

THE FEBRUARY REGULAR AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION WAS HELD FEBRUARY 26, AT 6:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME AT MAX LARSEN ELEMENTARY, 25 PARKHURST AVENUE, COLDWATER, MICHIGAN.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Bob Steel, Kristin Lyon-Welch, Ronald Lanford, Jeff Holbrook, Clair Dean, Edward C. Lake, Jr.	ATTENDANCE
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	Kate Frederick	
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Paul Flynn, Superintendent; Heather Harvey, Executive Secretary, Penny Brockway, Julie Farmer, Tobi Reardon, Gary Dancer, Jacob Kumor, Krista Searls, Harrison and Emily Pritchard, Emmanuel (Manny) Prater, Brad Prater, Dominique Prater, Steffany McConn, Danielle Uetrecht, Mr. and Mrs. Bilsborrow, Penny and CeCe Dewitt, and others	
	Member Lake brought the Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.	CALL TO ORDER
	Pledge to the flag was conducted. Roll call for attendance of the board was taken as recorded above.	PLEDGE TO FLAG AND ATTENDANCE
	MOTION was made and supported respectively by Members Lanford and Holbrook to appoint Member Lake as Temporary Chairperson of the Board. Motion passed unanimously.	LAKE APPOINTED TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON
	Temporary Chairperson Lake appointed Member Dean as Temporary Secretary of the Board.	DEAN APPOINTED TEMPORARY SECRETARY
	Member Lanford nominated Member Lake to the position of President of the Board. Member Lanford moved to close further nominations. Member Holbrook supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously. President Lake immediately assumed the responsibilities of President of the Board of Education.	ELECTION OF OFFICERS – LAKE ELECTED PRESIDENT
	Member Steel nominated Member Dean to the position of Secretary of the Board and moved to close nominations. Member Lyon-Welch supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Member Dean declared Secretary of the Board.	DEAN ELECTED SECRETARY
	Member Holbrook nominated Member Lanford to the position of Treasurer of the Board and moved to close further nominations. Member Steel supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously.	LANFORD ELECTED TREASURER

Member Lanford elected Treasurer of the Board.

Member Lanford nominated Member Holbrook to the position of Vice-President of the Board and moved to close further nominations
Member Dean supported the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.
Member Holbrook elected Vice-President of the Board.

**HOLBROOK
ELECTED
VICE-PRESIDENT**

It has been a past practice to appoint the Vice-President of the Board Of Education as the MASB liaison person.
President Lake moved to appoint Vice-President of the Board of Education, Jeff Holbrook, to serve as the MASB liaison person for the 2024 calendar year. Member Lanford supported the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

**MASB LIAISON
PERSON
APPOINTED**

At this time, members of the board chose their positions on Advisory committees by means of seniority for the 2024 calendar year. Committees for the 2024 calendar year are as follows:

**BOARD ADVISORY
COMMITTEES BY
SENIORITY**

BUDGET & FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: (3 board members)	<u>Ronald Lanford, Treas.</u> <u>Clair Dean</u> <u>Jeffrey Holbrook</u>	Paul Flynn, <u>Supt.</u> Alternate: <u>Edward Lake, Jr.</u>
PERSONNEL / LIVING AGREEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: (3 board members)	<u>Edward C. Lake, Jr.</u> <u>Clair Dean</u> <u>Kristin Lyon-Welch</u>	<u>Paul Flynn, Supt.</u> Alternate: <u>Bob Steel</u>
BUILDING & GROUNDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: (3 board members)	<u>Ronald Lanford</u> <u>Jeffrey Holbrook</u> <u>Kristin Lyon-Welch</u>	<u>Paul Flynn, Supt.</u> Alternate: <u>Kate Frederick</u>
MASB VOTING DELEGATE: & Legislative Relations Network (LRN) Designee	Delegate: <u>Jeffrey Holbrook</u>	Alternate: <u>Kate Frederick</u>
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: (3 board members)	<u>Edward C. Lake, Jr.</u> <u>Ronald Lanford</u> <u>Jeffrey Holbrook</u>	<u>Paul Flynn, Supt.</u> Alternate: <u>Kristin Lyon-Welch</u>
ATHLETIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE: (3 board members)	<u>Clair Dean</u> <u>Kate Frederick</u> <u>Bob Steel</u>	<u>Paul Flynn, Supt.</u> <u>Todd Farmer, AD</u> Alternate: <u>Ronald Lanford</u>
DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: (3 board members)	<u>Edward Lake, Jr.</u> <u>Kate Frederick</u> <u>Bob Steel</u>	<u>Paul Flynn, Supt.</u> Alternate: <u>Clair Dean</u>

The request for public participation forms was made by President Lake. No public participation forms were submitted.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORMS

Minutes of the Regular Organizational Meeting held on January 22, 2024, were given consideration for acceptance and approval.

