

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2020**

The Regular 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 called to order by President, Scott Kline.

Board of Education Present: S. Kline, M. Meerschaert, J. Tobey, C. Murray, J. Ackerman,
S. Nieman, E. Cooper

Absent:

Administration Present: M. Musary, P. Jankowski, K. Sutton, K. Skokna, M. Gosciewski

20-70 Motion by J. Ackerman, supported by C. Murray that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-71 Motion by C. Murray, supported by J. Tobey that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 15, 2020 (Regular Meeting Minutes)
2. Monthly Bills Payable for a total amount of \$407,823.52
3. Personnel Report
 - New Hire – Melissa Markus, Elementary Special Services Instructional Aide
 - New Hire – Caitlin Schmees, Speech Therapist (.3 FTE)
 - New Hire – Christine Tietze, High School Special Services Instructional Aide
 - New Hire – Patricia Gauthier – Middle School lunch aide
 - Retirement – Lenora Saunders – Received official letter 9-24-2020
 - Resignation – Allison Willcoxson, Middle School lunch aide

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

Brian Essenmacher, CPA of Yeo and Yeo, presented the 2019-2020 Audit Report. He gave a special thanks to Heather and Josie and their team for making the audit run smoothly. The audit results met the highest level of assurance. There were no material weaknesses noted and no significant deficiencies noted.

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2020**

20-72 Motion by S. Nieman, supported by M. Meerschaert, that the Board of Education accept the 2019-2020 audit report as presented.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-73 Motion by C. Murray, supported by J. Tobey, that the Board of Education approve the attached resolution honoring Armada's outstanding principals and administrators.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-74 Motion by J. Tobey, supported by M. Meerschaert, that the Board of Education approve the first reading of the changes to the Board of Educations' Policy Manual (Volume 35, No. 1 – August 2020 updates) as recommended by NEOLA and the Board of Educations' Policy Committee.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-75 Motion by J. Tobey, supported by E. Cooper, that the Board of Education approve the Monthly "Extended Continuity of Learning Plan" for the Armada Area School District as presented.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

20-76 Motion by C. Murray, supported by E. Cooper, that the Board of Education approve the next two regular Board of Education meetings (November and December) be held both in person and virtually.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2020**

20-77 President, Scott Kline, adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m. with the motion to adjourn from J. Tobey and supported by S. Nieman.

Hearing of the Public:

No public comments were made.

Communications:

A letter written by T. Schafer, Middle School Principal, was shared with each board member.

Superintendent's Report:

- At the elementary, our two quarantined classes return tomorrow.
- At the M.S., all students (both virtual and face-to-face) have completed NWEA testing.
- At the H.S., tomorrow is Unity Day 2020 and we will be wearing ORANGE to stand up against bullying.
- At MA2S, the Computer Club is up and running virtually preparing for their annual competition.
- This is week 8 in the school district which means we have had both of our student count days (October 7 and 12). For the 2020-21 school year only, a new "super blend" will be used to determine student state aid membership. The 90/10 blend for 2019-20 multiplied by .75 will be added to the 90/10 blend for 2020-21 multiplied by .25 to determine the super blend count used for the 2020-21 membership.
- In transportation, we called every parent in August inquiring about bus transportation needs. Currently, we have 781 students assigned to busses. The students are in assigned seats and siblings sit together. The students have been very cooperative with masks and hand washing requirements.
- In food service, our daily average for face-to-face learners is 308 student breakfasts and 612 student lunches served. We are currently serving 108 virtual online learners – we distribute 540 breakfasts and 540 lunches each Wednesday using a drive thru process where parents do not get out of the car.
- In maintenance, disinfecting and cleaning is happening during the day as well as a deeper cleaning in the evening. We are doing well on PPE inventory. We ordered UV light wands for every classroom to sanitize electronic devices safely.

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

- NWEA Testing scores
- Virtual Student Troubleshooting – Geek Squad – Phil Jankowski and Matt Gillett have been visiting homes of virtual students and holding virtual meetings/phone calls to support those parents unfamiliar with the system.
- Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Plan (MICIP) – Returns to regular order in January 2021 and includes redesign of MI SchoolData

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2020**

- Marshall Plan update – Inquired about a one-year extension on the grant
- Return to learn survey – approximately 90% are indicating they will return in person for Trimester 2
- Professional Development – Virtual PD days are scheduled for November 23rd and 24th
- The Reconfirmation of the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan was reviewed with additional information being provided by teachers during the Staff Update portion of the agenda.

Staff Update:

Reports were provided from two of the building principals and several of the teachers. The principals spoke positively about the students who have returned face-to-face and the fact that students and teachers are handling the situation well. They admit that the virtual part with the online learners and teachers did not start out well, but they gave credit for those who have pushed through it and said it is getting better. Many of the teachers, on the other hand, expressed frustration with the Empower platform that they are using and their lack of time to devote to their virtual students.

Board Reports:

None

Old Business:

None

New Business:

It was suggested that a workshop be scheduled in November before the next regular Board of Education Meeting, in order to further discuss the Empower platform and various frustrations of the teachers.

It was also discussed and agreed upon that the next two regular Board of Education meetings will be held both in person and virtually. Motion 20-76 was approved.

Points of Pride:

J. Tobey:

- Proud of Member S. Nieman for receiving the President's award from the Michigan Association of School Boards for completing a minimum of 1,383 education credits. Also proud of the teachers who brought their concerns to the board and for working hard to resolve their issues.

C. Murray:

- Proud of the Business Department for have a clean audit. Proud of all the staff for working hard to do the right thing.

J. Ackerman:

- Proud of staff and students for following the guidelines set in place and proud to be a member of this community

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2020**

S. Nieman:

- Said she was “floored” by the amount of concern the teachers have for one another, and their empathy and support for each other.

M. Meerschaert:

- Pleased to hear that Phil Jankowski and Matt Gillett have been helping parents with technology issues.

E. Cooper:

- Thankful to the teachers for sharing their concerns.

S. Kline


- Recognizes the stress that everyone feels in their jobs these days, thankful to the teachers for bringing their concerns to the board, and pleased with the culture of Armada with their ability to have constructive dialogue.

P. Jankowski:

- Proud that we are doing so well, because here we are in week 8, which is a testament to the staff and board members and everyone involved.

M. Musary:

- Also proud of the compassion and support his staff members show for each other. It is National Principal’s month and he has the best Administrators in the state. He is proud of them and is fortunate to work with them.


Judy Tobey, Secretary
Armada Board of Education