

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2021**

The Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. The meeting was held in-person in the Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences Gallery, 23211 Prospect St. Armada, MI 48005. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President, Cheryl Murray.

Board of Education Present: E. Cooper, S. Nieman, C. Murray, A. Blake, S. Wylin,
M. Meerschaert
M. Marasco (Student Rep.)

Board of Education Absent: S. Kline with notice

Administration Present: M. Musary, K. Skokna

21-96 Motion by A. Blake, supported by E. Cooper that the Board of Education approve the Agenda as presented.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: E. Cooper, S. Nieman, C. Murray, A. Blake, S. Wylin, M. Meerschaert

Nays: None MOTION PASSED: 6-0

21-97 Motion by M. Meerschaert, supported by S. Wylin, that the Board of Education approve a closed session to take place at the end of the regular meeting for the purpose of discussing negotiations. The meeting will take place in the Gallery.
(Staff Report #1)

Roll Call:

Ayes: E. Cooper, S. Nieman, C. Murray, A. Blake, S. Wylin, M. Meerschaert

Nays: None MOTION PASSED: 6-0

21-98 Motion by A. Blake, supported by M. Meerschaert, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Approval of Minutes

a. October 19, 2021 (Finance Committee Meeting Minutes)

b. October 19, 2021 (Regular Meeting Minutes)

2. Monthly bills payable in the amount of \$561,541.23

3. Personnel Report

Voice Vote:

Ayes: E. Cooper, S. Nieman, C. Murray, A. Blake, S. Wylin, M. Meerschaert

Nays: None MOTION PASSED: 6-0

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21-99 Motion by S. Nieman, supported by E. Cooper, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of high school stage curtains from TLS Productions in the amount of \$44,543.51. (Staff Report #2)

Voice Vote:

Ayes: E. Cooper, S. Nieman, C. Murray, A. Blake, S. Wylin, M. Meerschaert

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

21-100 Motion by S. Wylin, supported by A. Blake, that the Board of Education approve the first reading of the changes to the Board of Education's Policy Manual (Volume 36, No. 1 – September 2021 updates) as recommended by NEOLA and the Board of Education's Policy Committee. (Staff Report #3)

Voice Vote:

Ayes: E. Cooper, S. Nieman, C. Murray, A. Blake, S. Wylin, M. Meerschaert

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

Closed Session Convened at 7:45 p.m. and ended at 8:03 p.m.

21-101 Vice President, Cheryl Murray, adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m. with the motion to adjourn from M. Meerschaert and supported by A. Blake.

Hearing of the Public:

None

Communications:

None

Superintendent's Report:

- At Krause Elementary, two teams of 4th graders competed at the Automation FIRST Lego League Robotics tournament at AHS and one of our teams (Tiger Pi's) advanced to the State Finals in December and won 1st place in the Core Values category.
- At the M.S., several trees are being planted around the district as part of students Global Awareness projects. The MS robotics team hosted a workshop for interested students where current team members taught fellow students about the mechanics and designs of the robotics program. NJHS students drew positive messages and pictures on the sidewalks for Unity Day and cleaned up the township park too.
- At the H.S., the play (High School Musical) is this weekend - November 19, 20, and 21. Fall sports were highlighted by the boys tennis team winning the BWAC title; the boys cross country

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team (7 members) and two girls from the girls cross country team participated in the MHSAA D2 State Finals in Brooklyn, MI at the MIS; and the varsity football team reached the MHSAA D5 District championship game for the second time in school history.

- At MA2S, Violet Fiddes computer students (two teams) participated in a cybersecurity competition.
- This is the final week of the first trimester in the district.

Curriculum Update: Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Curriculum, Kelly Skokna, provided an update of the following:

- I. Educational Goals Report submitted
 - A. NWEA scores, baseline data
- II. [School Letter Grades](#)
 - A. November 19th release date
- III. [ESSER Survey Results](#)
- IV. [Website Update](#)
- V. MTSS Committee
 - A. Starting November 29th
- VI. School Improvement
 - A. Cognia Review in 2022-23
 - B. Planning strategic review for this Spring
- VII. MISD County-Wide Initiative: Suicide Free Schools and Mental Health Well-Being

Board Reports:

Student Representative, M. Marasco, provided a brief update:

- Several groups from the high school, such as NHS and Student Council, have taken on families to whom they will donate meals.
- NHS (National Honor Society) donated turkeys to families in need.
- The play, *High School Musical*, will be held this weekend.
- Thanksgiving break is coming at the end of this week as well as exams and the end of the first trimester.
- Winter Sports will begin this week.

Member, S. Nieman shared a piece of information regarding House Bill 5404:

The bill, would establish scholarships for certain students that would be administered through a scholarship granting organization that is defined in the bills. It could be used for private school tuition or fees, summer programs or after-school child care, private tutoring and other fees related to education programming-most of which are already offered for free through our public schools. Any donation to an SGO would be eligible for a 100% credit on a person's income taxes.

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The bills are now headed to the Governor for her consideration. MASB, along with many other education organizations, sent a letter urging a veto of these bills.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

S. Nieman – Enjoyed attending the board meetings in each of the school buildings and would like to do that again next year. It was decided that the schedule for next year’s meetings would include each school building location.

C. Murray – Asked the board to consider allowing former board members to present diplomas to their own children or grandchildren. Current policies will be reviewed with regard to this.

Points of Pride:

E. Cooper:

- The Middle School canned food drive.

S. Wylin:

- Elementary staff and administration for the wonderful Halloween this year with the parade and costumes. Although the weather did not permit the parade to be outside, it was livestreamed so the families could see how much fun they were having.

M. Meerschaert

- Elementary Tiger Pi’s advancing to the State Finals.

S. Nieman:

- The Middle School global impact projects which are a good opportunity for students to come up with great ideas and get the community more involved with the schools.

C. Murray:

- The cross-country teams and their coaches for exhibiting such politeness and sportsmanship.

A. Blake:

- Impressed with the kids in the community who are reaching out for donations.

M. Marasco:

- Proud of the National Honor Society for donating turkeys to families.

K. Skokna:

- The Robotics team and the various groups, such as NHS, HOSA, Chorale singing the National Anthem, and those who participated in other ways at the tournament.

M. Musary:

- Impressed with the outreach of students for families in need.



Michele Meerschaert
Secretary, Board of Education