

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WAS HELD MARCH 22, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, IN THE DISTRICT AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTER, 401 SAUK RIVER DRIVE, COLDWATER, MICHIGAN, WITH THOSE PHYSICALLY PRESENT AS REFERENCED BELOW IN THE RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE.

THE REGULAR MEETING WAS PRESENTED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ELECTRONICALLY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-154 THROUGH ZOOM WITH IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 762 5666 9718.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Rutz, Nick Krzeminski, Kate Frederick, Ron Lanford, Jeff Holbrook, Clair Dean, Edward C. Lake, Jr.

**ATTENDANCE**

**BOARD MEETING ABSENT:**

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Terry Ann Whelan, Superintendent; Heather Harvey , Executive Secretary; Gary Dancer, Todd Farmer, Travis Greene

\*In consideration of the health and safety concerns relative to COVID-19, this meeting was presented virtually for the purpose of the public. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. The pledge was conducted and attendance called and recorded as noted above. District administrators, as well as several other district employees and community members connected through a ZOOM Meeting link that was published on the district's website prior to the meeting.

**ZOOM MEETING – CALL TO ORDER**

The request for Public Participation forms was made by President Lake. Community Member Jason Hayes addressed the board and expressed various concerns regarding transparency matters of the board. Community Member Rachel Kilpatrick addressed the board and expressed concerns regarding student bullying. \*Community Member Betsy Cramer was not present during Public Participation; however, joined the meeting later and requested to time to address the board outside of the Public Participation portion of the meeting. President Lake allowed her three minutes. Cramer expressed concerns regarding Covid testing of athletes and the return to five days of face-to-face instruction for students.

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORMS**

Motion was made and supported by Members Frederick and Rutz to amend the agenda with an additional action item regarding the tentative approval of overnight trips for various athletic teams. Agenda accepted as amended.

**AGENDA ACCEPTED AS AMENDED**

President Lake called for the Legg Middle School presentation. Principal Slusher began the presentation by sharing a slideshow about the ways that teachers and other staff are *Creating New Engagement Opportunities* for students using various platforms in *Google Classroom*. Slusher shared information about a game based learning platform called *Kahoot* and provided an example of how the platform is used. Following Slusher's portion of the presentation, LMS Teachers Mrs. Asher, Mrs. Aughenbaugh, and

**BUILDING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – LEGG MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Mrs. Sobek shared information and examples of other learning platforms that they are using in their Google classrooms, including *GoFormative*, *Quizizz*, and *Nearpod*. Following the teacher presentations, Assistant Principal Adam Supianoski spoke about how they are using *Screencastify* & *WeVideo* to create videos of class lessons to post in *Google Classroom* for students who are absent or may need extra help.

Discussion ensued.

President Lake called for the Branch County Public Safety Communications presentation by Bud Norman, County Administrator, John Pollack, County Sherriff, Jon Houtz, County Commissioner, Dave Schmaltz, Fire Chief, and Ted Hurley from J & K Communications, who attended the meeting via Zoom.

**BRANCH COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMUNICATIONS  
PRESENTATION**

Norman began the presentation by sharing a slide show of the potential communications project that provided board members with an overview of the plan and timeline in which the project needs to be completed.

Questions and further discussion ensued following the presentation.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 22, 2021 were given consideration for acceptance and approval.

**MINUTES APPROVED  
AS SUBMITTED**

MOTION was made by Member Lanford, supported by Member Dean, that the Board of Education approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 22, 2021, as submitted.

Resolution approved unanimously.

President Lake called for communications.

**COMMUNICATIONS –  
GARRETT GRUNER**

Board Secretary, Clair Dean, read a student letter addressed to the board from Legg Middle School student Garrett Gruner, about adding a financial literacy requirement into school curriculums.

Discussion ensued.

Superintendent Whelan presented the personnel report in its entirety.

**CONSENT AGENDA –  
APPROVED**

Acceptance and approval of Gifts was presented by Member Rutz.

Board Treasurer Holbrook offered the February Accounts for Payment Report and Financial Statements for approval.

**PERSONNEL  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

MOTION made and supported by Members Lanford and Dean that the Board of Education approves the following recommendations:

with regret, after 34 years of service, the retirement resignation of Debra Wilkinson, Mathematics Teacher at Legg Middle School, effective Wednesday, June 30, 2021;

**D. WILKINSON**

with regret, after 22 years of service, the retirement resignation of Julie Lyon-Welch, Counselor at Legg Middle School, effective Wednesday, June 30, 2021;

**J. LYON-WELCH**

with regret, the resignation of Mary Sramek, English Language Arts Teacher at Legg Middle School, effective Wednesday, June 30, 2021;

**M. SRAMEK**

the administrative recommendation to employ Matthew Lock for the full-time Science Teacher position at Coldwater High School, effective Monday, April 12, 2021;

**M. LOCK**

the administrative recommendation to employ Dannielle McRae for the full-time Attendance Secretary position at Coldwater High School, effective immediately upon board approval;

**D. MCRAE**

the administrative recommendation to employ Monique Church-Bassage and Kari Robinson for the two part-time lunchroom supervisor positions at Jefferson Elementary School, effective immediately upon board approval;

