

# Minutes of Regular Meeting

## The Board of Education New Buffalo Area Schools

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of New Buffalo Area Schools was held Monday, April 13, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM via Zoom (COVID-19 Executive Order).

1. Call to Order by President Charles Heit - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. Roll Call: Heather Black, John Haskins, Charles Heit, Roger Lijewski, Frank Magro, Patricia Newton, Lisa Werner

Absent: Lijewski

Also in Attendance: Dr. Jeffrey M. Leslie, Superintendent of Schools  
Yvonne Homolka, Adm Asst to Superintendent

3. Expressions from the Public: None
4. Items too Late for Printed Agenda:

Suspend board policies/guidelines related to competitive bidding (Item #9).

5. Adoption of the Agenda:  
Motion: Black  
Second: Haskins  
Roll Call Vote: All ayes.  
Black  
Haskins  
Heit  
Magro  
Newton  
Werner

6. Communication(s): None

7. Committee Report(s):

Committees held via Zoom: Executive to discuss support staff contract and elementary construction project.

8. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the New Buffalo Educational Personnel Association Contract, 2020-2023, as attached.

Motion: Magro

Second: Black

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

Haskins

Heit

Magro

Newton

Werner

Black

9. Superintendent recommends the Board adopt the Resolution that all Board policies and administrative guidelines related to competitive bidding that conflict with or hinder the District's compliance COVID-19 related public health directives, Executive Orders and Directives are temporarily suspended to the extent necessary to allow such compliance, including but not limited to, Policies and Administrative Guidelines 6321, 6320C1 and 6320C2. The suspension will continue, unless modified or rescinded by Board action, during pendency of those Executive Orders and Directives, and for a reasonable time thereafter, as permitted by Applicable Law, to permit the District to return to normal operations.

Motion: Newton

Second: Magro

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

Heit

Magro

Newton

Werner

Black

Haskins

10. Remarks from the Superintendent:

- Condolences to Jerry Schaffer's family and the River Valley community on his passing. He was a positive influence through his role as the basketball coach (1966-67 to 1999) and as a mentor to many.

- Kudos to the support staff union committee on their professionalism and working together with administration in submitting a fair contract for all. The next year, 2020-2021, will have a 2.5% increase. The following two years will be revisited for an increase due to the many questions regarding COVID-19 procedures.
- The Food Service staff has stepped up magnanimously for the students and community in their continued efforts of supplying lunches for anyone 18 and younger.
- Today was the first day of the e-learning program and teachers/administrators have committed their absolute best for the students in this difficult time of school closure. This procedure, in lieu of face-to-face instruction, will be learning for all.

#### 11. Remarks from the Board President and Members:

President Heit echoed the comments regarding Jerry Schaffer and the Food Service team. Mr. Magro said he was greatly appreciative of the parent/student/staff role in the e-learning process as it is off to a positive beginning. Ms. Black said thanks to all involved in feeding the community and to the teachers, especially, in effort to education students via e-learning.

#### 12. Discussion Item(s):

##### A. Adjustment of Graduation Requirements for Class of 2020:

This is pretty much mandated by one of Governor Whitmer's earlier executive orders. We really cannot grant credit based on one week's worth of work and that is where we were on Friday, March 13, when face-to-face schooling came to an end. The governor forgave the requirement of Civics so that affected many of our seniors. I would like to reduce the credit requirement from 28 down to 22. The Michigan Merit Curriculum requirement is 18 so we are still above that number. The only seniors that are in the 22-25 credit range are students who transferred to New Buffalo sometime during their high school career so they would not have been required to earn 28 credits. Currently, all of our seniors have earned 22.5 credits or more. We would be reducing our requirements of science and social studies from 4 to 3 which mirrors the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

We would also like to remove the requirement of community service hours but still require the community service essay. Traditionally, we have had many seniors finish their community service hours during their final trimester but that will not be possible in the current environment. All of the seniors have completed some community service so they will still be able to complete their essay requirement.

Ms. Werner asked if there are plans for a virtual graduation and Supt. Leslie replied he would like to see an in-person ceremony, possibly in the summer. President Heit said many questions would be involved, i.e., number of invitations, social distancing, etc.

13. Expressions from the Public - Second Opportunity:

Via a chat comment: Thanks to Supt. Leslie for distributing homework packets and Chromebooks to homes of students.

14. Other Business:

Motion by Werner, supported by Haskins, to approve the graduation requirements for the Class of 2020, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: All ayes.

Magro  
Newton  
Werner  
Black  
Haskins  
Heit

15. Adjournment:

Motion: Haskins  
Second: Black  
Roll Call Vote: All ayes.  
Heit  
Magro  
Newton  
Werner  
Black Haskins

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa W. Werner, Secretary  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS

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