

Minutes for April 15, 2025 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, Ben Christensen, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Ed Feia, Rob Knettel, and Pat Meier. Members absent: Student Rep Morgan Pellett.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Secondary Principal Tom Cooper, Tech Director Lance Feia, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve the amended agenda. Change Item 7.5. Approval to add a .10 FTE School Psychologist for the FY 26 school year. Add items 7.8. Accept letter of resignation from Secondary Para Brittany Christensen; & 7.9. Accept letter of resignation from Secondary Counselor Emily Simon. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Christensen, second by Feia, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the 3/19/2025 Regular School Board Meeting; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$602,171.08. Computer checks approved #57613 through #57788 and #31275 through #31296 in the amount of \$16,633.31; approval of the electronic transfers for March 2025, \$370,129.19; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$5,130,745.73; approval of revised Policies 512 School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities, 513 Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design, 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, 516 Student Medication And Telehealth, 521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination, 532 Use of Peace Officers & Crisis Teams To Remove Students With IEPs From School Grounds, 535 Service Animals in Schools. Accepted the following donations: 30 Backpacks to the Elementary Social Worker in the amount of \$202.50 from Everest Trading Corp, To The Trap Team: \$500 from Weime Enterprise, \$1,000 from the Ed Haus Foundation, \$500 from Westres Marine, \$1,000 from St. Rosa Jaycees, \$500 from St. Cloud Metro Lions, \$500 from St. Stephen Sportsmans Club, & \$500 from Central McGowan, Tri-County to the Greenhouse for In-Kind materials and labor of \$4,090. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Christensen, Burg, Opatz, Feia, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried. Board Chair Opatz recognized and thanked all the Donors for their generosity!

Chair Opatz welcomed fellow board members, administration, & staff.

Superintendent Swenson reported BSED looked at the Rock Ridge Building or old Persian Club building for a possible site for BSED programs, however it doesn't seem to be big enough. Some other possibilities are Athlos or Stride Academy buildings.

Student Board report given by Mr. Cooper. He reported a great attendance of 104 guests attending the Gala/Musical performance and a large number in attendance at all the other performances. NHS completed ditch cleaning and the officers for FY26 are in place. The Yearbook deadline is approaching and submissions are on target, they are worried about the work force for next year with the large group of seniors leaving and lastly Student Council Officers have been elected.

Secondary Principal reported Prom is set for 4/26 and there will be a staged crash car and ejector seat model to reiterate the message to students to drive safely and wear their seat belts. He added that Greg Valentine presented a moving message to 9th & 10th graders on tentative driving. Mr. Cooper also reported that FY26 registration is complete with all students getting their 1st or 2nd choice of classes. He explained the ACT issue and informed the Board that a letter with options to retake if desired will be going out to families of students that took the test.

The Board welcomed back Mr. Stang! He thanked everyone for their kind support during his heart issues and he appreciated being able to stay in touch throughout his recovery. Mr. Stang reported Summer School is set to go, and Grandparents Day is coming up on May 2nd. He thanked Food Service Director Ms. Jan Notch, the rest of the Food Service Staff and the PTA Folks for all they do to make Grandparents Day happen. Mr. Stang also reported that MCA testing has started in Elementary School. He thanked Jen Sandstrom MCA Testing coordinator for her efforts behind the scenes to make the testing run smoothly. Lastly Mr. Stang announced it is Great to be Back!

BSED meeting is tomorrow

Business Manager report was given by Mr. Swenson. The FY25 revised budget will be presented for approval at the May Board meeting, the FY26 budget will be presented for approval at the June Board meeting and the electronic time card system has been implemented with Com. Ed. and Custodians and is going well.

Business Items:

Motion by Knettel, second by Christensen, to approve the quote to purchase Serving Lines from Boelter in the amount of \$58,850.18. Mr. Swenson informed the Board that this is part of the Food Service spend down. Motion carried. AIF.

Tech Director Feia was present to provide information on the chromebook rotation and purchase for FY26. He explained an \$11,000 credit from recycling of old equipment with Vivacity will reduce the cost of the chromebook purchase and he praised the Tech Squad students for doing a great job. Also because of the success of the squad and the money saved on repairs the squad will be expanding and students will be allowed to be in it longer and earn elective credits. Motion by Meier, second by Christensen, to approve the quote to purchase 265 Chromebooks from Vivacity in the amount of \$93,015.00. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Swenson explained the quote is for 8 years of curriculum with more online content utilizing the Chromebooks and saving some money. Motion by Feia, second by Martini, to approve the quote to purchase Curriculum for HS Language Arts from SAVVAS in the amount of \$50,032.00. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Swenson explained the Social Studies quote is for 8-10 years of curriculum and like the LA curriculum has online content which is less expensive than all textbooks. Motion by Burg, second by Feia, to approve the estimate to purchase various curriculum for Social Studies in the amount of \$53,646.15. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Christensen, second by Feia, to authorize the Business Manager to pursue a Point of Sale platform and establish any associated financial/bank accounts. Mr. Swenson informed the Board this is for the Business Office to move into the digital age. They plan to utilize SQUARE to process credit/debit card transactions and in the future to expand its use for ticket sales & concessions. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to accept the Notice of Desire to Negotiate from Education Holdingford. Motion carried. AIF.

Personnel:

Motion by Feia, second by Knettel, to accept the resignation from Custodian Charles Kuklok effective 3/28/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Christensen, second by Burg, to hire McKayla Feia for the FY25 Quarter 4 Secondary Para position. Motion carried. Abstaining was: Ed Feia.

Motion by Meier, second by Feia, to accept resignation from Elementary Teacher Mackenzie Timm effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Fiedler, to re-hire Alyssa Rosenberger for the Business Teacher position @ BS Step 3. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Christensen, to approve adding a .10 FTE School Psychologist position for the 25-26 school year. If there are no applicants, this position may be filled through contracted services. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Christensen, to hire Justin Burg for an Evening Custodial position with a start date of 4/9/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to hire Brenda Kise for an Evening Custodial position with a start date of 4/14/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Christensen, to accept resignation from Secondary Paraprofessional Brittany Christensen effective 4/13/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Burg, to accept the letter of resignation from Secondary Counselor, Emily Simon effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Grandparents Day Friday May 2nd.

Greenhouse Grand Opening May 3rd.

Scholarship Awards Ceremony Wednesday, May 7, 2025 @ 6:00 PM in the Theater.

School Board Meeting Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

Graduation Friday, May 30, 2025 @ 7:00 PM in the High School Gymnasium.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 6:30 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Christensen and a second by Feia. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk Patrick Meier