

Minutes for March 19, 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, Pat Meier, and Student Rep Morgan Pellett. Members absent: None.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Elementary Substitute Principal Tim Wege, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka and Mr. Cooper arrived at 6:35 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Christensen, second by Feia, to approve the amended agenda. Added Items 6.3. School Readiness Calendar and 6.4. April meeting change. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Feia, second by Christensen, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the 2/19/2025 Regular School Board Meeting & 3/5/2025 Board Work Session; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$504,946.17. Computer checks approved #57445 through #57612 and #31243 through #31274 in the amount of \$5,683.42; approval of the electronic transfers for Feb. 2025, \$358,265.27; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$5,125,800.69; approval of the Community Education Instructors as presented; approval of the Spring Coaches as presented; accepted the following donations: Holdingford Food Shelf to the Backpack Program \$2,600; To the Trap Team: \$200 from Hyytinen - Trobec Family Dentistry, \$3000 from Holdingford Sportsman's Club, \$250 from J-Berd Electric, \$1000 from Holdingford Firemen's Relief Assoc., \$750 from Central Chapter of the MN Darkhouse and Angling Association, \$250 from Columbia Gear, and \$5,000 from Booster Club (using existing funds deposited with the district. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Burg, Opatz, Feia, Knettel and Meier. Abstaining was Christensen, Voting against: None. Motion carried. Board Chair Opatz recognized and thanked all the Donors for their generosity!

Chair Opatz welcomed fellow board members and administration.

Student Board Representative Morgan Pellett reported the boys and girls track teams have the CMC indoor meet this week at St. John's, the Musical Gala Performance along with entertainment including band performances, silent auction, and art exhibits during the meal is coming up on April 5th with other performances on April 4th and 6th. She explained that other than the spring section, the yearbook is completed and submitted on time, there are no student concerns to report, and she added that the staff spirit week has been fun!

Superintendent Swenson congratulated all the students/coaches/advisors on their winter athletic and arts accomplishments. He informed the Board that Mr. Gerber and himself will be attending the upcoming Day at the Capital. Mr. Swenson reported that the Trap Team ammunition storage cannot be on school grounds and he thanked Tim Wege for filling in for Elem Principal on leave.

Elementary Principal Report, Mr. Stang's report was enclosed and Mr. Wege reported on the PTA meeting and the motivational lyceum that was presented to grades 4-6 and the secondary band and choir students with a

message of never give up. Mr. Swenson added a thank you to Joe Rosenberger for his time leading the 6th grade Math Masters.

BSED report, Pat Meier reported usual business with policy approvals, and hour adjustments for some staff. He added that the search is coming up empty for a new facility to rent, mainly to replace the Voyagers building so some updates to the current Voyagers building will have to be done in order to keep using it.

Business Manager Gerber reported the budget is trending along on target, he is working on insurance bid renewals and implementing a new time keeping system, Red Rover, which will reduce paperwork and streamline payroll. He informed the Board that the Director of Food Nutrition Sites from MDE was at the school to observe. She was impressed with our Food Service operation, the new greenhouse and our Farm-to-School Program. He added that there is a plan in place to spend down the Food Service fund.

Business Items:

Motion by Martini, second by Christensen, to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar as presented. Mr. Swenson informed the Board that some work has been done on the 2026-2027 School Calendar but because Labor Day is the latest possible there is a bill going through the legislature to allow schools to start before Labor Day. Once that is decided it will be completed. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Gerber summarized the Wellness Center flooring plan and estimate. He explained that the turf portion is being covered by the Husker Athletic Booster Club and the school funding is out of LTFM Plan dollars and the target install date is set for the first week of June with our custodians doing the demo of the old flooring. Motion by Feia, second by Knettel, to approve the quote from Push-Pedal-Pull for Fitness Center flooring at a total cost of \$69,984.40. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Christensen, second by Martini, to approve the 2025-2026 School Readiness Calendar as presented. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Christensen, to approve changing the April Board meeting from Wed. 4/16/2025 to Tues. 4/15/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Personnel:

Mr. Cooper recommended hiring Mr. Tinklenberg for the Secondary Social Studies position. He has been in several times to meet with out-going Teacher Mr. Ryan to ensure a smooth start for next school year. Motion by Knettel, second by Burg, to hire Joshua Tinklenberg for the Secondary Social Studies Teacher position at BS10 Step 2 starting with the 2025/2026 school year. Motion carried. AIF. The Board welcomed Mr. Tinklenberg.

Motion by Christensen, second by Martini, to hire Mike Kleinschmidt for the 4th Grade Long Term Substitute Teacher position at BS40 Step 1, from approximately 8/25/2025-11/16/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Christensen, second by Feia, to accept the resignation from Secondary Para Christina Quarve effective 3/7/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Christensen, to hire Abigail Howard for the Evening Custodial position at custodial starting wage per agreement, with a start date of 3/12/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Burg, second by Martini, to hire Tim Wege for the Elementary Principal Substitute position at a daily rate of \$400 and a start date of 3/1/2025 through approximately 5/31/2025 or the return of the incumbent. Motion carried. AIF. Board Chair welcomed back Mr. Wege.

Motion by Martini, second by Christensen, to approve changing the April Meet & Confer meeting from Wed. 4/16/2025 to Tues. 4/15/2025. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Work Session April 2, 2025 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

Meet & Confer Meeting Tuesday, April 15, 2025 @ 3:15 PM in the District Board Room.

School Board Meeting Tuesday, April 15, 2025 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 6:49 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Christensen, and a second by Feia. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk Patrick Meier