

Minutes for November 16, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting

Vice-Chair Lori Opatz called the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:04 PM in the meeting room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Elissa Ebnet, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel, and Pat Meier.

Member absent: Ed Feia and Sarah Binek.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler, Student Rep Jada Mosey, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka and Hans Lammeman from Star Publications.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Meier, to approve the amended agenda. Items added 3.1. Correction; 6.9. Approve Work Agreement with Grade 7 Adm Assistants; 6.10. Approve the resignation from School Board Member Sarah Binek; 6.11. Approve the lane change for Kyle VanOverbeke; 6.12. Adopt the Resolution Declaring a School Board Vacancy. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to approve the consent agenda with correction. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the October 11th, 2023 Regular Board Mtg & Special Closed Mtg; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$570,774.23; Computer checks approved #55044 through #55212 and #30766 through #30788 in the amount of \$3,740.97; approval of the electronic transfer for October 2023, \$1,234,584.76; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$6,532,747.90; added 15 minutes of AM time to Carlena Johnson's Para time.; added 15 minutes to PM time for Darcy Schmitz's Para time; approved winter coaches; called for a Special Closed meeting to follow the Regular Dec. Board Meeting; and accepted the following donations: sweatshirts from Standard Iron, books and supplies from Scholastic as a result of the bookfair totaling \$8146.14, \$45 from the Bookfair to Pennies for Preschool, \$500 from Ins. Ave. Agency to HS Principal activity account, \$259.07 from the Volleyball Bake Sale to Volleyball, \$475 from Holdingford Lions to FFA, \$25,000 from Husker Athletic Booster Club to activities account, and coats, hats, & gloves donated by Knights of Columbus. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. The Vice-Chair Ms. Opatz thanked the Donors for their support and generosity!

Vice-Chair Opatz welcomed fellow board members, administration, staff and guests.

Citizen Participation: None

Reports

Superintendent Swenson reported on negotiation progress, the Leadership in Education Excellence and Educational Support Staff Recognition Events recently held honoring Teachers: April Theis, Lynn Nelson, Hannah Carlson and Tara Wolford, Support Staff: Russ Gardner, Jenny Streit, Kristin Klemmer and Ashia Berscheid.

Student Board Representative Jada Mosey was introduced by Principal Beehler. He explained the selection process and the Board welcomed Ms. Mosey.

Secondary Principal Beehler reported on anti-bullying month which was in October and included lessons on bullying, empathy and kindness. In November the Students of Quarter and Academic Letter Winners were announced, the Veterans Program took place with the students full attention and he will be conducting class meetings during Harvest

time. A discussion on Harvest time took place. Mr. Beehler added that the winter activities are starting up and concerts will be coming up in December.

Ms. Ebnet reported on the BSED meeting where the Annual Audit was presented. They received an Unmodified Opinion – the best opinion an auditor is able to offer.

Business Manager Gerber reported expenses are trending along per budget and once all the contract revisions take place he will present a revised budget. He also informed the Board that the donation received from Jay Bird and the Welle Family in Memory of Aaron Welle has helped purchase a side by side for athletics and \$3,000 to Community Education for Summer Recreation. The Board added their thank you and appreciation for the very generous gifts from the Welle Family!

Business Items:

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to adopt the Resolution Canvassing Returns Of Votes Of The ISD #738 School District General Election. Candidate Evelyn Martini, Candidate Lori Opatz, Candidate Robert E. Knettel Jr. and Candidate Nicole Burg having received the highest number of votes, are elected to four year terms beginning the first Monday in January, 2024. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Issuance Of Certificates Of Election And Directing School District Clerk To Perform Other Election Related Duties. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Swenson summarized the WBWF goals that were met and goals that improvement is needed on and explained that progress has been made on closing the achievement gaps and work will continue with plans for improvement in these areas. He added the area pertaining to preparing all students to be college & career ready is trending in the right direction. Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to approve the World's Best Workforce Plan. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to amend the 2024-2025 School Calendar correcting the 24-25 fall break dates. Motion carried. AIF

Personnel:

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Lunchroom Supervisor Heather Zeimetz. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Community Education Director Kendra Posch. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Martini, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with School Bus/Van Drivers. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Knettel, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Business Manager Garrity Gerber. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Meier, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Payroll and Benefits Specialist Terri Stoermann. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to hire Brian Hurd as a 5-12 Full Time Substitute Teacher at BS Step 1 with a start date of 11/7//2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to hire Nancy Plante as a LTS Teacher at MS30 Step 1 from approximately 3/15/2024 to 5/31/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to approve the request from Amber Ritter for Maternity Leave from approximately 2/8/2024 to 4/3/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Meier, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Grade 7 Adm. Assistants. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Martini, to accept the resignation from School Board Member Sarah Binek effective 11/29/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to approve the lane change for Kyle VanOverbeke from MS10 to MS30 Step 6. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to adopt the Resolution Declaring a School Board Vacancy Caused by a Prolonged Absence. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

School Board Meeting December 20, 2023 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

January 11 & 12 MSBA Leadership Conference Mpls.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 6:35 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Knettel, seconded by Meier. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk Patrick Meier