

Minutes for July 19, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting

Chair Feia 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, Elissa Ebnet, Ed Feia, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel, and Pat Meier.

Member absent: Sarah Binek.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka, and guest Carlena Johnson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Opatz, second by Ebnet, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Knettel, second by Martini, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the June 21st School Board Meeting and Closed Meeting; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$460,837.42. Computer checks approved #54381 through #54538 and #30644 through #30687 in the amount of \$24,177.24; approval of the electronic transfer for June 2023, \$1,378,191.57; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$6,535,999.07; called for a Special Closed meeting to follow the August 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting; hired Genell Jackson, LeAnn Ostendorf, and Georgia Slatinski for additional Summer School Staff; approve lane change for Kyle VanOverbeke from BS30 to MS10 Step 6 to be effective at the start of the 2023-2024 school year; accept the following donations: Casey's Cash for Classrooms to Holdingford General Fund \$10; Coborn's Rewards to Elementary \$165.74, HS \$143.52; Lions Club to Environmental Resource \$150.00; Fan Club to Musical \$600 and PTA to Community Ed for Robotics \$600.. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Feia, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. The Board thanked the Donors for their generosity!

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

Citizen Participation: None

Reports

Superintendent Swenson gave an update on summer facility work. The gym painting is complete and the floor will be starting next week, the pool starting blocks have been replaced, the flooring replacements are in progress and the summer cleaning is going well. He introduced a Discipline Complaint Procedure that will need to be added to the Discipline Policy. Mr. Swenson explained his goal to learn more about staff morale and retention he conducted a "Stay Survey" with staff. He presented the results to the Board. It indicated that for the most part staff enjoy the small school community atmosphere and typically only leave for career advancement or more money. Mr. Swenson informed the Board that he plans to add a Para Orientation for new staff similar to the Teacher Orientation Day and is looking at ways to recognize staff. He reminded those members on negotiation committees to check their availability for August. Lastly Mr. Swenson addressed the gym mural controversy and the process that was used, he asked the Board for their thoughts. The Board agreed that the process was done professionally and the history is preserved nicely in the hallway mural. They understand that some folks aren't happy and that is unfortunate however there are a lot of folks that love the new updated look as well.

Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler reported he is getting acquainted with things and is starting to meet students. He took part in interviewing and hiring the new Paras, he is looking forward to meeting the new staff at Orientation Day, the rest of the staff on Workshop Days, and students and families at Open House.

Business Manager Garrity Gerber reported the Audit starts August 4th and he is busy preparing for it. He informed the Board that Health insurance bids are due July 26th and this is one thing the Teacher Union wanted prior to starting negotiations. Lastly Mr. Gerber reported to date twenty-five employees are participating in unemployment and that is about three fourths of those eligible. He won't know the financial impact until he has more data.

Business Items:

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to rescind adding a Media Center And Tech Specialist teaching position. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Martini, to add a Grade V Ed Assistant Media Center/Tech Specialist position. Motion carried. AIF.

Superintendent Swenson reviewed the revisions required under the new MN laws for Policies 506, 515, & 534. He explained the Discipline Policy will be amended when the Discipline Procedure is added. Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet to approve Policy 506 Student Discipline. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Opatz to approve Policy 515 Protection And Privacy Of Pupil Records and the revised Form 515 which includes some exceptions for release of student information. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber explained the change to free meals and that there will still be a charge for a second entree and there must be a positive balance in their meal accounts to receive a second entree. Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to approve Policy 534 School Meals Policy. Motion carried. AIF.

The meeting continued with the first reading of Policy 620 Credit For Learning. Mr. Swenson explained the revision to strike the weighted grade provision which was in the current policy however it wasn't being utilized.

Personnel:

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to accept the resignation from Food Service Employee Linda Hartung effective 6/23/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Knettel, to accept the resignation from Custodian Taylor Runge effective 7/31/2023. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Opatz, to approve the request for FMLA Leave for Ellen VanOverbeke from approximately 12/7/2023-2/29/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Opatz, to approve a request for Paternity Leave for Kyle VanOverbeke from approximately 12/7/2023-12/21/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Swenson introduced Carlana Johnson, a new Para being hired. Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to hire Carlana Johnson for an Elementary Para position. Motion carried. AIF. The Board welcomed Ms. Johnson!

Motion by Knettel, second by Martini, to hire Ashley Krueger for a Secondary Para position. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Ebnet, to hire Jessica Funk for an Elementary Para position. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to hire Thomas Fussy for a 5.75 hrs/day student session days Food Service Assistant position at Grade III Step 6. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Opatz, to hire Karen Kostreba for a 5.75 hrs/day student session days Food Service Assistant position at Grade III Step 3. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Knettel, to hire Katie Novitzki for a 5.75 hrs/day student session days Food Service Assistant position at Grade III Step 6. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Opatz, to hire Rachel Roering for a 3 hrs/day student session days Food Service Assistant position at Grade III Step 1. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Swenson explained the process used to fill this position and recommended Jena Nelson. Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to hire Jena Nelson for the Media Center And Tech Specialist position at grade V of the Ed Assistant contract. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

The School Board Closed Meeting to follow this meeting is canceled.

Work Session August 2, 2023 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

School Board Meeting August 16, 2023 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

School Board Closed Meeting following the August 16, 2023 Board Meeting.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 6:55 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Knettel, seconded by Opatz. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk Patrick Meier