

## **Minutes for April 17, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting**

Chair Opatz called the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:00 PM in the meeting room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Elisa Ebnet, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel, and Pat Meier.  
Member absent: Ed Feia.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, and Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka. Guests attending: Dan and Heather DeZurik.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to approve the amended agenda. Items added: Item 6.5. Authorize the Business Manager to submit a grant application; 6B.1. Accept the resignation from Lynn Nelson; 6B.2. Approve the Work Agreement with the Superintendent and 6.6. Approval to proceed with the erection of a greenhouse. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Knettel, second by Meier, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the 3/20/24 Reg Board mtg & Closed mtg, 4/3/24 Work Session & Closed mtg ; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$359,627.48; Computer checks approved #55795 through #55916 and #30925 through #30953 in the amount of \$16,090.47; approval of the electronic transfer for March 2024, \$362,085.82 acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$5,691,150.89; approval of Policy 722 Public Data And Data Subject Requests; Call for a Work Session to be held on May, 1, 2024 at 6:00 PM; Accept the following donations: \$1,041.24 from PTA to Elementary PBIS (for Playground Behavior and general PBIS), \$400 Holdingford Lions club to Track, \$200 St Wendel Sportsmans Club to Track, \$400 Holdingford Lioness Club to Track, \$440 from FFA Alum to FFA. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair recognized individually and thanked all the Donors for their generosity!

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

Citizen Participation: None

### **Reports:**

Superintendent Swenson explained the FFA RSVP, and updated the Board on MCA Data, legislature proposals and MN Dept of Education survey results regarding school district revenue shortfalls which shows many districts struggling.

Secondary Principal Beehler reported registration is ongoing and MCA round two of testing is complete. He informed the Board of upcoming events including spring fling/college career fair, student financial presentation, Students of Excellence Banquet and the Support Emma picture/presentation.

Mr. Swenson reported the Elementary is busy with MCA testing and planning for year end activities.

BSED Pat Meier reported policies were approved and the licensed staff settled contracts which will increase the budget.

Business Manager Gerber reported the custodial dept. received the turf tank and some training. He is working on FY25 budget and acquiring bids for summer LTFM Plan projects including food service freezer placement, carpet replacement and painting in various rooms, window sill replacement in the elementary, reseal portions of the parking, completion of

the girls locker room lockers, bathroom remodel on restrooms near the wrestling room, and adding coats of poly to the high school gym floor. Lastly he mentioned the possible increase in Read Act funding.

Mr. Swenson updated the Board on Read Act PD training for staff and mentioned that we may have to adjust the FY25 school calendar to accommodate the training.

### **Business Items:**

Mr. Gerber summarized the FY23-24 revised budget projecting a 16.15% ending fund balance. Motion by Knettel, second by Meier, to approve the FY23-24 Revised Budget. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber explained the State revised the lead level testing requirements making the requirements more stringent. It requires adopting a Water Lead Testing Plan and publishing the results, the District has always tested the drinking water and followed the previous requirements. Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to approve the Lead in Water Testing Plan as presented. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber presented the estimate from Craig James Concrete for sidewalk replacement on the backside of the building. Three bids were received. Motion by Knettel, second by Meier, to approve the quote from Craig James Concrete for replacement of sidewalks at doors E1, E2, and the food service area including new stoops at the Intermediate Gym. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Burg, to approve the 2024-2025 Preschool Calendar. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber explained the process and requirements to apply for an Air Ventilation Grant. Motion by Ebnet, second by Knettel, to authorize the Business Manager, Garrity Gerber to submit a Grant Application for the School District to participate in the Minnesota Air Ventilation Pilot Grant Program. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber summarized the meeting held with FFA Alumni and Mr. Roberts for the proposed erection of a Greenhouse that was purchased from Watertown-Mayer School District who originally acquired it from the Pillsbury Mansion when it was torn down. The FFA & Alumni proposed to assist with funds for expenses to set the Greenhouse up through donations, fundraising, and grants.

### **Personnel Items:**

Motion by Knettel, second by Martini, to accept the resignation from Lynn Nelson, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher with her last day being 5/31/2024. The administration and Board thanked Ms. Nelson for her 26 years with the District & they wished her well in her next chapter! Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Burg, to approve the Work Agreement with Superintendent Chris Swenson for a term of three years commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2027. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Work Session May 1, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

Senior Scholarship Awards Banquet May 8, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Theater.

School Board Meeting May 15, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

Graduation May 31, 2024 @ 7:00 PM.

### **Adjourn**

Agenda completed at 6:51 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Ebnet, second by Knettel. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Clerk Patrick Meier