tobey

Nays: None MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-79 Motion by J. Tobey, supported by M. Meerschaert that the Board of Education approve the Second reading of the Neola Policy updates, which includes the Special Release Resolution regarding the Open Meetings Act which authorizes the Superintendent to allow Board members to participate in voting via video and or telephonic conferencing. Also included in this second reading is a final resolution to grant emergency powers to the Superintendent during the 2020-2021 school year to address COVID-19 related emergencies.

Roll Call:

Ayes: All: J. Ackerman, E. Cooper, S. Kline, M. Meerschaert, C. Murray, S. Nieman, J. Tobey

Nays: None MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-80 Motion by C. Murray, supported by J. Tobey that the Board of Education meet in closed session at the end of this meeting for the purpose of discussing negotiations.

Roll Call:

Ayes: All: J. Ackerman, E. Cooper, S. Kline, M. Meerschaert, C. Murray, S. Nieman, J. Tobey

Nays: None MOTION PASSED: 7-0

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20-81 Motion by J. Ackerman, supported by E. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. October 20, 2020 (Regular Meeting Minutes)
 - b. October 20, 2020 (Policy Committee Meeting Minutes)
 - c. October 20, 2020 (Finance Committee Meeting Minutes)
 - d. November 4, 2020 (Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes)
2. Monthly Bills Payable for a total amount of \$528,209.64
3. Personnel Report
 - New Hire – Colleen Aiello (5th grade teacher)
 - New Hire – Margaret Bacheller (Kindergarten teacher)
 - New Hire – Devon McCormick (3rd grade teacher)
 - Re-hire – Amanda Balchunas (Spanish and substitute)
 - New Position – Lisa Langtry – Technology/Curriculum Administrative Support Assistant – will be vacating the High School Counseling clerk position
 - Retirement – Jennifer Brown – Official date is 11-20-2020
 - Resignation – Kara Bunto effective 11-09-2020

Roll Call:

Ayes: All: J. Ackerman, E. Cooper, S. Kline, M. Meerschaert, C. Murray, S. Nieman, J. Tobey

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-82 Motion by C. Murray, supported by S. Nieman, that the Board of Education approve the attached resolution authorizing the issuance and delegating the sale of the Armada Area Schools 2021 Refunding Bonds if the conditions become favorable.

Roll Call:

Ayes: All: J. Ackerman, E. Cooper, S. Kline, M. Meerschaert, C. Murray, S. Nieman, J. Tobey

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-83 Motion by J. Tobey, supported by M. Meerschaert, that the Board of Education approve the Monthly “Extended Continuity of Learning Plan” for the Armada Area School District as presented and with no changes from last month’s plan.

Roll Call:

Ayes: E. Cooper, S. Kline, M. Meerschaert, C. Murray, S. Nieman, J. Tobey

Nays: J. Ackerman

MOTION PASSED: 6-1

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CONVENED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:16 P.M.

RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:37 P.M.

20-84 President, Scott Kline, adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m. with the motion to adjourn from J. Tobey and supported by M. Meerschaert.

Hearing of the Public:

Mark Carlson, teacher and President of MEA-NEA Local 1, Armada, was disappointed that a committee meeting had taken place instead of a workshop meeting. He felt that the committee met without teacher representation. He also wanted to speak on behalf of most of the teachers that with the new order of having the high school turn to remote learning, they are worried for their health and prefer that the whole district move to fully remote learning.

Communications:

A letter from parents was presented to the members of the board in which the parents support the continuation of the face-to-face and virtual options.

Superintendent's Report:

Rationale to Continue Face-to-Face Learning

- The state (MDHHS) and local (MCHD) health departments are not recommending pausing pre-K through 8th grade in-person learning.
- Through 12 weeks, low cases of COVID-19 in the district – 12 student cases (0.7%) and 5 staff cases (2.2%).
- Zero cases of COVID-19 spread within the school district, which is in line with national and world trends.
- The district safety protocols are working such as wearing masks, social distancing, cohorting, morning temperature checks, and thorough cleaning practices.
- Most of the 26,945 COVID-19 cases in Macomb County are south of our district boundaries – 138 COVID-19 cases in Armada Township & Village.
- 25% of our students do not have internet service at home which makes it difficult for virtual online learning.
- 85% of our families are requesting face-to-face learning for their children for Trimester 2, which is up from 79% in Trimester 1.

