

Minutes for October 11, 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 6:00 PM in the meeting room.

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

Member absent: Ed Feia

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler, and Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to approve the amended agenda: deleted item 5.5. BSED Report, added items: 6.4. Approve to enter into a 6 year lease agreement with Turf Tank, 6.5. Change Nov. School Board meeting, 7.12. Approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Education Assistants, 7.13. Authorization to hire Targeted Services Staff, and 7.14. Approve request from Kristen Bruns for Maternity Leave.
Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Knettel, second by Binek, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the September 20 Regular Board Mtg & Special Closed Mtg; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$387,484.50. Computer checks approved #54901 through #55043 and #30741 through #30765 in the amount of \$8,957.93; approval of the electronic transfer for September 2023, \$2,058,047.68; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$6,398,800.37; called for a Special Closed meeting to follow the Board Meeting; approved Policy 406 Public and Private Data; approved Policy 427 Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers; and accepted the following donations: \$300 from Art in Motion for Cross Country, \$1,247.47 from FFA Alum to FFA for tractor repairs and \$350 from USA Community Chorus to Choir. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Binek, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. The Board 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 informed the Board he is utilizing a new method IROD Leadership Framework (Information, Reactions, Options, Decisions) for Cabinet Members to track their professional growth. He also reported that John Roberts will be taking students to a competition in Wilmar and they have been invited to stop by Standard Iron for a tour of the business. Thank you to Dave Fiedler for setting this up!

Secondary Principal Beehler reported his first experience with Homecoming was phenomenal. He utilized a modified schedule during homecoming activities which worked out well and the teachers liked it. Mr Beehler also updated the Board on the NHS Blood Drive, PBIS, Fundraiser, and end of quarter 1 which is Nov. 1st.

Elementary Principal Stang thanked everyone and everybody involved in the PTA Fundraiser. He reported that Study Skills is short staffed, Book Fair is in progress, fire prevention week, Securly information to parents, Substitutes inservice, the Level 3 Program and thanked Rodney Ebnet and Bus Drivers for their PBIS involvement!

Business Manager Gerber reported expenses year to date are trending on track, STARS Report is submitted, Safe & Sick Time legislation changes are being implemented, and the Skyward Qmlativ conversion with a go-live-date for full transition will be in July of 2024.

Business Items:

The Annual Audit report was presented by Nancy Schultzenberg from berganKDV. She explained the District received an Unmodified Opinion on all financial statements – the best opinion an auditor is able to offer. She reported all financial statements are true and correct. One Material Weakness - Lack of Segregation of Accounting Duties common to Districts this size.

She presented General Ed Aid history, Resident ADM's which have held stable and students enrolled in/out are a net gain. She also summarized the revenue sources and expenses. Lastly Ms. Schultzenberg informed the Board that the unassigned general fund balance is at 16.1% and there are no compliance concerns. Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to approve the Audit Report. Motion carried. All In Favor.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to amend the Para Sub rate from \$14 to \$15/hr to be effective 11/1/2023. Motion carried.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to adopt the Resolution Of Governing Board Supporting Form A Application To Minnesota State High School League Foundation. Motion carried.

Mr. Gerber shared a proposal for an automated line painting system to mark lines on the fields. It is a robotic time saver which provides consistent lines and markings. Cost over the 6 years is \$58,700. This product will take the place of Custodial Man hours spent marking fields. Motion by Knettel, second by Binek, to approve to enter into a six year lease agreement with Turf Tank. Motion carried.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Knettel, to change the Nov. Board meeting from Nov. 15th to Nov. 16th due to a Support Staff Banquet on the 15th. Motion carried.

Personnel:

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Transportation Director Rodney Ebnet. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Binek, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with The Learning and Mobile Technology Support Person Jennifer Sandstrom. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Martini, to hire Alissa Bengston for Kids' Zone Assistant with a start date of 9/26/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Binek, second by Ebnet, to hire Olivia Meyer for Kids' Zone Assistant with a start date of 9/26/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Binek, to hire Natalie Sobania for Kids' Zone Assistant with a start date of 9/26/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Martini, to accept resignation from Ashley Krueger Secondary Para effective 9/29/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve the FY24 Advisors/Dept. Chairs as presented. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to hire Nicole Burg for an Elementary Para position with a start date of 9/27/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Binek, second by Knettel, to hire Emily Rademacher for a Secondary Para position with a start date of 10/9/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Binek, to authorize adding 15 minutes to the start time of Elementary Para Sue Ruprecht's day effective 10/2/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Binek, second by Ebnet, to hire Haley Abel for the Kids' Zone Supervisor position with a start date of 10/30/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

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

Motion by Martini, second by Binek, to hire Targeted Services Staff as presented. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Binek, to approve the request from Kristen Bruns for Maternity Leave. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

School Board Closed Meeting following the October 11, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

School Board Meeting November 16th, 2023 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room. Note date change.

Adjourn

Agenda completed at 7:02 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Ebnet, seconded by Martini. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Clerk Patrick Meier