

# Boyne Falls Public School



## Special Meeting of the Board of Education

May 30, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. Media Center

*This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.*

### Minutes

<b>I. Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order by Cousineau at 6:30 p.m. in the media center.
<b>II. Roll Call</b>	
	Members Present: Cousineau, Brunmeier, Sherwood, Rackow
	Members Absent: Grubaugh-Clink
	Others Present: 57
<b>III. Pledge of Allegiance</b>	
<b>IV. Approval of Agenda</b>	Motion by Sherwood, support by Brunmeier to approve the agenda as amended to add discussion item of resignation of school board members and an action item to add Kurt Wilson's resignation. Motion carried 4 to 0.
<b>V. Discussion Items</b>	
a.	Resignation of Board of Education Members: Bill Bielas and Kurt Wilson
b.	Superintendent's Resignation
<b>VI. Recognition of Audience</b>	
a.	The board will recognize anyone wishing to address them. They do reserve the right to limit the time devoted to a specific topic and ask that arrangements be made in the superintendent's office in advance to be placed on the agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Boyne Falls School Staff<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Beth Meier read a letter in support of Cindy Pineda from the entire staff at Boyne Falls School. Expressed the staff's disappointment in the board for not supporting Cindy's decision.</li></ul></li><li>• Erika Blackwell<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Erika shared her thoughts on the boards decision to not support Superintendent Pineda and asked that the board of education publicly apologize to Pineda.</li></ul></li><li>• Gwen Matelski<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Recap on history of her involvement with the school and expressed her disagreement with the Board of Education.</li></ul></li><li>• Ellen White<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- LEO president, submitted a petition for the board's resignation.</li></ul></li><li>• Sue Hobbs<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sue spoke on Cindy Pineda's community impact and how important this school is to a good desirable community. The board teaches by example and this board</li></ul></li></ul>

did not teach the student body a good lesson. Sue also expressed that if Cindy leaves, what kind of applicants would with them knowing they would not have BOE support.

- Frank Wasylewski expressed his support for the Board of Ed and was pleased that they supported the student and family. He told a story that everyone has a boss and his story reflected on the Otsego County Medical Examiner would not allow he and his wife to see their son. They had to wait 4 days before seeing him. The County Board of Commissioners did not know this rule was in affect and are working to change it. Thus Frank applauded the board for their decision and expressed that he knew they didn't act lightly on the appeal.
- Mary Jo Skop thanked Bill Cousineau for calling the meeting and thanked the community for coming. She expressed that she felt the board was not prepared for the meeting, did not have the facts, and were scared by the attorney that the family brought to the meeting. She expressed that Cindy followed every rule, and she is disappointed that the senior trip has become a right when it used to be a privilege. She is worried about what we are teaching our children.
- Gene Pickering spoke in support of Cindy Pineda and told a story about an incident involving his daughter. He expressed kids need rules. He asked the board not to accept Cindy's resignation and asked the board of education to resign.
- David Gillespie spoke to the board of education and expressed his anger that they made a decision without knowing the facts. He is angry that the board didn't support the person they hired to run the school. The board could have opened themselves up to all sort of lawsuits from other parents.
- Mary Matelski expressed her disappointment in how the senior trip has become a right instead of a privilege. The board seems to be putting the trip above an education and that is wrong. The board made a bad decision and showed students that there are no consequences for their actions. Mary stated that a board member once said, "teachers are a dime a dozen," and she feels that good administrators are not.
- Connie Smith, a parent of another student, currently on the trip, stated that the pressure the board put on the other students on the trip was unfair. She stated that kids need rules.
- Kathi Miller asked if there was anything that could be done to keep Cindy in our district.
- Cindy Pineda made a statement giving her appreciation for the support. She mentioned that the school is on the rebound and on the upswing because of the entire staff, it is not appropriate or fair to give all of the credit to one person. It is not her intention to cause upheaval in the school. She mentioned that the board of education is a thankless job. Pineda stated that she could not make a final decision at this time. This is an emotional decision and it is inappropriate to make a decision. She finds it very difficult to see the staff in such turmoil.
- Bill Cousineau stated that he will work tirelessly to keep Cindy Pineda as Superintendent.
- Laura Brunmeier stated that she was trying to be compassionate to the student and her family. She had no idea the consequences of her decision. She would reverse her decision if she could. She apologized to Cindy Pineda for a second time.

- Bill Cousineau mentioned that there are two open seats on the board of education and anyone interested in filling the positions should submit a letter of interest to the office before the June 25, 2018 meeting.

**VII. Action Items**

- a. Motion by Sherwood, support by Rackow that the Board of Education accept William Bielas' resignation from the Board of Education.  
Motion carried 4 to 0.
- b. Motion by Brunmeier, support by Sherwood that the Board of Education accept Kurt Wilson's resignation.  
Motion carried 4 to 0.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion by Sherwood, support by Brunmeier to adjourn.

Motion carried 4 to 0.

Time adjourned: 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Herman  
Recording Secretary