Armada Schools Update:

- At the elementary, we are hiring three new teachers due to additional students returning for face-to-face learning in Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and 5th grade. We had 575 face-to-

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face learners and 151 virtual online learners in Trimester 1. In Trimester 2, there are going to be 612 face-to-face learners and 114 virtual online learners.

- At the M.S., we had 314 face-to-face learners and 98 virtual online learners in Trimester 1. In Trimester 2, there are going to be 349 face-to-face learners and 63 virtual online learners.
- At the H.S., we had 464 face-to-face learners and 125 virtual online learners in Trimester 1. In Trimester 2, there are going to be 484 face-to-face learners and 105 virtual online learners.
- This is week 12 in the school district which is the last week of Trimester 1. Trimester 2 begins November 30th.
- In transportation, our busses will not be overcrowded due to the increase in face-to-face students during Trimester 2. Each bus will have 3 – 4 additional riders. There will be an additional 92 students attending face-to-face learning K-12.

Curriculum Update: Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Curriculum, Mr. Phil Jankowski, provided the following information:

- 1) SAT - Fall 2020
 - a) 1062 Total Score - Compared to 1050 in for class of 2020
 - b) 541 Reading - 522
 - c) 522 Math - 529
- 2) Return to Learn Survey
 - a) 85% have asked to return to face-to-face
 - b) Building administrators are rescheduling students now
- 3) Professional Development
 - a) Staff PD Committee
 - i) Virtual PD Days for November 23 & 24
- 4) Participation Rates
 - a) The participation rate of all students either attending or logging in virtually is required to remain above 75%. To date, the attendance has remained above that percentage.

Staff Updates:

- The feedback on the extra time given to teachers for virtual instruction is that their stress level seems to have come down some.
- The consensus is that Empower is still not where it needs to be and a full board workshop has been requested that will include teachers. An additional item of discussion was also requested regarding K-8 learning.

Board Reports:

None

Old Business:

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The board agreed that they would have a full board workshop including teacher representation to discuss Empower and to also discuss K-8 learning.

New Business:

- Member S. Nieman asked how the COVID-19 grant was coming along. Mr. Musary responded that it is in process and employees have been notified and the information has been published on our website.
- All board members agreed that there will be added discussion about methods to show appreciation to our teachers, especially during this difficult time. This item will be added to the workshop agenda.

Points of Pride:

J. Tobey:

- Proud of the teachers for bearing with the board while they try to make the proper changes.

C. Murray:

- Proud of the staff because it is like trying to hit a moving target, but they are doing the best they can in support of the students.

J. Ackerman:

- Proud to see the SAT scores improve every year which shows the hard work on the part of everyone involved.

S. Nieman:

- Proud of the Administrators and teachers and everyone for staying positive in such a changing environment.

M. Meerschaert:

- Impressed and proud of the Boys Cross Country team for their excellent showmanship and also proud of the fall coaches for their work under such difficult circumstances. The coaches made it nice for the seniors this year.

E. Cooper:

- Proud of the teachers and the students for achieving high scores on the SAT and improving every year.

S. Kline

- Appreciative of the board members and their opinions and feedback.

P. Jankowski:

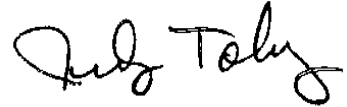
- Proud of the teachers, maintenance, bus drivers, and everyone and thankful to the teacher who stepped up to help with the professional development.

M. Musary:

- Mr. Musary is proud of the students and staff and even though not always in the same opinion with one another, he feels we are all family and will still be friends tomorrow. Mr. Musary is also glad that the school was able to get through a fall sports season when it originally looked like there would not be one. He is happy the class of 2021 was able to be a part of that if they

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wanted to be. Things will get better and if at any time he feels we are at a point where we are not safe, he will take appropriate action for the well-being of everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Tobey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Tobey, Secretary
Armada Board of Education