



**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Board Preliminary Minutes**

**Monday, December 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM**

**Kenowa Hills Middle School - Large Group Instruction Room**

**3950 Hendershot NW, Grand Rapids MI 49544**

**I. Routine Business**

- A. A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Kenowa Hills Middle School, 3950 Hendershot NW, Grand Rapids MI.
- B. President Gustinis opened the meeting with a moment of silence.
- C. Members Present: Courtade, Gustinis, Hart, LaBotz, Roberts, Szczepaniak, Truskoski; Superintendent Hopkins, Director Gilchrist and incoming Assistant Superintendent Dinkelmann are also present. Deputy Superintendent Burde is absent.
- D. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Roberts to approve the agenda. **Motion approved 7 - 0.**

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF  
SILENCE  
ROLL CALL

APPROVE AGENDA

**II. Public Comment - five attendees provided public comment**

*The purpose of this meeting is to conduct Board of Education business. There will typically be no attempt to comment or give answers at this meeting. Audience members who wish to make comments are invited to complete the appropriate form located at the entrance. Each speaker has a maximum of three (3) minutes to address the board. Inquiries requiring a response will be referred to the superintendent in the cases where contact information is provided. We ask all individuals making public comments to follow our board policy. Any person in violation of the policy for disruptive conduct will be asked to leave. Any threats or suggestions of violence will be turned over to law enforcement.*

**III. Hearings and Correspondence**

- A. Recognition - Superintendent Hopkins acknowledged the following with appreciation:
  - 1. Donations made by Faith United Church and Wolverine Family YMCA for Thanksgiving food baskets for Alpine Elementary families.
  - 2. Superintendent Hopkins recognized Nurse Sam who has worked with Kenowa Hills as a HealthBar nurse throughout the pandemic. He expressed his appreciation for all her hardwork with our staff, students and community while she has been at the middle school. Nurse Sam is pursuing other opportunities within HealthBar. Her last day at Kenowa Hills Middle School will be Friday, December 17th.
  - 3. Superintendent Hopkins expressed his appreciation and best wishes to Deputy Superintendent Burde as he moves on to his next adventure as superintendent of Godfrey-Lee Public Schools. Dr. Burde is attending the Godfrey-Lee board meeting this evening to be introduced and welcomed to the district. Bill Dinkelmann will be moving into the Assistant Superintendent role. Mr. Dinkelmann has been with the district as an instructional coach and director of secondary curriculum.
- B. Correspondence - None
- C. Board Communication - Members reported on various events in which they participated during the past couple of weeks.

RECOGNITION

CORRESPONDENCE

BOE  
COMMUNICATION

#### IV. Discussion/Information Item

##### A. Middle School Spotlight, Principal Jim Smith

1. Mrs. Susan Trotter, Mrs. Jayne VanderKlok and Principal Jim Smith shared information about the Middle School Connect period. Students are assigned the same teacher in Connect for their middle school career.
2. The Connect classes are working to build relationships with at least one staff member and with students as they remain in the same class for three years. Three out of the five days are geared around academics and lifeskills and two days are focused on the True Success curriculum.
3. True Success curriculum details were shared by Mrs. VanderKlok and Mrs. Trotter. A typical lesson was highlighted to better understand the curriculum and how it is used with students.
4. Member Hart asked if this can be implemented at the high school level. Principal Smith shared information about what is happening during advisory at the high school and how Profile of a Graduate provides opportunities for Social and Emotional Learning.

##### B. Superintendent Hopkins' Report

1. COVID Update
  - a. Superintendent Hopkins provided updates to the positive, quarantine and watch list cases. In the Kent County incidents report, Kenowa Hills community boundaries is the third lowest in the county.
  - b. The health department will not be extending the KCHD order that mandated masks PreK-7th grade; however, the federal transportation mask mandate has been extended until March 18. The transportation mandate includes school buses.
  - c. Superintendent Hopkins recommends the following COVID Mitigation Measures, effective January 3, 2022, following the guidance provided by the Kent County Health Department:
    - 1) face coverings strongly encouraged & highly recommended while indoors, regardless of vaccination status (staff NOT wearing face coverings during work time to be charged sick leave if contracting COVID);
    - 2) mandated face coverings while riding school buses for duration of federal mandate;
    - 3) daily health screening highly encouraged;
    - 4) social distancing, whenever possible;
    - 5) recommended quarantines for school-related exposure;
    - 6) required quarantines for household exposure with "Test to Stay" option for household close contacts after 10 days (or 20-day quarantine);
    - 7) 10-day isolation for positive cases.
  - e. The recommended guidance from the health department will be followed should an outbreak occur. If closures of classrooms or schools are necessary, the timeframe will likely be three weeks or less. A remote instruction plan has been created to prepare us for any instances of closures.
  - f. Test to stay has been implemented again as the next shipment of testing material has arrived. Over the holiday break, HealthBar testing is available, free of charge, at the HealthBar locations.

g. The federal order mandating employee vaccines is still on stay pending 6th Circuit Court ruling and subject to appeal to U.S. Supreme Court.

2. Bond Construction Update

a. Superintendent Hopkins shared the timeframe for the middle school RFP process. Initial bidding will be issued on January 6, 2022 with openings scheduled for February 3. Due to the size and scope of the middle school project, construction is anticipated to take three years. The middle school floor plan was shared along with an architectural rendering of the project. The layout of the construction will compliment team teaching concepts.

3. FY2022 Board Meeting Survey Results

a. Superintendent Hopkins asked the board to review the tentative schedule provided in preparation for the organizational meeting. Feedback should be provided to Superintendent Hopkins.

