

**MIO AUSABLE SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 11, 2021**

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PRESENT: Holzwarth, Hunter, Irelan, La Vigne, Long, Szymanski, Whaley  
ABSENT: None  
ADMINISTRATION: Ciske, Shiffer, Ahearne  
RECORDING SECRETARY: McVeigh

President Irelan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Consent Agenda**

**2021-2022-10**

Szymanski/Hunter to approve consent agenda items:

- a) Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 13, 2021
- b) Monthly finance

YES: 7

NO: 0

Motion approved.

**Elementary Principals' Report** – Mrs. Shiffer reviewed elementary information. The district is working on a regular basis with COOR ISD Literacy Coaches. A new COOR behavioral support staff member began today. NWEA testing is complete and we will be moving to DRA and other diagnostic assessments. Conferences will be held later this week. During October several exciting events will happen, such as the book fair, homecoming and spirit week, Fire Pup and Pumpkin Carving Family Night. Food bags will be going out to 24 homes at the end of the month. Mrs. Shiffer commended Pastor Forsyth and the Methodist Church for their support and assistance with this program. Amy Fullerton, Amy's Confection Connection, has reached out to partner with the district for the sake of reading and the love of ice cream cones. We will be posting for a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teaching position. K-5 enrollment is at 210. The October character trait is Honesty.

**Athletic Director's Report** – On behalf of Athletic Director, Courtney Beltz, HS Principal Ahearne provided an athletic overview. Middle School Girls' basketball numbers have decreased due to COVID, as well as injuries. Mio will be hosting volleyball districts the week of November 1. MS Boys' basketball will play their first game on October 25. The homecoming football game was not played due to the opponent's team being quarantined.

**Middle School / High School Principals' Report** – Mr. Ahearne reviewed middle school/high school information. College month continues with almost daily visits from various colleges and universities. A very successful Career Day was held on October 8. It was well attended by juniors and seniors from Mio, Fairview, Atlanta and Hillman. It is estimated that 250-300 students attended. Mio students then participated in Mock Olympics that afternoon. Mr. Ahearne stated that he initially approved of students being allowed to wear hats during the day, however, due to unforeseen safety issues, he will be rescinding that. PSAT testing will begin on Wednesday, with parent/teacher conferences being held on Thursday. TikTok trends continue, with some destruction to areas of the school. The consequences have been discussed with students. A paraprofessional had been hired to replace Samie Brown, who accepted the R & R para position, however, this person then declined the position. We will continue to interview. Lindsay Bills will take over the Youth in Government Club, formerly run by Karen Mitchell. Mr. Ahearne expressed appreciation to Mrs. Mitchell for her 20 years of work with students in that capacity.

**Buildings and Grounds Report** – Mr. Ciske reported that the request for snow plow bids is currently online and has been advertised in the paper. We are in the process of getting uniforms for the custodial staff. Control Solutions from Alpena have begun installing a new HVAC control system. A new scoreboard has been ordered and should be delivered within the next few weeks.

**Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Ciske provided an update. A draft audit report was received. We are in the process of reviewing. Unless there are changes made during the review, the fund balance for 2020-2021 school year will increase from \$310,557 to \$717,620, which is 11.5% of the general fund expenditures. The auditors will be at the November 1 meeting to present this information to the full board. Mr. Ahearne and Mr. Ciske are part of the steering committee for the COOR ISD CTE programs. The main focus is to determine the best use of the \$2.5M start up grant received from the State of Michigan for this program. First grade numbers continue to grow. We are looking to add another section of first grade to address this need. In a previous update, graduation dates were discussed in reference to softball/baseball districts. The plan is to have graduation on Friday, June 3, 2022 with districts held on Saturday, June 4, 2022. Mr. Michael Raymond has been hired as a middle school paraprofessional. Custodial positions continue to be posted and interviews will be held for an 8-hour and 4-hour position. The aid for schools that came from the American Recovery Plan is titled ESSER III. One of the requirements of this legislation is to accept public comments regarding the spending of these funds. Mr. Ciske stated that he will be attending a meeting later this month that should help clarify some of the grant requirements. A plan will be developed soon thereafter, with plans to have public comments at the December meeting. The school bus fleet is beginning to age. We currently have two 2011, five 2014 and two 2017 buses. We continue to keep up with maintenance on these buses, however they are beginning to age. The district should plan to buy one or two buses this year so that we are not in a situation where the entire fleet needs to be replaced at the same time. Prior to purchasing, Mr. Ciske will provide a proposal to the board. Mr. Ciske reported that Mr. Ryan Rondo would like to address the board in reference to charging the youth programs for equipment/field usage.

**Citizens' Comments** – Mr. Ryan Rondo addressed the board and expressed his opinion that the youth programs should pay a small fee for facility / field usage. This could be used to offset replacement cost for school sponsored sports. Mrs. Michelle Knepp, addressed the board with her viewpoint on this issue. It is her opinion that youth programs should not be charged as they are 'feeder programs' for varsity teams. Mrs. Knepp also thanked the board for allowing usage of the fields for the youth programs. Mr. Brian Gadowski announced that the Athletic Boosters would be hosting a BBQ dinner at the upcoming football game.

**Action Items** - None

**Board Members' Comments** – Mrs. Irelan and Mrs. Whaley commented that they do not feel the youth programs should be charged for field/equipment usage as they one day become student athletes.

**Correspondence** - None

There was no other business.

#### 2021-2022-11

Whaley/Holzwarth to adjourn at 7:13 p.m.

YES: 7

NO: 0

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeannette McVeigh, Recording Secretary

Cheryl La Vigne, Board Secretary