

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2023**

The Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences Gallery, 23211 Prospect Street, Armada, MI 48005. The meeting was called to order by President, Cheryl Murray.

Board of Education Present: C. Murray, S. Wylin, M. Meerschaert,
S. Nieman, S. Hill, S. Wolak, Student Board Rep.

Board of Education Absent: A. Blake w/ notice,

Administration Present: M. Musary, K. Skokna

Guests Present: Brent Bohlinger, Barton Malow
Craig Westrick, French Associates

23-88 Motion by M. Meerschaert, supported by S. Wolak, that the Board of Education approve the Agenda as presented.

Voice Vote: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

23-89 Motion by M. Meerschaert, supported by S. Hill, that the Board of Education designate its regular/organizational meeting to be held on January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. In addition, that any current Board officers, Superintendent of Schools, and Executive Director of Business and Operations be authorized to sign checks on behalf of the district until the election of officers takes place. (Staff Report #1)

Voice Vote: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

23-90 Motion by M. Meerschaert, supported by S. Wolak, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. November 14, 2023 (Regular Meeting Minutes)
 - b. November 14, 2023 (Policy Committee Meeting Minutes)
 - c. November 14, 2023 (Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes)
2. Monthly Bills Payable in the amount of \$559,834.87 as presented.
3. Personnel Report

Voice Vote: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

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23-91 Motion by S. Wylin, supported by M. Meerschaert, that the Board of Education Approve the district option to an 80/20 plan for employees required to co-pay on health insurance beginning January 1, 2024. (Staff Report #2)

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

23-92 Motion by S. Nieman, supported by M. Meerschaert, that the Board of Education award the generator purchases to the low bidder, E.L. Electrical Contracting, with a base bid amount of \$240,990.00. (Staff Report #3)

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

23-93 Motion by M. Meerschaert, supported by S. Nieman, that the Board of Education award the water softener upgrades to the low bidder, Contrast Mechanical, with the base bid amount of \$237,000.00. (Staff Report #4)

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

23-94 Motion by S. Wolak, supported by S. Wylin, that the Board of Education award the AHS athletic stadium upgrades to the following for a total amount of \$ 5,789,932.00. (Staff Report #5)

<u>Bid Category</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Masonry	Arisco Contracting Group, Inc.	\$ 222,222.00
General Trades	R & E Development Group	\$1,165,000.00
Mechanical	Fresh Aire Mechanical	\$ 249,000.00
Electrical	E.L. Electrical Contracting, Inc.	\$ 549,710.00
Sitework	Cortis Brothers Trucking & Excavating	\$2,847,900.00
Synthetic Turf	Sprinturf	\$ 756,100.00

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

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23-95 Motion by S. Wylin, supported by S. Wolak, that the Board of Education approve the second reading of the changes to the Board of Education’s Policy Manual (Volume 38, No. 1 – September 2023 updates) as recommended by NEOLA and the Board of Education’s Policy Committee (Staff Report #6)

Voice Vote: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

23-96 Motion by S. Wolak, supported by S. Hill, that the Board of Education Approve the textbook for ELA as outlined in the previous curriculum presentation. (Staff Report #7)

Voice Vote:

Ayes: C. Murray, S. Nieman, M. Meerschaert, S. Hill, S. Wolak, S. Wylin

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

23-97 President, Cheryl Murray, adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m. with the motion to adjourn from M. Meerschaert and supported by S. Wolak.

Hearing of the Public:

None

Communications:

None

Presentations

Student Awards

Superintendent Musary introduced “Students of the Month” from Armada High School and Armada Middle School. They were each introduced and awarded with a certificate.

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Superintendent's Report:

- At Krause Elementary, the 3rd Grade Winter Concert was well attended and our new stage curtains were up for everyone to see. The Krause student council made over 150 bracelets for kids at the children's hospital.
- At the M.S., the Pi-Gears had a very good season winning an Inspire Award and Think Award during regional play and won the Compass Award 2nd Place at the Michigan FTC State Championship on December 8-10 at Macomb Community College.
- At the H.S., winter athletics are underway. This past weekend, the varsity wrestling team hosted and won a 5-team tournament and boys bowling won a 22-team tournament. There were several fundraisers this past month as the PLT Relay for Life basketball event raised money to fight cancer, the Project Care Fight Hunger Games brought in food items for families in need, and the staff donated Christmas gifts to families in need with our Giving Tree program.
- At MA2S, the Fighting Pi will begin preparing for their season in early January. The Michigan State Championship Event will be at SVSU (April 8-10).
- Tomorrow (Dec. 20) is the last school day of the calendar year. School resumes January 4th.

