

Minutes for February 21, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting

Chair Opatz called the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:02 PM in the meeting room.

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

Member absent: None.

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: Carlena Johnson and David Johnson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Knettel, second by Feia, to approve the amended agenda. Revised item 7.1. Committee assignment list; added 7.9. Resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations Regarding the Reduction and/or Discontinuance of Programs and Positions and Reasons Therefore; 8.5. revised end date; added item 8.7. Authorization to revert Para Carlena Johnson's start time back to 8 AM effective 2/5/2024. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

The Acceptance of Office & Oath of Office for appointed Board Member Elissa Ebnet took place.

Motion by Feia, second by Meier, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the 1/17/24 School Board Meeting; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$436,008.10--. Computer checks approved #55501 through #55639 and #30857 through #30898 in the amount of \$9,057.76; approval of the electronic transfer for Jan. 2024, \$1,438,938.37; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$5,428,566.05; Call for a Closed Session to follow the 2/21/2024 Reg mtg; Accept the following donations: \$209.25 from PTA for Be Kind T-Shirts, \$500 from PTA to the Elementary Principal's Activity Fund, \$44.40 from Boxtops to the Elementary Principal's Activity Fund, \$27.40 from Boxtops to the High School Principal's Activity Fund, \$179 from the freewill donation box at the senior high one act play for Drama, \$200 from PTA to the Elementary Social Worker Fund, \$100 from Sam Scepaniak to the Elementary Social Worker Fund, \$100 from Marian Lyndgaard to Art Club, and \$2000 from the American Legion for Pool Steps. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, 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: Boy Scout David Johnson informed the Board that he is working towards a rank of Eagle Scout and is currently earning the Communication Merit Badge. Attending public meetings is a requirement for the Communication Merit Badge.

Superintendent Swenson reminded the Board of the Day at the Capital coming up in March. Board Members are welcome to attend. He publicly congratulated the Dance Team reiterating that it is amazing what this team

has done. Mr. Swenson thanked Everything Signs for producing the State Banner in record time for Tuesday evenings unveiling. Lastly he awarded recognition certificates to Board Members and thanked them for all the extra time and service they offer to the District!

Student Board Representative Jada Mosey is a member of the Class A State Championship Dance Team!!!!!!

Secondary Principal Beehler reported the high school fundraiser raffle auction was a huge success and thanked all the basket donors. He informed the Board that the new parent teacher conference format with scheduling appointments worked well and thanked Chick-fil-a and NHS for providing meals for staff during conference evenings. Mr Beehler reported winter sports/activities are nearing the end of the season and the last NHS Blood Drive took place thanks to Mr. Brody Anderson for leading the NHS members through their events. Monica Novitzki was congratulated and recognized for advancing to State in Gymnastics on the Beam Event. Lastly Mr. Beehler mentioned upcoming events: Senior Class Trip, Band and Choir Contests and Concerts.

Elementary Principal Stang reported Kindergarten Round-up is back to in-person, Para evaluations are complete and they make a huge difference in the lives of the students they work with! He gave a shout-out to PTA for their I Love to Read Night, to the Bus Drivers recognizing them during Bus Driver Appreciation Day, and to Ms. Christy for organizing the recognition for the Bus Drivers. Mr. Stang informed the Board that parent teacher conferences had another great turn out, that the Read Act is presenting some challenges requiring the switch from AIMSWEB to Fast Bridge and navigating the science of reading with a curriculum that is ten years old.

BSED report given by Pat Meier. He attended a preliminary meeting where they discussed insight on current buildings, funding, and billing. At the regular meeting they approved policies and bylaws.

Business Manager Gerber reported Ed-Fi was certified at the end of January, W9's and 1095's are completed and out. He informed the Board that he is exploring a time keeping system that integrates with the SMART software and will help track sick and safe time which is now required.

Business Items:

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to approve the Board Committee Assignments. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber explained the quote for the final part of the Girls Locker room update which is part of the LTFM Plan. He added we plan to save \$1,800 by removing the old lockers in-house. Motion by Meier, second by Feia, to approve the contract quote with H2I Group, Inc. for replacement of the lockers in the girls locker room at a cost of \$34,300.00. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber presented the LTFM Plan options to give consideration to in order to take advantage of matching state aid. This would entail a one time 3% tax increase on the school levy. He explained that the Fire doors are a potential concern in the future that may be addressed in a similar manner. A decision will be sought at the March board meeting.

The meeting continued with first reading of Policy 410 Family and Medical Leave Policy and first reading of Policy 416 Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing with Attachments. Mr. Swenson summarized the revisions.

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to approve Policy 620 Credit For Learning. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to approve to offer Summer School Readiness K-8 ESY and K-8 Targeted Services Summer School. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber explained the proposal for replacing the crumbling window sills in the elementary building. The project will be paid with LTFM building envelope funds. Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve the quote from K Johnson Construction Inc. for new concrete sills on Elementary Windows in the amount of \$21,794.00. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Swenson explained this Resolution is procedural and done annually. Motion by Meier, second by Feia, to adopt the Resolution Directing the Administration to Examine The Financial Condition Of The District And To Make Any Recommendations For Reduction In Programs and Positions and Reasons Therefore. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, Feia and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Feia, second by Martini, to extend Carlena Johnson's Para end time to 4:00 PM on M, W, & F to accompany a student on the van ride home effective 1/22/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Burg, to extend Amy Arnold's Para end time to 4:00 PM on Tuesdays to accompany a student on the van ride home effective 1/22/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Feia, to extend Kayla Hellermann's Para end time to 4:00 PM on Thursdays to accompany a student on the van ride home effective 1/22/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to extend maternity leave for Amber Ritter with a return date of 4/3/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia with revised end date, second by Ebnet, to hire Abigail Arnold for a Paraprofessional Long Term Sub for the following dates 1/25/2024 - 3/22/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to approve the 2024 Spring Coaches as presented. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Feia, to revert Para, Carlena Johnson's start time back to 8 AM effective 2/5/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Closed Session to follow.

School Board Meeting March 20, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 6:51 PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Knettel and a second by Feia. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk Patrick Meier