

## Board of Education

The meeting of Northwest Education Services Board of Education was held on November 14, 2023. Board President Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### Roll call

#### Board Members Present:

Brown  
Fisher  
Lajko

Petrella  
Scherrer  
Thomas

#### Board Members Absent:

Birgy

Motion by Member Brown, supported by Member Petrella, to approve the November 14, 2023 agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### Welcomed Visitors & Public Comment

There were none

### Student/Staff/Local District Highlights/Presentations/Recognitions:

#### SAIL(ORS) On Deck – Organizational Recognition System

Board of Education members recognized this month's SAIL(ORS) On Deck. This month's standout is Abbey Nielsen, Job Coach at Life Skills Center, who has exemplified strengths in the organizational value of Integrity, presented in recognition of operating in a transparent, fair, honest manner.

Hospitality Offerings at Creekside School for Life Skills and Transition Class – Matt Szatkiewicz, Teacher and Maranda Foster, Teacher Assistant

This is an overview of the opportunity to watch students grow in this life skills and transition class at Creekside School. This program is supported by department chair Amy Smith and supervisor Lisa Klepper. Staff members Matt Szatkiewicz and Maranda Foster presented on the student population that receive this opportunity for Creekside middle and high school students that includes social emotional learning in all academic areas. Students that are part of additional hands learning are able to apply real-life learning with the school store, snack cart, bistro, greenhouse, community shopping and volunteer opportunities.

Motion by Board Member Scherrer, supported by Board Member Petrella, to approve consent grouping items 1-5 as presented.

1. Minutes of October 3, 2023 regular meeting
2. Minutes of October 17, 2023 special meeting
3. Monthly Accounts Payable Check Summary and Financial Report October 1, 2023 to October 31 30, 2023. Check Numbers: 194316-194634. Total for Month: \$5,263,107.25
4. Personnel:
  - a. New Employees:
    - Aaron Cliff, Teacher Assistant, effective October 9, 2023
    - Stefanie Tschirhart-Baldwin, ASD Teacher, effective October 23, 2023

- Alison Stephens, Paraprofessional, effective October 16, 2023
  - Kristy Russell, Teacher Assistant, effective October 23, 2023
  - Natalya Chegudi, Speech Pathologist, effective January 3, 2024
  - Kristine Doran, Director of Finance, effective January 1, 2024
  - Marcia Carmoney, Secretary, effective December 4, 2023
  - Cindy Hunt, High Impact Leadership Facilitator, effective November 13, 2023
  - Sara Larsen, Paraprofessional, effective November 13, 2023
  - Katharine Claire, Paraprofessional, effective November 13, 2023
  - Julie Brown, High Impact Leadership Facilitator, effective November 13, 2023
- b. Employee Resignations:
- Erin Kosch, Teacher Assistant, effective December 31, 2023
  - Amy Trumbull, Teacher Consultant, effective January 19, 2024 (Retirement 9 years)
- c. Employee Leave of Absence:
- Madisen Byrne, Physical Therapist, January 9, 2024 – January 9, 2025
5. Out of State Travel:
1. Dori Gillings and Maria Meyer, Occupational Therapists, to attend AOTA Children & Youth Specialty Conference, December 7-9, 2023 in New Orleans, Louisiana
  2. Leigh Kennedy, Curriculum Coordinator for Special Education, and Marianne Swank, High Impact Leadership/Professional Learning Specialist, to attend the Thinking Collaborative Annual Symposium, January 25-27, 2024 in Greenwood Village, Colorado.
  3. Peter Milne, REMC Instructional Support Specialist, to attend Future of Education Technology Conference (FETC) Convention and Exposition, January 23-26, 2024, Orlando, Florida.

Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Petrella, supported by Board Member Brown to approve continuation of a 100% Summer Tax Collection in those districts that implement at 100% summer collection:

**WHEREAS**, this Board previously adopted a resolution to impose a summer tax levy to collect 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. Pursuant to the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1 et seq., the Board invokes for 2024 its previously-adopted ongoing resolution imposing a summer tax levy of 100% of annual school property taxes, including debt service, upon property located within the District and continuing from year-to-year until specifically revoked by the Board and requests that each city and/or township in which the District is located collect those summer taxes.
2. The Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to forward to the governing body of each city and/or township in which the District is located a copy of this Board's resolution imposing a summer property tax levy on an ongoing basis and a copy of this resolution requesting that each such city and/or township agree to collect the summer tax levy for 2023 in the amount specified in this resolution. Such forwarding of the resolutions and the request to collect the summer tax levy shall be performed so that they are received by the governing bodies on or before December 31, 2023.
3. Pursuant to and in accordance with Revised School Code Section 1613(1), the Superintendent or designee is authorized and directed to negotiate on behalf of the District with the governing body of each city and/or township in which the District is located for the reasonable expenses for

collection of the District's summer tax levy that the city and/or township may bill under Revised School Code Sections 1611 or 1612. Any such proposed agreement shall be brought before this Board for its approval or disapproval.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are rescinded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Scherrer, supported by Board Member Lajko to approve Contract with Resonant Education in the amount of \$28,500. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Board Member Brown, supported by Board Member Scherrer to approve Contract for Physical Therapy Services to Alison Barnett in the amount of \$51,750. Roll call vote: Ayes: 6; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Information Items: Carol Greilick provided an update on a recent contract that the board approved in September with Arts for All. We recently learned that Arts for All will be closing their operations due to financial reasons. We intend to arrange separate contracts with teaching artists in the region to maintain art experiences for our students and integrated art experiences in the region with community partners.

Discussion Items:

There were none

Updates:

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Nick Ceglarek:

1. Distributed samples of North Ed name badges for board members to wear in the community.
2. Thanked Matt Olson and his team for another successful Regional Staff Development Day held on November 7. Over 1200 educators in the region participated. Matt thanked all team members especially his assistant Jenny Jesse and technology director Brandi Reynolds for their organization and time that goes into this event. This was the largest participation in many years. He also thanked Traverse City Area Public Schools for hosting the event at multiple sites and Chartwells for catering food sponsored by OTIS.
3. Legislators are on break for the remainder of the year. They recently have passed some significant legislation waiting on the Governor to sign. One of those bills is the change to the teacher and administrator evaluation law by removing the 40% growth-based model to 20% and rating levels from four to three ratings. Changes on this bill would go into effect July 1, 2024. The Senate also passed a bill which mandates that a student must complete the Free Application for Feral Student Aid (FASFA) in order to graduate high school. The bill has been referred to the House.
4. Our local districts have requested a regional workshop for board of education members to review the Office of Retirement lawsuit regarding normal salary increases and the impact on all employees not covered in a collective bargaining agreement. In addition, we will have an overview around the changes to prohibited subjects of bargaining. The workshop will be held on January 17, 2024 in the ISD Conference Center starting at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and program at 6:00 p.m. for all of our local

school board members. Attorney Katy Broaddus from Thrun Law will present on PERA from 6 – 7:00 p.m. and Attorney Bob Schindler from Miller Johnson will provide an update on the ORS lawsuit.

Board Member Reports/Requests:

Board Member Brown inquired about districts that did not participate in regional staff development this year and if they will be planning to participate in future RSDD events. Matt Olson will continue to reach out to districts throughout the year keeping in mind some local districts decisions may weigh their decisions based on contracted bargaining agreements or they have offered a separate professional development plan for their staff. We were fortunate to have the highest participation this year.

Dates to Remember:

December 5, 2023 Board of Education Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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Joseph Fisher, President

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Rachael Birgy, Secretary