

## **Minutes for June 12, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting**

Chair Opatz called the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:03 PM in the meeting room.

Members present: Elissa Ebnet, Nicole Burg, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel, and Pat Meier.

Member absent: Ed Feia & Evelyn Martini

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Garrity Gerber and Terri Stoermann Payroll and Benefits Specialist. Also attending: Star Post Reporter Sara Eisinger.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Meier, to approve the amended agenda. Items added: 7.12. Approve FMLA Leave for Hunter Ahrens; 7.13. Authorization to hire Melyssa Sakry for Elementary SPED position; 7.14. Authorization to hire Joyce Sieben for Evening Custodial position. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the 5/15/2024 Reg Board mtg and 6/5/2024 Work Session; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$373,462.44; Computer checks approved #56082 through #56245 and #30954 through #31018 in the amount of \$9,028.41; approval of the electronic transfer for May 2024, \$366,026.13; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$6,651,563.13; Authorization to hire Summer School Teachers; Authorization to hire Summer School Paras; Approve lane change for Lydia Sailor; Approval of Policy 506 Student Discipline; Approval of Policy 507 Corporal Punishment And Prone Restraint; Approval of Policy 514 Bullying Prohibition Policy; Authorization to hire additional Summer Cleaners & Grounds Person; Accept the following donations: \$25.60- Box Tops for Education to the Science Club; \$1,000- Sunrise Ag Coop to the Greenhouse Project; \$1,000- Cobank to the Greenhouse Project; \$600- Booster Club to Softball; \$300- Linda Theisen for Elementary Phy Ed; \$900- Fine Arts Now to the Senior Band Trip; \$287.96- PTA to the 6th Grade Track and field. On Roll Call voting in favor: 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, and guest.

Citizen Participation: None.

### **Reports:**

Superintendent Swenson reported on the Legislative forum and Read-Act funding which will mostly go to K-8 training. The remaining may be used for curriculum or further training. He will be setting up a meeting with the Teachers Union to discuss a MOU regarding compensation. Mr. Swenson explained changes to safe & sick time and informed the Board the District had it as part of our current sick leave. Lastly, he talked about the Principal hiring process with the application deadline today having eight applicants and interviews taking place on June 27th.

Meier reported on BSED facilities and the opportunity to lease a site for up to 20 years.

Business Manager Gerber reported he is working on year end items and payoffs to close the FY24 books. He updated the Board on the Freezer project which is scheduled to be done mid to end of July, the Greenhouse project which is waiting on the city's approval of the septic for it, and the Bathroom demo by the wrestling room is a slow process as the tile is very secure to concrete blocks. Mr. Gerber explained he is looking for approval of a new walk in cooler for the High School side of the kitchen and if approved this will spend down the Food Service fund balance as scheduled.

**Business Items:**

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to adopt the 2024-2025 Resolution for Membership In The Minnesota State High School League. On Roll Call voting in favor: Ebnet, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Meier, second by Burg, to adopt and approve the School District's Fiscal Year FY26 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan. On Roll Call voting in favor: Ebnet, Burg, Opatz, Knettel, and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve the insurance renewals as presented at a cost of \$182,020.30 plus \$33,834.56 for School Bus insurance renewal for a total cost of \$215,854.86. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to approve the Greenhouse purchase from Megastore at a total cost of \$66,772.15. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Burg, to use MN School Board Association (MSBA) to facilitate the development of a School District Strategic Plan at a total cost of \$11,500. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Knettel, to approve the quote with SCR for a new Food Service cooler at a total cost of \$32,693.00. Motion carried. AIF.

**Personnel Items:**

Motion by Meier, second by Burg, to approve Maternity Leave for Gabby Fobbe, Grade 6 Teacher from the start of the school year through 11/1/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to accept retirement resignation from Char Swedziak, Grade 4 Teacher effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried. AIF. The Board and Administration thanked Ms. Swedziak for 31 years with the District.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Knettel, to accept resignation from Kevin Beehler, Secondary Principal effective 6/30/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Burg, second by Ebnet, to accept retirement resignation from Nancy Pogatchnik, Day Custodian effective 7/12/2024. Motion carried. AIF. The Board and Administration thanked Ms. Pogatchnik for her 20 years with the District.

Motion by Knettel, second by Meier, to accept resignation from Jess (Izak) Harlander, Evening Custodian effective 7/25/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Burg, to hire Community Education 2024 Aquatics Staff and Kid Zone Summer Staff as presented. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Meier, to approve the 2024 Community Education Summer Rec Instructors and Coaches as presented. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Knettel, to hire Mike Kleinschmidt for a Long Term Sub for a Six Grade Teacher from 8/26/2024 to 11/18/2024 at BS40 Step 1. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to hire Hannah Brandanger for the Secondary English Teacher position starting at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year at BS Step 2. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Burg, second by Knettel, to accept resignation from Kendra Posch, Community Education Director effective 6/28/2024. Motion carried. AIF. The Board and Administration thanked Ms. Posch for 12 years with the District.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to hire Alison Harren for the Fourth Grade Teacher position starting at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year at BS Step 1. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to approve FMLA Leave for Hunter Ahrens from approximately 8/26/2024-9/20/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Burg, second by Ebnet, to hire Melyssa Sakry for the Elementary SPED position starting with the 2024-2025 school year at MS step 10. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Meier, to hire Joyce Sieben for the Evening Custodial position with a start date of 6/10/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of upcoming important dates took place.

- Regular School Board Meeting July 17, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in the HS meeting room.
- Principal Interviews June 27, 2024.
- School Board filing period July 30, 2024-August 13, 2024 @ 5:00 PM.

### **Adjourn**

Agenda completed at 6:48 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Ebnet, second by Knettel. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Clerk Patrick Meier