Curriculum Update: Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Curriculum, Kelly Skokna, provided the following information:

Bullying Concerns: Proactive Measures

- Utilize focused curriculum: Character Strong
- Secondary focus on PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support)
- Classroom presentations
- Increased access to counselors/social workers
- Partnership with CARE of SE Michigan and Adolescent Outreach Program
- Anonymous reporting through website and OK2SAY

Bullying Concerns: When Reports Are Received

- We investigate, interview all parties, review discipline history, check in with teachers and other staff, check cameras, etc.
- Depending on the situation, we may:
 - Look at a restorative approach.
 - Utilize disciplinary measures, including expulsion.
 - Reach out to law enforcement for assistance and/or advise parents to do so.
- We will always:
 - Contact parents/guardians of those involved.
 - Offer supportive measures to anyone in need.
 - Check in with students during and after.

Additional Curriculum Updates

- Ferris English Course: LITR 150 approval requested
- January Professional Development
 - CKLA and PLCs with time for vertical alignment
- First round of t-shirts and raffles for the "Going Places" initiative at the high school. Currently 47.10% of seniors have an acceptance letter for post-graduation programs.

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Board Reports:

- **Student Representative:** Many fundraisers have been taking place at the high school lately, one for basketball and one for wrestling and he hopes to see it continue and grow into the next year.
- **Member S. Nieman:** Legislature is done for the year, but she encourages you to reach out to Representative Jaime Greene about the FAFSA and any other issues of concern. Also, the Armada Education Foundation received 34 grant requests from teachers and awarded 18 of them in the amount \$35000,00.
- **Member M. Meerschaert:** Here are some take-aways from the Michigan Apprenticeship Steering Committee conference recently attended:
 - In the next 5 years a number of Tradesman/women (approximately 41%) are expected to retire. This will result in approximately 545,000 open trades jobs.
 - The average age of apprentices right now is 27 years old.
 - Registered apprenticeship will pay for the apprentice's training and education while the apprentice gets a salary.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- Member C. Murray reminded the board members that the next MCSBA Dinner meeting will be held at Lake Shore Public Schools on January 23, 2024.
- Mr. Musary announced that the wellness coordinators are surveying the staff right now and are planning a wellness kick-off on January 15, 2024

Points of Pride:

M. Meerschaert:

- Member Meerschaert is proud of the high school orchestra and band, directed by Mr. Bobek, and said the performance was well attended and the absolute best she has ever heard.

S. Wylin:

- Member Wylin said she choir and their concerts prior to their trip to Hawaii were excellent. She said Mrs. Surzyn did an excellent job carrying the torch forward with the beautiful tribute to Mrs. Ulinski in Hawaii.

S. Nieman:

- Member Nieman is proud of the teachers who wrote grants because they do that on their own time and it is always 100% about the kids.

S. Hill:

- Member Hill was happy to hear that some students decorated Christmas bags for Vinckiers and is proud of the 7th and 8th grade girls basketball teams for going undefeated this year.

S. Wolak

- Member Wolak expressed that the 3rd grade concert was very well attended.

K. Skokna:

- Ms. Skokna enjoyed the middle school newspaper, under the leadership of Ms. Aiello. It is called the Tiger Tribune and they just published their first edition.

C. Murray:

- Member Murray is pleased that the wrestling team has gotten off to a good start.

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M. Musary:

- Superintendent Musary is proud of Mrs. Surzyn and the chorale who represented Armada in Hawaii. Everything was first-class and it was nice to see them on Fox News. It was a wonderful tribute to Mrs. Ulinski and her family.

Student Rep:

- Our student representative is proud of all of the fundraising that has been going on. He feels that there is a lot of Christmas spirit and a lot of giving in the past couple of months.



Michele Meerschaert
Secretary, Board of Education