

SCALES MOUND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #211
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Scales Mound Community Unit School District #211 was held in the district library on Monday, February 19th at 5pm.

President Paul Homb called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Staci Duerr called roll with the following members answering:

Paul Homb-Present
Peter Zito-Present
Katie Meusel-Present
Jim Stoewer-Present
Staci Duerr-Present
Jeff Bader-Present
Ashlee Miller-Present

Administration Present: Dr. Marybeth DeLaMar, Superintendent & Dr. Matt Wiederholt, Principal

Others Present for the Meeting: Jennifer Travis, Susan Morhardt, Jill Frank, Abigail Frank, Jim Frank, Sara Wentz, Dave Decker, Shanna Grossen

Katie Meusel moved to amend the agenda by adding an additional field trip for the Art Department to Item C and Moving Item G to Closed Session. This was seconded by Jeff Bader. All present voted in favor.

Ashlee Miller moved to approve the open and closed session minutes from the regular meeting on January 16, 2024, approve bills, and payroll in the amount of \$537,843.39, the Treasurer's report and other financial reports, FOIA report, and destruction of the closed session audio recording for May of 2022. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Dave Decker and Shanna Grossen from the Scales Mound ARC presented a financial report update from calendar year 2023. It was agreed that the next meeting between the Scales Mound ARC and Scales Mound School would be scheduled for the 2nd week in April 2024.

Dr. Wiederholt provided the Principal's Report and reported on the following items:

- The RRSM Girls Varsity Basketball team won the Regional Championship on Friday, February 16th and will now play on Tuesday, February 20th against opponent Rockford Lutheran at Lena Winslow High School at 7:30pm.
- The Scales Mound Boys Varsity Basketball team earned a First Round Bye in their tourney and will play in the Regional Semi-Final Game on Wednesday, February 21st at East Dubuque High School against the winner of the River Ridge v. Lena-Winslow game being played this evening.
- A successful SIP day was held on February 16th where the following items were completed:

- The group reviewed the Daily Oral Language components and a Map Testing assessment tool.
- A meeting was held with paraprofessionals to review the daily procedures for our students.
- The 5 Essentials Survey information was sent to families within the district.
- Junior high teachers met to discuss the following:
 - Schedule the Illinois Assessment of Readiness testing to be held in late March 2024
 - Discussion was held concerning computer bags for carrying computers for the junior high. A pilot program with 6th grade students has proven successful and as result 7th graders and 8th graders will also begin using these bags to carry and protect their school computers.
 - To provide further guidance to those junior high students with minimal passing and failing grades in their classes, a study club was established at the beginning of the school year which is held daily after school. To further assist these students, 2 teachers have volunteered to provide additional support over the lunch hour for students in this category once they finish eating their lunch. Those students with letter grades of a F will work with these teachers on missed homework or additional learning support each day.
- All staff met to discuss upgrades to the commons area of the school and will be working with students in junior high and high school to brainstorm ideas to make this space more comfortable and usable for students and staff.
- Discussion was held concerning our recent E Learning and Emergency Days held in January and how to best balance the usefulness of these days in the future without causing our students to be overloaded while studying and working from home.
- Mrs. Vogt conducted a student interaction activity with staff where they identified those students that need additional support and interaction from staff.
- Conversation was held with Benton High School on the possibility of joining their group for ice-skating at the Dubuque Ice Arena. A date for this event will be forthcoming.

Abigail Frank, Student Advisor to the Board, discussed the groups meeting on February 8th to plan for the all student meeting held on February 16th regarding upgrade plans for the commons area of the school. The group is also working with administration on a request to return vending machines to the school. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Dr. DeLaMar provided the Superintendent's Report and reported on the following items:

- The ROE has approved the E-Learning Days and Emergency Day taken in January 2024. The calendar has been updated to reflect these days.
- The McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership visited the preschool and will be providing a report and rating on activities and opportunities the preschoolers at Scales Mound currently have as well as suggestions for improvement.
- Preschool screening was recently held with 10 students being screened and another 7 students will be screened on an additional date added later this month due to illness.

- The technology committee is currently working with a company called Apptegy on designing a new school website and school app for communicating with our families and community members in the district. More information will be presented to the board later.

Dr. DeLaMar presented information from the PTO meeting held on February 1st.