**M. CHURCH-  
BASSAGE  
K. ROBINSON**

the resignation of Mike Hodge, full-time Bus Driver for Coldwater Schools, effective immediately upon board approval;

**M. HODGE**

the administrative recommendations for the following extra duty positions as outlined below:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Cody Fishell	CHS Robotics Club
Kayla Sellers	JV Girls Tennis Coach
Derrick Bean	Varsity Girls Track Coach
Ryan Scheetz	Middle School Track – Assistant Coach
Tyrus Ratliff	JV Baseball Coach

C. FISHELL  
K. SELLERS  
D. BEAN  
R. SCHEETZ  
T. RATLIFF

and further,

that the Board of Education gratefully accepts the gifts donated to Coldwater Schools as shown in the outline and recorded below:

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>GIFTS</u>
Coldwater Lake Marina	Monetary Funds	Readers Are Leaders Program	\$270.00	
Coldwater Board of Public Utilities	Monetary Funds	Readers Are Leaders Program	\$300.00	
Hillquist Family Foundation	Monetary Funds	Readers Are Leaders Program	\$1500.00	
Shana Grife	Monetary Funds	Readers Are Leaders Program	\$436.46	
Walmart #1563	Monetary Funds	Readers Are Leaders Program	\$1,075.00	
Branch County Community Foundation – Women Who Care	Monetary Funds	Readers Are Leaders Program	\$2,000.00	

FEBRUARY ACCTS  
FOR PAYMENT

and,

that a letter of appreciation, on behalf of the board, be sent to the donors as recorded above for their worthwhile and generous gifts;

and finally,

that the Board of Education approves the following February accounts for payment as submitted:

February General Fund accounts in the amount of \$1,973,508.51;

February Special Revenue accounts in the amount of \$131,029.39;

and approves the Financial Statements as presented.

Resolution approved unanimously.

Building reports were acknowledged by board members. There was no further discussion.

President Lake reported that the following board committees met in March:

The Building and Grounds Committee met on March 5<sup>th</sup>, along with County Administrator, Bud Norman, to discuss the potential 911 Communications project.

The Policy Committee met on March 17<sup>th</sup> to review the new and revised policy updates recommended by NEOLA.

The Personnel Committee met on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to review and discuss Superintendent Whelan's Evaluation and the terms of her 2021-2022 contracts.

Discussion ensued.

BUILDING REPORTS  
FOR MARCH - BOARD  
COMMITTEE  
REPORTS/  
SUPERINTENDENT/  
CFO

President Lake called for the Superintendent's report.

Superintendent Whelan shared news regarding the recent award of the grant from AT&T for more than 500 free hotspots and free internet connectivity.

Discussion ensued.

Whelan further reported on several various matters within the district, including the Nightlock appeal, the upcoming video of the new Lakeland Elementary building, and the start and end date of the 2021-2022 school year. She concluded her report with an overview of the action items later in the agenda.

Discussion ensued.

President Lake presented the recommendation to reconfirm the Coldwater Community Schools 2020-2021 Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan.

MOTION made and supported by Members Dean and Rutz that the Board of Education reconfirms the district's "Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan" in accordance with Public Act 149.

Discussion ensued.

Resolution passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:  
RECOMMENDATION  
TO RECONFIRM THE  
COLDWATER  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS 2020-2021  
EXTENDED COVID-19  
LEARNING PLAN –  
APPROVED**

President Lake presented the board resolution to consider designation of electoral representative for Branch ISD Biennial Election.

MOTION made and supported by Members Lanford and Krzeminski that the Board of Education adopts the Resolution to Consider Designation of Electoral Representative and an alternate for the June 7, 2021 Branch ISD Biennial Election as presented; and further, that the Coldwater Community Schools Board of Education appoints Steve Rutz as the designated representative of this school district for the electoral body of the ISD biennial election to be held June 7, 2021, and Katherine Frederick as an alternate representative in the event the designated representative is unable to attend.

Discussion ensued.

Roll call vote taken.

Yeas: Members Krzeminski, Frederick, Lanford, Holbrook, Rutz, Dean, Lake

Nays: None

Resolution passed unanimously.

**BOARD RESOLUTION  
TO CONSIDER  
DESIGNATION OF  
ELECTORAL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR BRANCH ISD  
BIENNIAL ELECTION  
– APPROVED**

President Lake presented the request for board consideration for tentative approval of Class of 2021 senior trip.

MOTION made and supported by Members Lanford and Dean that the Board of Education tentatively approves the one-day 2021 Senior Trip to Cedar Point on Friday, May 14, 2021, as presented, pending any health and safety recommendations, restrictions and/or executive orders in place at that time.

Resolution passed unanimously.

**REQUEST FOR  
BOARD  
CONSIDERATION  
FOR TENTATIVE  
APPROVAL OF  
CLASS OF 2021  
SENIOR TRIP –  
APPROVED**

President Lake presented the request to approve bid for Franklin School Demolition Project.

MOTION made and supported by Members Lanford and Dean that the Board of Education approves the bid from EV Construction for the asbestos removal and demolition of Franklin School located on Fremont Street, as presented.

