

EVART PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Minutes  
December 11, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY ALAN BENGRY AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY LOCATED AT 321 NORTH HEMLOCK STREET, EVART MICHIGAN 49631.

The Board observed a moment of silence.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Alan Bengry x, Todd Bruggema x, Mark Moody x, Gerald Nichols x,  
Karen Pylman x, Eric Schmidt Absent, Kelly Whitman x

Also present: Shirley Howard, Superintendent  
Jessica Kolenda, High School Principal  
Jason O'Dell, Middle School Principal  
Ken Ranjel, Elementary School Principal  
Amy Booher, Recording Secretary

Guest present: Ashley Cass, Amber Payne, Zuleicka Carey, Bre Grabill, Pepper Lockhart, Santana Scott, Kevin Mills, Ken Wirth, Cathy Wirth, Dawn Rueffer, Zoe Babb, Missy Morgan, Lisa Morgan, Jennifer Natale, Annette Walters, Travis Douglas, Kelly Buckley, Marie Wilkerson, Tracy Gray, Valerie Hopkins, Rosie McKinstry, Jennifer Joyce, Aaron Anderson, Sherry Morgan, Kris Morgan, Kevin Anderson, Ryan Hopkins

IV. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS/RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelly Buckley shared they have 19 participants for the 2025 trip to Europe.

Pepper Lockhart shared how she enjoyed the Middle School Play, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Josh Johnson shared ideas to recognize the 2020 baseball team,

A. Points of Pride- Jessica Kolenda- shared the excitement of the High School Robotics team.

She also said we have a student, Savannah Cooper who is on her way to regionals for the Voice of Democracy, She also recognized Officer Douglas for employee of the month, Spirit Week and new Yearbook commercials at the High School. She is very proud of how the school, staff and community has come together with the events that have happened. # Evart Strong.

B. Kevin Mills- High School Robotics- Kevin shared a presentation on the High School Robotics team.

C. Strategic Plan- Jack Tempsey- Jack shared a power point demonstration of Evart's Strategic Plan.

V. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

VI. FINANCIAL

Mark Moody had a question on a financial purchase. Dawn Rueffer said she will email him the breakdown on the total.



A. A special thank you from Shirley Howard to all that attended the September 30<sup>th</sup> Strategic Planning meeting. Also a thank you to our Evert EMS staff and all involved with help for the recent accident. Thoughts and prayers to the Froman Family. And Happy Holidays to all.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A, Recommendation to go into Executive Session under Section 8 (a ) and 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act.

MOVED BY PYLMAN SUPPORTED BY WHITMAN TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION 8 (A) AND 8 (H) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Results: Carried

Roll Call Vote:

Bengry Yes

Whitman Yes

Nichols Yes

Pylman Yes

Bruggema Yes

Schmidt Absent

Moody Yes

Meeting declared over at: 8:54 PM

B. Consideration of approving a final rating of Effective for Superintendent, Shirley Howard.

MOVED BY PYLMAN SUPPORTED BY NICHOLS TO APPROVE FINAL RATING OF EFFECTIVE FOR SUPERINTENDENT, SHIRLEY HOWARD

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Results: Carried

C. Following the closed session, the following motion was offered by Nichols, supported by Pylman.

At a regular meeting of the Evert Public Schools Board of Education, held on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the following motion was offered by Board member Gerald Nichols, and supported by Board member Karen Pylman,

I move that in response to a complaint filed against Board Member Mark Moody and Board member Eric Schmidt for the alleged violation of Board Policy 2302 (Board Code of Ethics), the Board previously authorized the Board President to investigate the allegations.

At a future date, the Board President will present his investigation findings to the Board, who will determine whether the conduct of either named Board member violated the Board Code of Ethics.

The Board of Education does **not** authorize any Board member, or any person acting on their behalf to interview a school employee about matters related to the complaint filed against the named Board members. The only exception would be the Board President or Vice President in his absence.

An employee of the Evert Public Schools has no employment obligation to respond to questions by the named Board members or any person acting on their behalf related to the complaint filed against the named Board members.

The Board Secretary is directed to share this motion, as approved by the Board, to all employees of the Evert Public Schools.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Results: Carried

The motion is adopted.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A. Recommendation to Adjourn

MOVED BY BRUGGEMA, SUPPORTED BY WHITMAN THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Results: Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.