- The group is looking for new projects to support within the school such as some of the furniture in the commons, new equipment for the concession stand, and a lighting system.
- The group will be purchasing gift cards to be provided to guidance counselors to provide to students in need for groceries, clothing and other items.
- The group is working on offering a Christmas Shop next holiday season to allow students to purchase gifts for their families. More information to follow.

Dr. DeLaMar reported on the CTE meeting held on February 13th.

- The CTE Foundation donated money to assist with the purchase of new computers.
- The CTE is researching ways in which they could potentially use E-Learning days for next school year.
- The CTE is working with a company that assists in school handbooks and would utilize their assistance in revising the current handbook at the CTE.

Dr. DeLaMar reported on the NWSE meeting held on February 13th.

- The NWSE professional development catalog is now available for schools for the next school year.
- The life safety inspection scheduled for 2/20/24 will be rescheduled due to the inspection group being behind with other inspections due to weather cancellations.
- The last day of attendance for NWSE students will now be May 20, 2024, due to weather related cancellations.

No other reports from other committees were presented.

Dr. Wiederholt updated the board on graduation recognition for the 2024 school graduation and beyond. The committee for this project was composed of students, parents, and school board members. A motion was made by Ashlee Miller approve changes to graduation recognition as presented. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Dr. DeLaMar presented the draft calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Katie Meusel motioned to approve the proposed 2024-2025 school calendar as presented. This was seconded by Peter Zito. All present voted in favor.

Dr. DeLaMar reviewed and discussed Scales Mound Schools' Consolidated District Plan. The plan supports all students in our district and is created and submitted following a needs assessment to determine how grant money is used to support the students in the district for the upcoming school year. Jeff Bader moved to approve the Consolidated District plan as presented. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Discussion was held concerning (3) upcoming field trips for students greater than 50 miles from the school.

Katie Meusel motioned to approve the Trap Team trip to State. This was seconded by Ashlee Miller. All present voted in favor.

Ashlee Miller motioned to approve the Trap Team trip to Nationals. This was seconded by Peter Zito. All present voted in favor.

Peter Zito motioned to approve an art trip to the Art Institute of Chicago. This was seconded by Katie Meusel. All present voted in favor.

Dr. DeLaMar presented information concerning the purchase of a school bus during this school year. She explained that only diesel buses are currently available for purchase and then discussed the pros and cons of diesel versus gas buses. The transportation committee met concerning this topic and recommended the purchase of a diesel bus this school year in the amount of \$135,000. The bus will come equipped with air conditioning. We will then look to sell or trade in a bus from our fleet. Peter Zito motioned to approve the purchase of a diesel bus in the 2024 school year in the amount of \$135,000. This was seconded by Ashlee Miller. All present voted in favor.

Discussion was held surrounding Public Act 103-0100-Right to Read Legislation recently approved by the State of Illinois on January 1st. The new law requires every Illinois library that applies for grant funding from the state to establish an anti-censor policy or statement. The library can adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights or a policy statement of their own. Katie Meusel motioned to approve Scales Mound School's Library adopting the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights as is required by Public Act 103-011-Right to Read Legislation to allow for application of grants for our district library in the future. This was seconded by Jeff Bader. All present voted in favor.

Dr. Wiederholt presented information concerning the Illinois Principal Association Mentor program. This program allows mentoring of new school principals by more experienced, tenured principals throughout the state. Dr. Wiederholt is still considering whether he will be participating in the program but wanted to obtain approval to do so. Ashlee Miller motioned to approve participation in the Illinois Principals Association Mentor program. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Katie Meusel motioned to enter into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and for student disciplinary cases at Scales Mound CUSD #211 (5 ILCS 120/ 2@1), as amended by P.A.93-0057) at 6:30pm. This was seconded by Jeff Bader. All present voted in favor.

Katie Muesel motioned to return to open session at 7:23pm. This was seconded by Peter Zito. All present voted in favor.

Peter Zito motioned to approve the Principal's Contract with the addition of a longevity clause added. This was seconded by Katie Meusel. All present voted in favor.

Ashlee Miller motioned to approve job descriptions for office staff, custodians and the Facilities Manager. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Jeff Bader motioned to hire Amanda Wurm as 1st Grade Teacher for the 2024-2025 School Year. This was seconded by Katie Meusel. All present voted in favor.

Jeff Bader motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm. This was seconded by Ashlee Miller. All present voted in favor.

President

Secretary