

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

The Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building Board Room, 74500 Burk Street, Armada, MI 48005. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Cheryl Murray.

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

Board of Education Absent: A. Blake w/ notice

Administration Present: M. Musary, K. Skokna

23-75 Motion by S. Wolak, supported by M. Meerschaert, 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

23-76 Motion by S. Wylin supported by S. Hill, that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. August 22, 2023 (Regular Meeting)
 - b. August 22, 2023 (Closed Session)
2. Monthly Bills Payable
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

23-77 President, C. Murray, adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m. with the motion to adjourn from S. Wolak and supported by M. Meerschaert.

Hearing of the Public:

Comments were made by four individuals regarding Academy bussing, a co-op opportunity with a local business and a suggestion was made about posting the recommended textbooks for curriculum on the website.

Communications:

- None

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Superintendent’s Report:

Bond Issue Update:

- First bid packages will be released in October/November 2024 and include:
 - Select roofing replacement (MA2S) and drainage/gutters (elementary)
 - Stadium Renovations
 - New athletic support building (concessions, bathrooms, ticket booth)
 - Football/soccer field turf
 - Softball turf
 - Press boxes (stadium and varsity baseball)
 - Resurface track
 - JV softball scoreboard
 - Pave drives to baseball field and fieldhouse
 - Replace water softeners (elementary, MS, & MA2S)
 - Emergency generators (elementary, MS, & HS) – one year lead time on equipment
 - Replace select doors (interior & exterior) and rekey buildings (districtwide)
 - Two new school buses
 -

Armada District Update:

- At Krause Elementary, the Open House was well attended. Parents and teachers continue to be pleased that we are able to keep class sizes low again this school year (K-5 average class size is 23). There are 6 LEGO robotics teams this fall (we had two last school year).
- At the M.S., the “parent back to school night” is this evening – parents attend all six of their child’s classes in 12 minute stints and meet the teachers and go over the class curriculum. Also, N.W.E.A. testing has wrapped up. In addition, fall sports are off and running.
- At the H.S., fall sports are underway highlighted by the boys tennis team having a very good season so far, including 2-0-1 in the BWAC and the girls cross country team winning the 12-team Adams Invitational and putting up times that are trending toward a top-ten team in the state. The homecoming parade will be Friday, September 29th at 4:30 pm followed by a varsity football game at 7:00 pm vs. Algonac. Also, there will be four college representatives on campus this week – Michigan, Concordia, Lawrence Tech, and Oakland University.
- District K-12 enrollment is currently 1,704. We budgeted 1,736. The decline in enrollment is at the high school.

Curriculum Update: Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Curriculum, Kelly Skokna, provided a September 2023 Curriculum Update:

- MSTEP and SAT testing results for 2023 were provided
- Buildings will be finishing up Fall NWEA testing soon
- Continuation of our academic goals: Increasing student proficiency in both math and ELA and goal of growing our SEL
- PD committee meeting summary
- October 18, 2023: Bullying Awareness/Unity Day

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Board Reports:

Member S. Nieman reported that the Senate Education Committee began hearings on House Bill 4752 which amends the Public School Employees Retirement Act to address the current requirement that a retiree must wait 9 months after retirement before being able to substitute in a district without penalty to their pension.

As passed by the House, the bill would allow public school retirees to return to work without a 9-month waiting period and earn up to \$10,100 per calendar year. If the \$10,100 threshold is exceeded, penalties will be assessed against pension benefits. After the 9-month period, the threshold is lifted.

Conversations on this issue are still happening and further changes are expected, including possibly shortening the timeline to six months instead of nine. Hearings will continue next week.

Member S. Nieman also noted that the Armada Education Foundation is proud to announce that they have voted to approve \$35,000.00 in grant money this year.

Student Board Representative, Liam, reported that at the high school there has been an increase of stricter policies. There is a new attendance policy that have upset some, but everyone is settling in just fine and it seems to be working. He feels the Academy bussing situation is going well.

New Business:

Member C. Murray reminded the group that the next MCSBA dinner meeting will be held in Fraser on Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

Points of Pride:

C. Murray:

- Member Murray is proud of the parents, teachers, athletic boosters, equestrian team and other school groups who support the board and the community and make all of the school programs possible.

S. Wylin:

- Member Wylin enjoyed watching the video of the kick-off for the school year, especially when Mr. Musary and Member Murray announced the information about the retention bonuses.

S. Hill:

- Member Hill also enjoyed the video footage of the start of school and said that she was happy to hear from the community members tonight. It is nice that they came forward to share their ideas and opportunities.

S. Wolak:

- Member Wolak also appreciated the comments and compassion from the community and alumni.

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M. Meerschaert:

- Member Meerschaert was very impressed to find out that our student SAT scores were #1 in the county.

S. Nieman:

- Member Nieman is proud of Administration for working so hard to fill last minute staffing vacancies and feels we are fortunate to have a culture in which people want to come to work.

K. Skokna:

- Ms. Skokna's highlight is the elementary teachers completing their CKLA program.

M. Musary:

- Mr. Musary said that it's not all about test scores, but the one that pleases him most is the SAT scores.

Student Rep:

- Liam is proud of athletics. He says they are shining and he is fortunate to be in school at this time. The stands are always full for the football games and he has heard that there was a time back in the day when the stands were not full.



Michele Meerschaert
Secretary, Board of Education