

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2023**

The Regular Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Krause Elementary Cafeteria, 23900 Armada Center Road, Armada, MI 48005. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Cheryl Murray.

Board of Education Present: M. Meerschaert, S. Nieman, A. Blake, S. Wylin, S. Hill,  
C. Murray

Board of Education Absent: S. Wolak w/notice

Administration Present: M. Musary, K. Skokna

23-15 Motion by S. Wylin, supported by A. Blake, that the Board of Education approve the Agenda as amended with the Bills Payable voted separately on the consent agenda.

23-16 Motion by M. Meerschaert, supported by S. Hill, that the Board of Education approve the minutes and the personnel report on the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. January 17, 2023 Organizational/Regular Meeting Minutes
  - b. January 17, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
  - c. January 17, 2023 Closed Session Minutes
  - d. January 23, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
2. Personnel Report

**Voice Vote:**

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 – 0

23-17 Motion by S. Nieman, supported by M. Meerschaert, that the Board of Education approve the Monthly Bills Payable as presented in the amount of \$313,316.19

**Voice Vote:**

Ayes: M. Meerschaert, S. Nieman, A. Blake, S. Wylin, S. Hill

Abstain: C. Murray

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 5 – 0

23-18 Motion by A. Blake, supported by M. Meerschaert, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's employment contract with a one-year extension through June 30, 2026. (Staff Report #1)

**Voice Vote:**

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 - 0

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- 23-19 Motion by M. Meerschaert, supported by S. Hill, that the Board of Education approve the courses as outlined in the previous curriculum presentation:  
(Staff Report #2)

The Foundation of America: Grade 6-8 social studies elective  
Social Sciences: Grade 6-8 elective  
7th grade Honors English: 7th grade ELA credit  
Physical and Human Geography: Grades 10-12, social studies elective  
Sports Math: Grade 12 Math elective credit  
Student Leadership: Grades 10-12 elective  
STEM II: Middle School Elective  
Ferris English (ENG 250)

**Voice Vote:**

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED: 6 - 0

- 23-20 President, C. Murray, adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. with the motion to adjourn from S. Wylin and supported by A. Blake.

**Hearing of the Public:**

- A Gentleman spoke about the St. Baldricks fundraiser – information will be made available through the school district.
- K. Grand – Requested that additional agenda materials be posted on the website.

**Communications:**

**None**

**Superintendent's Report:**

Mr. Musary gave an informational report regarding the upcoming election for the bond proposal and sinking fund:

What is on the ballot?

- The first proposal is a \$26.5 million no tax-rate increase bond proposal designed to improve safety and update and renovate schools and educational facilities across the school district.
- The second proposal seeks voter approval to re-establish a sinking fund to support small-scale, ongoing maintenance projects throughout the school district.
- Neither proposal will increase the current tax rate.

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About the bond proposal...

How were the bond proposal projects identified?

- As part of the Armada Area Schools' strategic plan, school administrators worked with architectural and construction management specialists to identify short- and long-term facility needs.
- The list of projects was prioritized, and the final list was developed.

About the bond proposal...

Will my tax rate increase if voters approve the bond proposal?

- Voter approval of the bond proposal will not increase the current tax rate.
- Armada Area Schools will extend the current tax rate for the entirety of the bond, which will not require any tax rate increase to complete the projects.

About the bond proposal...

What are the major areas the bond proposal will address?

Safety improvements

Replacing door entry systems, re-keying doors, adding emergency generators, and creating secure entries.

Interior improvements to support the learning environment

Updating HVAC systems (unit vents and temperature controls), updating bathrooms, replacing furniture, replacing select doors, replacing clock systems, updating lighting, and renovating locker rooms.

Exterior improvements to the facilities

Repaving parking lots and bus loops, improving site drainage, replacing select exterior doors, and replacing select roofing.

