

**SCALES MOUND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #211  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
December 16, 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, December 16th at 6 pm.

President Paul Homb called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. 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-Absent

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

Others Present for the Meeting: Jenny Raab, Katherine Bilderback, Brett Hesselbacher, RuthAnn Einsweiler, Kara Stadel, Tom Shoemaker, Danielle Shoemaker, Katie Preston, Alecia Conrad, Leah Kraeger, Jolene Peart, Laura Grindey, Julie Werner, Jeremy Werner, Jeff DeLamar, and Madyn DeLaMar

Jeff Bader moved to amend the agenda and move personnel items to closed session prior to approving. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Staci Duerr moved to approve the open and closed session minutes from the regular meeting on November 18, 2024, approve bills, and payroll in an amount of \$528,490.52, the Treasurer's report and other financial reports, FOIA report, and destruction of the closed session audio recording for April of 2023. This was seconded by Peter Zito. All present voted in favor.

Business Office Report: Keri Connor updated the board on training and cross training happening in the office for various financial and accounting duties. She will be taking over payroll responsibilities in January 2025 and is also looking at various processes in the department to streamline and create efficiencies for.

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

- We are nearing the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of the school year. Finals are occurring the week of December 16<sup>th</sup> for all high school students.
- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, a school wide holiday activity is taking place with the assistance of the Student Advisory board involving "Reindeer Games" for all students.

- Also on December 20<sup>th</sup>, all staff will be treated to a Fried Green Tomatoes luncheon followed by SIP day group work and then time for completion of grading before the semester officially ends.
- The new semester will kick off on January 6<sup>th</sup> with a County Wide SIP Day hosted by River Ridge School District. The day will include a key note speaker as well as break out session on various types and grade level specific sessions for teachers to collaborate.

Katherine Bilderback, representing the Student Advisors to the Board, presented the following:

- A “Reindeer Games” all school activity will take place on December 20<sup>th</sup>
- Homecoming activities and a Food Truck Day are currently being planned.

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

- The daycare received its permit from DCFS. The flooring project in the daycare was completed the week of Thanksgiving. All teacher and student files have been reviewed and are in order. DCFS will be making a visit to the daycare again before year end.
- Dr. DeLaMar along with interventionists, Regina Kretschmer and Josie Hupperich, recently attended the Raising Student Achievement Conference. Upon the completion of their attendance, all elementary teachers and interventionists have now attended this conference the past few years.
- An office staff meeting was held December 13<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting, job descriptions were worked on to align responsibilities with each staff member and account for cross training opportunities moving forward.
- Concerns that were raised from a parent concerning the large class size (25 students) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class and request for the students in the class to be further supported through splitting the class, a 2<sup>nd</sup> certified teacher, or 2<sup>nd</sup> paraprofessional.

#### Public Comment

The following individuals spoke in support of changes to be made in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom to further support students for the larger class of 25 students:

- RuthAnn Einsweiler
- Kara Stadel
- Katie Preston
- Alecia Conrad
- Danielle Shoemaker
- Leah Kraeger

Suggestions/ recommendations made by this group included:

- Splitting the class into 2 classes
- Bringing a 2<sup>nd</sup> certified teacher into the classroom
- Bringing a 2<sup>nd</sup> paraprofessional into the classroom
- Offering additional accelerated programs for more advanced students in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade

There were no SMEA report.

**PTO Report:**

- PTO held their meeting online this month on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held on the activities they will be supporting in the coming weeks.

**Dr. DeLaMar reported on the CTE and ERVDS meeting held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

- Meeting dates moving forward will be changed to allow for accessibility to reports needed for discussion during meetings.
- The snow removal contract was offered and accepted.
- Updates on Educational Pathway classes were shared with the group.
- A Health, Life & Safety inspection was completed of the facility with only minor items noted requiring attention.

**Dr. DeLaMar reported on the NWSE.**

- No meeting was held this month.
- CPI refresher classes are being offered for those in need in February.
- Some students are beginning to transition back to their home schools include a student from Scales Mound.
- The NWSE is currently holding their 5<sup>th</sup> annual meat fundraiser which proceeds used to cover student incentive rewards. Tickets cost \$20.00.

No other reports from other committees were presented.

**Old Business:**

Discussion was held on the 2024 Tax Levy for Scales Mound School. Peter Zito motioned to approve the 2024 Tax Levy at the proposed percentage increase of 104.96%. This was seconded by Jeff Bader. All others present voted in favor.

Discussion was held on Press Plus Issue 116 which centers around Title IX and language regarding discrimination and grievances. Previously the school's attorney provided suggested language for the school to use in our policy. Jim Stoewer motioned approve PRESS Policy 116 with attorney suggested language included. This was seconded by Katie Meusel. All others present voted in favor.

Discussion was held regarding the Joint Annual Conference held November 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, Illinois and attended by all school board members and Dr. DeLaMar. The board decided that on future changes to PRESS policies with substance that a committee will be formed to review the policy and make recommendations to the board. Jim Stoewer updated the group on items from the Delegates meeting which included student cell phone usage, healthcare options, and closing schools on voter polling dates.

**New Business:**

Discussion was held on PRESS Policy Issue 117. Board members are asked to review the policy (which contains minor changes) ahead of the January meeting and reach out with any questions.

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 6:59pm. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Jim Stoewer motioned to return to open session at 7:42pm. This was seconded by Jeff Bader. All present voted in favor.

Peter Zito motioned to approve the hiring of Derek Rogers, as PM Custodian at the hourly rate of \$20.00 per hour beginning Monday, January 20, 2025. This was seconded by Katie Meusel. Staci Duerr abstained from the vote. All others present voted in favor.

Peter Zito motioned to approve the hiring of Carrie Homb, as Lead Teacher in the Infant Room at the hourly rate of \$20.00 per hour. This was seconded by Jeff Bader. Paul Homb abstained from the vote. All others present voted in favor.

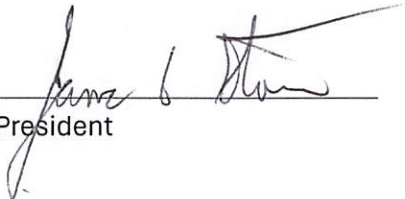
Katie Meusel motioned to approve a compensation increase for Heide Rogers, Cook & ParaEducator to an hourly rate of \$19.00 per hour beginning on the January 10, 2025 payroll. This was seconded by Peter Zito. Staci Duerr abstained from the vote. All others present voted in favor.


Jeff Bader motioned to accept the resignation of Sharon Doser as substitute bus driver at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Katie Meusel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm. This was seconded by Jim Stoewer. All present voted in favor.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Schedule daycare meeting to discuss summer program
- Add the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade classroom size and options to the agenda for next month's meeting

  
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President

  
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Secretary