MINUTES APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

MOTION was made by Member Steel, supported by Member Dean, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Organizational Meeting held on January 22, 2024, as submitted. Resolution approved unanimously.

President Lake called for additions and deletions to the agenda.

AGENDA ACCEPTED AS AMENDED

Superintendent Flynn stated that the Gifts report on the Consent Agenda was amended to include the contribution from Jon and Brenda Yoder of Yoder Farms. An amended Gifts report was presented at the table for each board member's perusal.

Agenda accepted as amended.

Julie Farmer, Max Larsen Elementary Principal, and Steffany McConn from the Branch Intermediate School District addressed the school board and presented information regarding the Peer-to-Peer Start Project recently introduced at Max Larsen this school year. The Peer-to-Peer program brings students with and without disabilities together to engage in shared activities where all students learn together reciprocally. Students without disabilities are often referred to as "mentors" and are paired with peers with disabilities to help them throughout their day. The presentation emphasized the positive outcomes of this program, including prioritizing inclusion, fostering equitable experiences, creating allies, and focusing on strengths. Principal Farmer introduced two students who are participating in the program. Kindergarten Students, Harrison Pritchard, and Manny Prater were both present with their parents. Manny has Autism, and through this program, Harrison has been paired with Manny to help support him, and the two are now friends. Harrison helped to read a book that Manny wrote about himself that included his favorite foods and activities. Harrison said that he likes being Manny's friend and enjoys playing with him at recess. Max Larsen Teacher, Ms. Danielle Utrecht, shared that the two enjoy being in a classroom setting together where they can share in the same activities. Harrison's parents shared that they are appreciative of the opportunity Harrison has to learn about Autism and help others. Manny's parents expressed their gratitude for the program and the staff for all they do to help Manny learn and grow. They are also grateful that Manny has found a friend in Harrison.

BUILDING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – MAX LARSEN ELEMENTARY

President Lake called for communications. No communications were reported.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Superintendent Flynn presented the personnel report in its entirety.

Member Lyon-Welch presented the recommendation to approve and accept gifts.

Board Treasurer Lanford offered the January Accounts for Payment Report and Financial Statements for approval.

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

to accept with regret, after 31 years of service to Coldwater Community Schools, the retirement of Assistant High School Principal, Ms. Krista Searls, effective the end of the day on May 31, 2024; to approve the administrative recommendation to employ Kaitlin Blount for the part-time Supervisor/RTC position at Jefferson Elementary, effective immediately upon board approval; to approve the administrative recommendation to employ Paul Bettinson for the part-time bus monitor position at Coldwater Schools, effective immediately upon board approval; to accept with regret, the resignation of Alyssa LaGuire from the part-time supervisor position at Max Larsen Elementary, effective the end of the day on February 29, 2024; and further, that the Board of Education gratefully accepts the gifts donated to Coldwater Schools as shown in the outline and recorded below:

PERSONNEL REPORT
K. SEARLS
K. BLOUNT

P. BETTINSON

A. LAGUIRE

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Eby-Klein Youth and Family Center	Good, Better, Best Grant	Gina Papineau, CHS	\$240.00

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

Additionally, the donors listed below have donated monetary funds to be used for the purchase of a new popcorn machine for Jefferson Elementary:

- Sterling and Danielle Sobeske \$450.00
- Jim and Karen Sobeske \$375.00
- Travis Hampton, Value Max Products \$335.00
- Brad Parrish, Parrish Excavating, Inc. \$335.00
- Dave Haylett, Haylett Enterprises, Inc. \$200.00
- Yoder's Country Market; Jon and Brenda Yoder \$335.00

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 January accounts for payment as submitted:
 January General Fund accounts in the amount of \$2,335,653.14;
 January Special Revenue accounts in the amount of \$203,020.19;
 and approves the Financial Statements as presented.
 Resolution approved unanimously.

JANUARY ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

President Lake acknowledged the February Building Reports and the Assistant Superintendent Report.
 No further discussion took place.

