

Minutes for March 20, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting

Chair Opatz called the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6 PM in the meeting room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel, Ed Feia, Pat Meier, and Student Rep Jada Mosey .

Member absent: Elissa Ebnet

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka and Hans Lammeman from Star Publications. Guests attending: Carin Pedersen, Tammi Hanson, Kaitlyn Thell and Ashia Berscheid.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Martini, second by Meier, to approve the amended agenda. Items added: approve seal coating & crack filling bid; approve leave for Pat Caspers; accept resignation from MaKenna Stanoch. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the 2/21/2024 school board meeting and closed meeting; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$488,613.87; Computer checks approved #55640 through #55794 and #30899 through #30924 in the amount of \$4,715.14; approval of the electronic transfer for Feb. 2024, \$332,544.87; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$5,409,259.69; approval of Policy 410 Family and Medical Leave Policy; approval of Policy 416 Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing with Attachments; approval of spring Com. Ed. Instructors; approval of spring track coaches; Call for a Closed Session to follow the 3/20/2024 Reg mtg; Accept the following donations: \$500 Central Chapter MDAA to Trap Team, \$2000 Bowlus Firemen's Relief Assoc to the Athletic Director, \$1000 Lioness Club of Holdingford towards new pool stairs. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, Feia and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair recognized and thanked all the Donors for their generosity!

Chair Opatz welcomed fellow board members, administration, staff and guests.

Citizen Participation: None

Reports:

Superintendent Swenson reported BSED met with member Superintendents and Business Managers to discuss options for the Voyagers facilities. It is in need of many repairs. Options being considered are remodel, replace, or lease space. A favorable goal is to lease a space large enough to have all of the BSED programs at one campus. They would sell the Voyagers building and the BSED main office building and discontinue leasing space from Sartell-St. Stephen School District. Mr. Swenson will have more updates as decisions are made. He updated the Board on the Read Act training process for staff. The goal is to use as much Professional Development time as possible and not add training time outside of the normal work day unless absolutely necessary. The District is registered for the training so as soon as it becomes available the process will start.

Student Board Representative Jada Mosey brought up a concern regarding elementary students needing more time to eat. Mr. Stang shared that when students are dismissed from lunch they may stay and finish eating. The administration will take a look at the schedule and see if any practical changes can be made. Mr Swenson reiterated that students can stay sitting and finish eating when their class is excused. Ms. Mosey also reported students are upset about Prom / Post Prom being a complete lock-in from Grand March until 5:00 AM. It seems that there is some confusion on the information given to students. Mr. Beehler will meet with the Prom Advisors to get clarification and follow-up with the Board and students.

Secondary Principal Beehler reported students have selected their elective courses and the master schedule is built for next school year, arena scheduling will start next week and a change starting next school year will be college class students will not be able to leave campus during office hours. He updated the Board on the TAP Committee's conference proposal for next year due to the alternating classes. The proposal is to have a conference night each quarter at mid-quarter from 4-8 PM. Mr. Beehler also informed the Board that the first round of MCA testing is complete, the Harvest Time kickball tournament has started, Student Council is working with Stearns County to present Towards Zero Death prior to Prom, and upcoming events include the end of quarter 3, Spring Fling and College Career Day.

Mr. Beehler then shared some parent concerns over controversial topics in a Health Class curriculum. The content is part of the standards that are required to be taught in this class, however to alleviate the controversy the teacher will have a permission form for parents and students that opt out will have an alternative assignment. The Board thanked Ms. Hoffmann for her efforts in developing a parent consent moving forward.

Lastly Mr. Beehler explained due to Ms. Carlson's resignation there will be an open Secondary Counseling position and some different options are being considered on how to fill the position. Discussion ensued on the duties of this position and how to cover the duties if the position isn't filled with a full time Counselor.

Elementary Principal Stang thanked those involved with behavior issues in the elementary, the PTA, special guest readers for the I Love to Read month activities and those involved in bringing back the option of in-person Kindergarten Round-Up. He reported on Summer School plans and end of year events.

BSED report given by Pat Meier, he met with the CEU Committee prior to the meeting. At the meeting policies were reviewed and approved, Tech Check contract was renewed for tech support, a new phone system is being put in and the member districts will receive rebates.

Business Manager Gerber reported he is working on the budget for FY25 which is a challenging puzzle. Transportation Director Mr. Ebnet is looking at purchasing a new Bus and SPED Van to update the fleet, Food Service is still in need of more cooler and freezer space because the original plan was not feasible. He is working on options to alleviate those challenges and will bring proposals to the board next month. Mr. Gerber informed the Board that he is researching options to make Credit Card payments an option without a cost to the district and that it is insurance renewal time for property, liability and workman's comp which all affect the budget along with some revenue allocations that are restricted making it difficult to access the constrained funds.

Business Items:

Mr. Gerber explained the FY25 LTFM plan revision to include the remaining HVAC project costs. Motion by Meier, second by Feia, for School Board approval of FY 25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten Year plan in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 123B.595. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber summarized the bids for parking lot maintenance work to take place over the next two summers and recommended accepting the bid from Done Right Contracting MN. Motion by Feia, second by Meier to approve parking lot seal coating and crack filling bid with Done Right Contracting MN. Motion carried. AIF.

Personnel:

Motion by Feia, second by Martini, to adopt the Resolution Non Renewing Alyssa Rosenberger a Tier 1 Teacher. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, Feia and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to accept the resignation from Shelby Rosenberger, teacher on LOA effective at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Knettel, to accept the resignation from Secondary School Counselor Hannah Carlson effective at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. The Board thanked Ms. Carlson for her 4 years with the district! Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Burg, to approve FMLA Leave for Tina Gross from 8/26/2024-11/18/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Feia, to approve extended day, adding 15 minutes to the end of day schedule for Para Anna Christensen retroactive to 10/16/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve Medical Leave for Joy Swanson from 4/3/2024-5/13/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to hire Denise Waletzko for a Long Term Sub Teacher for Grade Three from 4/3/2024-5/13/2024 at Ms. Waletzko's retirement rate of pay of \$362/day. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Burg, to approve lane change for Tara Wolford from MS20 to MS30 to be effective at the start of quarter 4, of the 23-24 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Meier, to approve FMLA Medical Leave for Pat Caspers from May 20, 2024 through the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Feia, to accept the resignation from MaKenna Stanoch, Kid Zone Assistant. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Closed Session to follow.

School Board Meeting April 17, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 7:23 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Meier, second by Feia. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk Patrick Meier