

## **Minutes for December 20, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting**

The Truth in Taxation Hearing 2023 payable 2024 was opened at 6:00 PM. Business Manager Garrity Gerber presented the Annual Truth in Taxation information which included information on state funding, local levy and overall revenues and expenditures of the district. Mr. Gerber explained the proposed Levy is an increase of .6%. Mr. Gerber entertained questions and the Hearing was closed at 6:15 PM.

Chair Ed Feia called the Regular Meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:16 PM.

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

Member absent: Evelyn Martini and Elissa Ebnet.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka, and guest BSED Director Erin Dohrman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel

to approve the amended agenda. Tabled Item 7.4. First reading of Policy 606.5; add items 8.7. approve work agreement with Dean/Activities Director Jason Bruns; 8.8. approve lane change for Nathan Anderson; and 8.9. approve lane change for Carrie Jendro. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Opatz, second by Knettel, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from 11/15/2023 Board meeting and 11/15/23 Special meeting; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$346,423.09 computer checks approved #55213 through #55381 and \$8,874.44 for checks #30789 through #30814; approval of the electronic transfer for November 2023, \$1,696,114.14; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books is \$6,612,684.51; approval of Winter Com. Ed. Instructors; authorized hiring Dan Talberg for 7th grade Girls Basketball at cat. 8 step 10; approval to add 15 min. to Para Lori Arceneau's start time and 15 min to the start and end of Para's Emma Hartung and Melissa Hartung's day all retroactive to the start of the 20213-2024 school year; approve lane change for Jill Schmitt from MS20 to MS30 effective at the start of qtr. 3; approve lane change for Hannah Carlson from MS to MS10 effective at the start of qtr. 3; and accepted the following donations: \$1500 to FFA from the FFA alumni, \$1,136.24 in Coborn's cash to be split between the High School and Elementary principal activity accounts, \$3,250 from the American Legion to Elementary Social Worker fund for Christmas Gifts to identified students, \$50 from Pleasureland to the HS principal activity account, \$453.85 from PTA to fund the Fall Festival and Preschool Picnic, \$1,500 from the city of Holdingford to Community Education, \$500 from Magnifi Financial to the HS principal activity fund, \$20,000 from the Booster Club. The Board Chair on behalf of the Administration & Board thanked all of the donors for their support and generosity! On Roll Call voting in favor: Feia, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried with many thanks to the generous donors!

Chair Feia welcomed fellow board members, administration and guest.

Citizen Participation: None.

### **Reports:**

Superintendent Swenson introduced Erin Dohrman Director of Benton Stearns Ed District. Ms. Dohrman presented an overview of what Benton Stearns Education District's purpose is, who they serve, a brief history, and how their funding is derived. She also explained they have a Board with policies and procedures very similar to a school district and their goal is always to get the students back to their serving district.

Superintendent Swenson reported negotiations are completed and that all individuals and groups have settled. He explained the Read Act is work in progress with the main portion affecting the K-6 staff and students. In January staff will start to be trained and we will determine if our current curriculum is an approved curriculum. Mr. Swenson presented certificates and congratulated Members Opatz and Meier for the completion of all four of the MSBA Phase Trainings. He also presented certificates and congratulated Members Ebnet, Opatz and Meier for earning 100 points from MSBA sponsored sessions to improve individual performance. Lastly Mr. Swenson acknowledged and thanked donating organizations, counselors, social workers and other staff involved in assisting families with holiday help.

Student Board Rep Jada Mosey talked about the food selection available in the concession stand for students who don't have time to go home for dinner between after school activities and evening events. After discussion, the consensus is that there is work being done to provide more of a selection in the near future.

Secondary Principal Beehler reported on winter concerts, activity events, the blood drive and the fun dress up days throughout December as well as the staff appreciation events. Looking ahead he is starting to plan class schedules and changes for next school year. Mr. Beehler informed the Board that the student cell phone policy is going to be looked at with possible changes for next school year. Discussion ensued on cell phone pros and cons. Mr. Beehler will keep the Board informed as decisions are considered.

Business Manager Gerber reported the revenues and expenditures are trending very close to the budget and he will present a revised budget at the February meeting. He informed the Board that the Business Office will focus on HR things in 2024 to implement all the new legislative changes that take effect starting in January.

#### **Business Items:**

Mr. Gerber presented the Tax Levy summary. The Levy amount will be an increase of .6%. Motion by Meier to Certify the Tax Levy 2023, payable 2024 at \$2,637,216.74, second by Knettel. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Meier, to adopt the Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places For Multiple Precincts And Designating Hours During Which The Polling Place Will Remain Open For Voting For School District Elections Not Held On The Day Of A Statewide Election. On roll call voting in favor: Feia, Opatz, Knettel, and Meier. Voting against the same: None. Motion carried.

The meeting continued with discussion on supervision of after-school activities. Mr. Swenson reported that there has not been any changes in many years on the stipend for the Supervisor. The consensus is to increase the stipend to \$65 per event.

First reading of Policy 606.5 was deleted from the agenda per the addendum.

The meeting continued with the first reading of Policies 413 Harassment And Violence and 507 Corporal Punishment And Prone Restraint.

Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to approve the revision to Policy 506 Student Discipline. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Swenson informed the Board that MSBA had the incorrect statute # in the revision and he would like to hold off on the approval until the correct statute # is confirmed. No action taken.

Discussion on Board Committee Assignments for 2024 took place. Pat Meier is willing to take on the BSED committee. assignment for 2024.

#### **Personnel**

Motion by Opatz, second by Knettel, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Health Office Assistant Kaitlyn Thell. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the District Administrative Assistant Linda Zapzalka. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Meier, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Elementary Principal Jim Stang. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Knettel, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Custodians. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with Education Holdingford. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Knettel, to hire Melyssa Sakry for a First Grade Teacher LTS from approximately 12/18/2023-2/22/2024 at MS Step 8. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with Dean/Activities Director Jason Bruns. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Meier, to approve Lane Change for Nathan Anderson from BS10 to BS20 Step 4 to be effective at the start of Quarter 3. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to approve Lane Change for Carrie Jendro from BS10 to BS20 Step 2 to be effective at the start of Quarter 3. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Special meeting to seat new Board Members Jan. 8, 2024 @ 5:00 PM in BoardRoom.

MSBA Leadership Conference in Minneapolis Jan. 11 & 12, 2024.

Organizational School Board meeting January 17, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in HS Meeting Rm.

### **Adjourn**

Agenda completed at 7:22PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Opatz, second by Knettel. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by Clerk

Patrick Meier