WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267

Special Meeting

January 26, 2021

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

A special meeting of the Whiteford Agricultural School Board of Education was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Tracy Malhoit on January 26, 2021 via Zoom. Due to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Gordon's Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and ace Mask Order, the Whiteford School Board met electronically via the web-based application "Zoom". Public posting requirements were met. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Malhoit. Members present were Mrs. Malhoit, Christine Bischoff, Shane Hillard, Mike Iott, Kristi Mock, and Janelle Young. Dave Dixon was absent.

Also present were Superintendent and MS/HS Interim Principal Valerie Orr, Director of Student Advancement and Athletic Director Jason Mensing, Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds Charlie Butz, and CFO Michelle Strick. There were 2 visitors present.

Public Participation

There was no public participation

Special Presentations

Brian Weber of Plante Moran Cresa shared the following bond updates with the board: The track surface will receive the structural spray after the 2021 Spring track season and the lines will be re-painted onto the track after the protective spray has set which will allow for a more durable, long-lasting surface. Mr. Weber was also happy to report that many contractors showed interest in bidding on series 1 and 2 of Whiteford's renovation, with bids due by February 11th 2021.

Approval to Ratify WESPA Agreement (2020-2021)

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Shane Hillard, to approve the ratification of the 2020-2021 WESPA Agreement as presented. Roll call vote, motion approved -- 6 yes, 1 absent (Dave Dixon).

Approve Track & Field Equipment Package

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Mike Iott, to approve the Track & Field Equipment Package as presented in the amount of $41, 564.92 from vendor BSN Sports, LLC. using 2019 Bond funds. Roll call vote, motion approved -- 6 yes, 1 absent (Dave Dixon).

Approve MPSERS 3% Healthcare Contribution Closing Agreement

A motion was made by Kristi Mock, seconded by Mike Iott, to permit Superintendent Orr to sign the Power of Attorney form so the district is represented for the MPSERS 3% Closing Agreement. Roll call vote, motion approved – 6 yes, 1 absent (Dave Dixon).

Whiteford Agricultural School District Extended COL Plan

Superintendent and Interim MS/HS Principal Orr shared the following updates relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and the District's Extended COL Plan: Even with the recent spike in Covid cases, the district's mitigation strategies continue to be proven effective and there has been no proof of uncontrolled spread in either building or anywhere on Whiteford's campus thus far. Mrs. Orr assured the board that her number one priority, in conjunction with all other school administrators, has always been, and will continue to be, safety first. In working to keep school in session for students and staff, safety is always the top priority and is never compromised in the effort to keep Whiteford's doors open. Mrs. Orr proceeded to ask every board member to weigh in on the subject and share their thoughts and feelings, as well as touch upon the current climate in the community regarding Whiteford's response to the pandemic and the outward perception of how the district is handling its reaction to all things related to the Coronavirus. Each board member gave positive feedback in relation to both themselves and the community at large, as to how well Whiteford has handled its response to the pandemic. Additionally, all board members unanimously agreed that Whiteford's administrators should continue their efforts to keep school open as in-person learning is so crucially important for students' academic and social well-being. Superintendent Orr and the board concurred that together they will closely monitor the situation and reevaluate the need for closure vs. remaining open as the need arises. A virtual option will continue to be made available for students whose parents are concerned about sending them to school during the pandemic.

Board of Education Concerns/Reports

Members of the board were very appreciative of the efforts of Whiteford's administration and staff in working so hard to keep school in session. Although the board was in total agreement to continue those efforts toward in-person learning, there was some concern expressed about the fine line between remaining open and imminent closure. Mrs. Orr's response was two-fold: 1.) The school will close if uncontrolled spread has been traced back to the district buildings and/or student activities. 2.) School will close if the number of students quarantined becomes too great, making it impossible for staff to teach their students effectively. Again, Mrs. Orr made it clear that her number one priority is student and staff safety, and she will continue to monitor any new developments and share them with the board so they are able to work together in making the safest and best decisions for the district moving forward.

Adjournment

The special meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary

DRAFT