C. Finance

1. Director Gilchrist provided updates for the check register, Bond Fund Investment Income and Condensed Fund Statement.

2. Member Hart questioned the status of the 2016 bond fund balance expenditures. Mr. Dinkelman provided details about the community input gathered during the strategic planning process to help direct the spending of the remaining bond balance. President Gustinis indicated this is a topic that cannot be lost in committees.

3. Details about the recommended budget amendment was shared by Director Gilchrist.

4. Director Gilchrist explained the required resolution for the 2022 tax levy. The resolution indicates we will collect 100% of taxes through a summer levy.

5. The proposal for the data projectors is in preparation for the construction project at the middle school. This proposal will allow an adequate delivery window for the material to arrive in time for construction.

D. Office of Teaching and Learning

1. Sex Education Advisory Board Resolution (Third Reading)

a. Superintendent Hopkins shared the details included in the board packet. The differences between version 1 and version 2 of the resolution was discussed with the focus on the Open Meetings request.

b. Discussion occurred amongst board members about resolution details. Member Szczepaniak shared his concerns about taking out the proposed language that has been presented to the House even though the language has not been passed as of this date. Member Szczepaniak feels it is important to include the language regarding house bills 5475 and 5476 even though it has not been passed in the house.

c. Superintendent Hopkins provided details about how this would be a different process than how any other curriculum is reviewed and implemented as outlined by the associated state requirements.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT CONTINUED

FINANCE

TEACHING &  
LEARNING

**V. Action Items**

- A. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member LaBotz to approve the Consent Agenda. **Motion approved 7 - 0.**
  - 1. November 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
  - 2. November 2021 General Fund expenditures of \$810,281.33 through and including checks #78218-78320 and payrolls of November 5 and 19, 2021; November School Lunch Fund expenditures of \$39,080.42 through and including checks #10671-10679; 2016 Building and Site Series expenditures of \$196,847.24 through and including checks #15334-15339; 2020 Building and Site Series expenditures of \$387,518.60 through and including checks #78257-78260; Activity Check Register expenditures of \$6,294.96 through and including checks #13009-13017.
- B. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Courtade to approve the proposed 2021-2022 First (December) Budget Amendment. Report #21-068. **Motion approved 7 - 0.**
- C. Motion by Member Szczepaniak supported by Member Courtade to **accept version 1** of the Sex Education Advisory Board Resolution as outlined in Report #21-069. Roll call taken by Secretary Szczepaniak. **Motion fails 2 - 5.**

	Y N A		Y N A		Y N A		Y N A
Courtade	<u>X</u> _ _	Hart	_ <u>X</u> _	Roberts	_ <u>X</u> _	Truskoski	_ <u>X</u> _
Gustinis	_ <u>X</u> _	LaBotz	_ <u>X</u> _	Szczepaniak	<u>X</u> _ _		

Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Courtade to **accept version 1** of the Sex Education Advisory Board Resolution with modifications including removal of all reference to the Open Meetings Act and limit committee membership to defined legislation. Roll call taken by Secretary Szczepaniak. **Motion approved 4 - 3.**

	Y N A		Y N A		Y N A		Y N A
Courtade	<u>X</u> _ _	Hart	<u>X</u> _ _	Roberts	<u>X</u> _ _	Truskoski	_ <u>X</u> _
Gustinis	_ <u>X</u> _	LaBotz	<u>X</u> _ _	Szczepaniak	_ <u>X</u> _		

- D. Motion by Member Truskoski supported by Member Roberts to **accept** the Superintendent's recommended COVID Mitigation Measures, effective January 3, 2022, following the guidance provided by the Kent County Health Department, which includes: 1) face coverings strongly encouraged & highly recommended while indoors, regardless of vaccination status (staff NOT wearing face coverings during work time to be charged sick leave if contracting COVID due to school exposure); 2) mandated face coverings while riding school bus for duration of federal mandate; 3) daily health screening highly encouraged; 4) social distancing, whenever possible; 5) recommended quarantines for school-related exposure; 6) required quarantines for household exposure with "Test to Stay" option for household close contacts after 10 days (or 20-day quarantine); 7) 10-day isolation for positive cases. Report #21-070. Roll call taken by Secretary Szczepaniak. **Motion approved 6 - 1.**

	Y N A		Y N A		Y N A		Y N A
Courtade	<u>X</u> _ _	Hart	<u>X</u> _ _	Roberts	<u>X</u> _ _	Truskoski	<u>X</u> _ _
Gustinis	<u>X</u> _ _	LaBotz	<u>X</u> _ _	Szczepaniak	_ <u>X</u> _		

- E. Motion by Member Courtade supported by Member Szczepaniak to approve the resolution, which indicates Kenowa Hills will continue to levy 100% of the taxes in the summer of 2022. Report #21-071. **Motion approved 7 - 0.**
- F. Motion by Member Hart supported by Member Roberts to approve the purchase of data projectors for the Middle School in the amount of \$102,670.73 from Tierney utilizing bond funds. Report #21-072. **Motion approved 7 - 0.**

ACTION ITEMS  
 CONSENT AGENDA

FY22 BUDGET  
 AMENDMENT  
 Report #21-068  
 SEX EDUCATION  
 ADVISORY BOARD  
 Report #21-069

COVID MITIGATION  
 Report #21-070

SUMMER TAX  
 RESOLUTION Report  
 #21-071

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
 PROJECTORS Report  
 #21-072

**VI. Future Items for Consideration**

A. Future Meetings

1. 01/12/22 6:00 p.m. Organizational Meeting (Revised Date/Time), Administration Bldg

B. Go-Around

**VII. Adjournment**

- A. Motion by Member LaBotz supported by Member Hart to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.  
**Motion approved 7 - 0.**

FUTURE MEETINGS

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

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Eric-John Szczepaniak, Secretary