Discussion ensued.

Roll call vote taken.

Yeas: Members Rutz, Krzeminski, Frederick, Lanford, Holbrook, Dean, Lake

Nays: None

**REQUEST TO  
APPROVE BID FOR  
FRANKLIN SCHOOL  
DEMOLITION  
PROJECT –  
APPROVED**

Resolution passed unanimously.

President Lake presented the request to approve the addition of a toddler room at Kids Club Childcare Center and to approve the childcare rate increase.

MOTION made and supported by Members Dean and Rutz that the Board of Education formally approves the addition of a toddler room at Kids Club Childcare Center and further approves the proposed childcare rates, as submitted.

Discussion ensued.

Resolution passed unanimously.

**REQUEST TO APPROVE ADDITION OF TODDLER ROOM AT KIDS CLUB CHILDCARE CENTER AND TO APPROVE CHILDCARE RATE INCREASE – APPROVED**

President Lake presented the request to enter into negotiations with Branch County Commissioners and 911 Board for the sale of a piece of property at Lakeland Elementary School (old) for the county’s 911 project.

MOTION made and supported by Members Rutz and Krzeminski that the Board of Education authorizes Superintendent Whelan to work with district’s legal counsel from Thrun Law Firm to negotiate a sale price and contract for the sale of 4-5 acres of land on the northeast corner of the current Lakeland School site, as presented.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION made and supported by Members Rutz and Krzeminski that the recommendation be amended to include the authorization of the Building and Grounds Committee to take part in the negotiations, along with Superintendent Whelan and Thrun Law Firm for the sale price and contract for the land being requested by the county for the communications project, located on the northeast corner of the current Lakeland School site.

Roll call vote taken.

Yeas: Members Rutz, Krzeminski, Frederick, Lanford, Holbrook, Dean, Lake

Nays: None

Resolution approved unanimously.

**REQUEST TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRANCH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND 911 BOARD FOR THE SALE OF A PIECE OF PROPERTY AT LAKELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (OLD) FOR THE COUNTY’S 911 PROJECT – APPROVED AS AMENDED**

President Lake presented the first reading of the new and revised policies.

MOTION made and supported by Members Dean and Rutz that the Board of Education acknowledges the recommendation of the first reading of the new and revised board policies, as submitted.

Roll call vote taken.

Yeas: Members Lanford, Dean, Rutz, Frederick, Holbrook, Krzeminski, Lake

Nays: None

Resolution approved unanimously.

**FIRST READING OF NEW AND REIVSED POLICIES – APPROVED**

President Lake presented the added request for tentative board approval of overnight trip for gymnastics, bowling, and wrestling teams.

MOTION made and supported by Members Lanford and Krzeminski that the Board of Education tentatively approves an overnight trip for the gymnastics, bowling, and wrestling teams, pending compete times.

Resolution approved unanimously.

**ADDED ITEM: REQUEST FOR TENTATIVE BOARD APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT TRIP FOR GYMNASTICS, BOWLING, AND WRESTLING TEAMS - APPROVED**

President Lake made the following announcements:

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The next scheduled Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at six o'clock in the evening. Location to be determined, pending recommended guidelines that are in place closer to the time of the meeting.

President Lake requested an Executive Session be held, pursuant to PA267, Section 8(a), for the purpose of considering a periodic personnel evaluation of an employee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION  
CALLED – ROLL  
CALL VOTE**

MOTION made and supported respectively by Members Krzeminski and Lanford that the Board of Education enters into Executive Session pursuant to PA267, Section 8(a), for the purpose of considering a periodic personnel evaluation of an employee.

Roll call vote taken.

Yeas: Members Holbrook, Rutz, Dean, Lanford, Krzeminski, Frederick, Lake

Nays: None

Motion unanimously passed.

Open session of the regular meeting recessed, and the Board of Education entered into Executive Session at 7:58 pm.

**OPEN MEETING  
RECESSED**

Open session of the regular meeting reconvened at 8:46 pm.

**OPEN MEETING  
RECONVENED**

President Lake presented the recommendation to accept and approve Superintendent Evaluation and one year extension and terms of the Superintendent and CFO employment contracts.

**RECOMMENDATION  
TO ACCEPT AND  
APPROVE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
EVALUATION AND  
ONE YEAR  
EXTENSION AND  
TERMS OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT  
AND CFO  
EMPLOYMENT  
CONTRACTS –  
APPROVED**

MOTION made and supported by Members Lanford and Dean that Superintendent Whelan's evaluation be accepted and that the board approves a one year extension on her current Superintendent contract to run through June 30, 2024, and approves the negotiated terms of the contract for the 2021-2022 school year; and further, that the Board of Education approves the additional one year employment contract for Terry Ann Whelan to serve as Chief Financial Officer for the 2021-2022 school year, beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, as submitted.

Roll call vote taken.

Yeas: Members Krzeminski, Frederick, Lanford, Holbrook, Rutz, Dean, Lake

Nays: None

Resolution approved unanimously.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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Clair Dean, Secretary Board of Education

Heather M. Harvey, Executive Secretary