Site work/Athletic improvements

Renovating the athletic building to add concessions and bathrooms, adding press boxes at the varsity baseball field and stadium, resurfacing the track, adding synthetic turf, creating a practice field for the Marching Band, and installing a scoreboard at the JV softball field.

The school district already has a sinking fund. Why isn't the sinking fund proposal a renewal?

- Residents first approved the sinking fund in 2004 and renewed it in 2014. At that time, sinking funds could only be used to purchase real estate for sites and to construct or repair school buildings.
- In 2016 the law changed, and now sinking funds can be used for the purchase of school property sites, the construction or repair of school buildings, school security improvements, and the acquisition or upgrading of technology.
- Due to the change in the law, the Armada Area Schools must ask voters to approve the sinking fund with language that includes the allowable expense areas.

About voting...

Any registered voter living in the Armada Area School District can vote.

- Residents can vote at the polls on May 2nd from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., or,
- By absentee ballot beginning March 23 through Election Day.

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**Presentations**

**Student Awards:**

Superintendent Musary introduced “Students of the Month” for February 2023, from Armada High School and Armada Middle School. They were each awarded with a certificate. He also presented several elementary students with Principal Awards.

**Krause Elementary School Presentation:**

Krause Elementary, Principal, Pam Lillie, and Assistant Principal, Rob Girvin, provided a presentation which covered the activities, clubs, programs, and test scores at the school. The elementary school’s focus is on “Character Strong”. This is a way of conflict resolution by which the students first identify their problem, name their emotion, and then make a choice.

**Curriculum Update:** Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Curriculum, Kelly Skokna, provided the following information:

- I. End of Trimester Staff Survey
  - A. Survey Results
- II. Educational Goal Report
  - A. Winter Testing Results
- III. Upcoming Professional Development
  - A. March 6th: PLCs, ELA Review
  - B. March 31st PD: CPR training for all, Heart Safe School
- IV. Cognia Review
  - A. Tentatively scheduled for March 29th-30th
- V. Spring Testing
  - A. WIDA Complete
  - B. PSAT/SAT: Wednesday, April 12, 2023
- VI. Proposed new courses

**Board Reports:**

- Member S. Nieman spoke about the Governor who proposed the school aid budget which could possibly provide more per pupil money.

**Old Business:**

- It was previously requested that a workshop be set up regarding board code of ethics. That workshop has been scheduled from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, before the regular meeting. An MASB member, Greg Janicki, will conduct the workshop.

**New Business:**

- A request for board members to receive building tours and being allowed to observe during a school day was submitted by a board member. Mr. Musary asked that those who are interested email him and some dates will be provided.

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**Points of Pride:**

**M. Meerschaert:**

- Board member Meerschaert appreciates the fact that college credit capabilities (through new courses) have been added to prepare students for college.

**C. Murray:**

- Board member Murray is proud of how well the cheerleaders are doing and is very proud of the recent PAL camp fundraiser. PAL has touched many lives of kids as well as adults.

**S. Nieman:**

- Board member Nieman is proud of all of the wonderful parent/booster groups who do so much to raise money for our students.

**S. Wylin:**

- Board member Wylin thanked the administration and staff and students at Krause Elementary for hosting the meeting and for the decorations, video, and the book donation. She said that, not only have they impressed her this evening, but this is what they do and how they operate on a daily basis.

**S. Hill:**

- Board member Hill is proud of how well the bowling teams and robotics have been doing.

**A. Blake:**

- Board member, Blake gave a shout out to member S. Nieman. He said not only is she a wonderful board member, but now she is also a great neighbor and he appreciates living in this community.

**K. Skokna:**

- Mrs. Skokna said that it is National School Bus Driver's month and she appreciated the importance of their job. She witnesses and hears their correspondence daily and they do an excellent job.

**M. Musary:**

- Mr. Musary is proud of the elementary staff and their presentation. He also appreciates the transportation department. He and Paul, the transportation director, talk day and night when there is potential bad weather because we all want to do what is right and safest for the students.



Michele Meerschaert  
Secretary, Board of Education