BUILDING REPORTS AND ASST. SUPT. REPORT

President Lake acknowledged the Safe Return and CCS Extended COVID-19 Learning Reports.
 Discussed ensued.

SAFE RETURN AND CCS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING

President Lake called for Board Committee Reports. There were no current reports provided.
 President Lake called for the Superintendent's report.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SUPT. REPORT

Superintendent Flynn stated that the district will surely miss the leadership, experience, and professionalism of Coldwater High School Assistant Principal, Krista Searls as she enters into retirement at the end of May.

Flynn further provided the board with an update on the continued building projects at Max Larsen and CHS.

Additionally, Flynn reported that four female student-athletes from CHS, along with the Varsity Volleyball Coach, recently attended the two-day Women in Sports Leadership Conference in East Lansing. The young women participated in multiple workshops, including "Valuing Yourself as a Female Athlete", "Creating a Championship Team Culture", and "Supporting each other in Developing a Positive Body Image". Flynn said that this was a positive experience for the girls, and their future hope is to partner with Harper Creek and Parma Western to create a similar summit for the Interstate 8 in the fall of 2024. The young ladies wished to thank the school board for allowing them the opportunity to participate in the conference and are hopeful more girls will attend in the future.

Lastly, Flynn shared that the Strategic Planning Committee met recently to review the results of the district's recent strategic planning survey. He reviewed some of the highlights from the survey and shared that it is encouraging to see that many of the highlights from the survey are currently being discussed at the administrative level with some of the hopeful changes already in motion.

Superintendent Flynn said that the purpose of the next meeting will be to develop the wording for the district's goals and to determine and discuss the action steps for implementation.

Discussion ensued.

President Lake presented the recommendation to approve the Coldwater Leadership Council Club. MOTION made and supported by Members Lanford and Lyon-Welch that the Board of Education approve the addition of the Coldwater Leadership Council Club, as presented.

Discussion ensued.

Roll call vote taken.

Yeas: Members Holbrook, Steel, Dean, Lanford, Lyon-Welch, Lake

Nays: None

Resolution passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE COLDWATER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – APPROVED

President Lake presented the recommendation to approve the athletic overnight stays for the Wrestling, Bowling, Gymnastics, and Swim and Dive teams for state finals.

MOTION made and supported by Members Dean and Lanford that the Board of Education approve the athletic overnight stays for the Wrestling, Bowling, Gymnastics, and Swim and Dive teams to participate in their respective state finals, as presented.

Discussion ensued.

Resolution passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ATHLETIC OVERNIGHT STAYS FOR THE WRESTLING, BOWLING, GYMNASTICS, AND SWIM AND DIVE TEAMS FOR STATE FINALS - APPROVED

President Lake presented the request to approve the field trips for Max Larsen Elementary.

MOTION made and supported by Members Lanford and Lyon-Welch that the Board of Education approves the request for the Max Larsen field trips, as presented:

REQUEST TO APPROVE FIELD TRIPS FOR MAX LARSEN - APPROVED

TRIP PARTICIPANTS	EVENT	DESTINATION	DATE
Max Larsen Elementary – First-Grade Students	Binder Park Zoo	Battle Creek, MI	May 7, 2024
Max Larsen Elementary – Kindergarten Students	Kids “N” Stuff Children’s Museum	Albion, MI	May 3, 2024 (3 classes) May 9, 2024 (3 classes) May 10, 2024 (3 classes)

Resolution passed unanimously.

President Lake presented the recommendation to approve the summer trip to Costa Rica for Coldwater High School Students through EF Educational Travel Company.

MOTION made and supported by Members Dean and Lanford that the Board of Education approve the recommendation for a summer trip to Costa Rica for Coldwater High School Students through EF Educational Travel Company, as presented.

Discussion ensued.

Roll call vote taken.

Yeas: Members Steel, Lyon-Welch, Lanford, Holbrook, Dean, Lake

Nays: None

Resolution passed unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION
TO APPROVE
SUMMER TRIP TO
COSTA RICA FOR
CHS STUDENTS
THROUGH EF
EDUCATIONAL
TRAVEL COMPANY –
APPROVED**

President Lake made the following announcement:

1. The next scheduled Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 18, 2024, at six o’clock in the evening at the Administrative Service Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Clair Dean, Secretary Board of Education

Heather M. Harvey, Executive Secretary