

St. Johns Public Schools
St. Johns, Michigan
Minutes of Virtual Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Held on May 11, 2020

The St. Johns Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2020, through a virtual, online meeting. President Darragh called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

url for meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82567969682?pwd=Q0lqOEpneUkKdTd3Z3oxWjBGanhvUT09>

Members Present: Darragh, Dedyne, Drabek, Kirk, Jackson, Nelson, Watson

ATTENDANCE

Members Absent: Student Representative Schafer, and Student Representative Kiel

Motion by Vice President Drabek, with support by Member Jackson, to approve the agenda. Agenda approved as presented via 7-0 roll call vote.

AGENDA APPROVED

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Vice Present Drabek, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the meeting held on April 27, 2020. Motion approved 7-0 via roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gayla Phillips, community member and Historical Society board member addressed the Board of Education. She is not in favor of the County purchasing the Wilson Center building, but supports either one of the other 2 bidders.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Thelen, community member who lives across the street from the Wilson Center building, would like to see the Wilson Center building repurposed, not torn down. He thanked the school district for being a "great neighbor."

Bill Tennant, community member, former teacher, and former member and president of the SJPS Board of Education, expressed his support of the Dymaxion bid on the Wilson Center. It is the only bid that specifically mentioned the auditorium and gym, allowing the rental of both facilities for \$1.00 per year. He mentioned his conversations with community members that know Jeff Deehan from Dymaxion, all of who spoke highly of him. Bill would like to see the bid awarded to Dymaxion, and believes it is a win-win for the community.

DISCUSSION ITEMS
MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the information presented at the previous meeting, and reiterated that the district is asking for the Board's support and funding of this item for the next 3 years.

Superintendent Palmer referenced the information presented to the Board regarding the bids received for the sale of the Wilson Center. Treasurer Watson

WILSON CENTER BIDS

voiced his concerns with the County's bid. Conversations he has had with community members are all in support of the Dymaxion bid.

Vice President Drabek asked if there were any concerns with timetables, such as relocating the alternative education program. Superintendent Palmer replied that all 3 bidders are willing to work with us moving forward.

President Darragh echoed Treasurer Watson's comments, and has also heard comments from the community that are all in favor of the Dymaxion bid. He has seen the work done at the FC Mason building by the Harris group, but is in support of the Dymaxion bid.

Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett shared again with the Board of Education that the district is recommending this bid be awarded to IRT.

There were no comments or questions about this proposal.

Superintendent Palmer reviewed the presentation of the CCRESA 2020-2021 budget proposal at the previous meeting. We need to have our approval of their budget to them by June 1st.

Director of Business and Finance Kelly Corbett reviewed the information that was presented at previous meetings. She pointed out that solar arrays will be put at each building, and after further review, the high school will be moving down to a category 2 in the project. Both Secretary Dedyne and President Darragh thanked everyone for their work on this project.

Motion by Secretary Dedyne, with support by Treasurer Watson, that the St. Johns Board of Education approves the purchase of the Mi-STAR curriculum for use at the Middle School, with an estimated cost for base kits and consumables of not more than \$70,000 over a 3-year period. Motion approved 7-0 via roll call vote.

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Vice President Drabek, that the St. Johns Board of Education accepts the bid for the sale of the Wilson Center submitted by Dymaxion Development, and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the contract. Motion approved 7-0 via roll call vote.

Motion by Member Jackson, with support by Vice President Drabek, that the St. Johns Board of Education approves awarding the Riley Elementary roof replacement bid submitted by IRT Commercial Services, in the amount of \$334,058.00. Motion approved 7-0 via roll call vote.

Motion by Member Nelson, with support by Vice President Drabek, that the St. Johns Board of Education approves the recommendation to purchase the HP Chromebook 14 G6, and HP Chromebook 11 G8 models, as part of the REMC Save Project and annual SPOT, in the amount of \$150,535.38, coming

**RILEY ELEMENTARY ROOF
REPLACEMENT BIDS**

**CHROMEBOOK
REPLACEMENT PURCHASE
PROPOSAL**

**CCRESA 2020-2021
PRELIMINARY BUDGET
PROPOSAL**

**SOLAR POWER PURCHASE
AGREEMENT
RECOMMENDATION
APPROVAL**

**ACTION ITEMS
MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE
CURRICULUM PROPOSAL**

WILSON CENTER BIDS

**RILEY ELEMENTARY ROOF
REPLACEMENT BIDS**

**CHROMEBOOK
REPLACEMENT PURCHASE
PROPOSAL**

from the 2019-20 Technology Capital Projects fund. Motion approved 7-0 via roll call vote.

Motion by Treasurer Watson, with support by Secretary Dedyne, that the St. Johns Public Schools Board of Education approves the resolution supporting the Clinton County RESA General Fund Operating Budget for the 2020-2021 school year as presented at the April 6, 2020, Clinton County RESA Board of Education Special Meeting. Motion approved 7-0 via roll call vote.

**CCRESA 2020-2021
PRELIMINARY BUDGET
PROPOSAL**

Motion by Vice President Drabek, with support by Member Nelson, that the St. Johns Board of Education approves the Solar Power Purchase Agreement with Ecojiva and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement once approved by legal counsel. Motion approved 7-0 via roll call vote.

**SOLAR POWER PURCHASE
AGREEMENT
RECOMMENDATION
APPROVAL**

Superintendent Palmer reviewed his written report. He stated that he talked to President Darragh, and they see no reason to have the May 18, 2020 meeting, as there will be no reports or action items. The district intends to have information for the 2020-2021 school year budget at the first meeting in June. He also shared that the district will assess positions that will be vacant due to retirements this year. He recapped the plans for commencement options. He has received good comments about our distance learning from the parents and community. He thanked the Board of Education for the approval of the Wilson Center sale. Lastly, he shared that the district anticipates opening childcare on June 1st if we have enough families that need this service.

**BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

DJ Logan, Gateway North kindergarten teacher, thanked the Board for their diligence – this is a challenging time for all of us, and she appreciates the support of the administration. She also appreciates how the sale of the Wilson Center was handled.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD
COMMENTS**

Bill Tennant thanked the administration and school board for all of their work, and that a great weight has been lifted off his shoulders. He also appreciates the districts efforts with the solar project.

Treasurer Watson asked Superintendent Palmer if the school safety meeting had been scheduled yet. Superintendent Palmer will find out if it has been rescheduled.

Secretary Dedyne expressed her appreciation of the efforts made by the school district. She is looking forward to the Wilson Center building remaining open. She is also proud of everything that the Board of Education has accomplished, and believes that despite the effects of the Covid 19 virus, this may also be turned into something positive for the future.

Vice President Drabek echoed Secretary Dedyne's comments. He is very proud of this Board, and the previous Board, for what they have struggled with. He thanked all administrators and teachers on how they have handled distance learning. He also appreciates all that have weighed in on the virtual graduation

plans. His daughter recently graduated from the doctorate program at MSU virtually, and that it would be great if we could somehow have graduation in person, rather than virtually.

President Darragh expressed his thanks to Superintendent Palmer, Kelly Corbett and Rob Gleeson for their work on the Wilson Center proposal. He believes it will be great for the community. Additionally, President Darragh acknowledged his daughter, Elise, a graduating senior, and the amazing young lady she has become. He expressed his heartfelt congratulations to her on her graduation.

President Darragh adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Dedyne, Secretary
St. Johns Board of Education