

## **Minutes for September 20, 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, Sarah Binek, Ed Feia, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel, and Pat Meier.

Member absent: None.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Secondary Principal Kevin Beehler, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka and Guests Transportation Director Rodney Ebnet and SRO Officer Chad Meemken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Binek, to approve the amended agenda items added: 7.13. Approve lane change for Lauren Volkens; 7.14. Approve request for Maternity Leave for Elementary SPED Teacher Taylor Gerads; 7.15. Approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Community Education Coordinator Becca VanHeel; 7.16. Authorization to hire Eldred Jonas for a Bus Driver for a shared route; and 7.17. Authorization to hire Arlan Schermerhorn for a full time Bus Driver. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Motion by Opatz, second by Knettel, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the August 16th Board Mtg; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$543,615.37. Computer checks approved #54724 through #54900 and #30717 through #30740 in the amount of \$10,896.74; approval of the electronic transfer for August 2023, \$1,984,981.06; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$5,990,062.47; approved lane change for Jena Nitz from MS to MS10; approved lane change for Marian Lyndgaard from BS to BS10; approved lane change for JCarrie Jendro from BS to BS10; approved an additional 15 minutes to the following Para's day: Karey Gerads, Janet Skroch, Anna Christensen, Patty Jo Halverson, Kaitlyn Zeimetz & Lori Arceneau; approved an additional 30 minutes to Para Carlana Johnson's day; approved to change the Oct. School Board meeting to Oct. 11, 2023 @ 6:00 PM; called for a Special Closed meeting to follow the October 11, 2023 Regular Board Meeting; approved Fall Community Education Instructors/Coaches; approved Jr/Sr High Fall Coaches; accepted the following donations: \$1,243.65 from PTA for Elementary Agendas, \$8,000 from MN Twins toward the baseball field restoration & A vision screening machine valued at \$8,190 from The Holdingford Lions Club donating \$4,190, The Holdingford Legion donating \$3,000 and The Holdingford Lioness Club donating \$1,000.

On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Binek, Feia, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. The Board thanked the Donors for their support and generosity!

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

Citizen Participation: None

### **Reports**

Superintendent Swenson updated the Board on the safe return to school plan and on negotiations progress.

Secondary Principal Beehler reported the first two weeks of school have gone well, the epass system is working nicely, the junior high skinny block has been a good change, homecoming candidates have been announced as well as the week of activities and conferences will be coming up in Oct.

Elementary Principal Stang reported on the open house with great participation, he thanked all those involved in bringing Presenter Amberly Snyder to Holdingford and her message to kids was great. The PTA is working on another presenter for the younger students. Mr. Stang thanked Mr. Ebnet for his due diligence organizing and followup with all busing concerns. He thanked Officer Meemken for making his presence in the elementary, reported the new staff members are fitting in well and the new students are getting acclimated to the Husker climate.

BSED report: Ebnet reported Ehlers was present to talk about financing options for the renovation or replacement of the aging Voyagers facility. Mr. Swenson added that Director Erin Dohrmann will come and present to the Board in the near future. The six member Districts will have to come to an agreement on how to move forward and they accepted a resignation from their Business Manager. Their plan is to contract for Business Manager Services for the remainder of this year.

Business Manager Gerber reported the preliminary Audit meeting will be on Monday with the Auditors presenting at the October Board meeting. He also informed the Board that the PEIP Insurance renewal rates came in at a 5% increase for the next year. This is lower than any of the sought bids so the District will remain with PEIP.

**Business Items:**

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to Establish the date and time of the Truth in Taxation Meeting. The TNT Meeting is set to take place on Wednesday Dec. 20th @ 6:00 PM in the Secondary Meeting Room. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Mr. Gerber presented the proposed levy projections for General Fund, Community Service, and Debt Service for a total projected increase of 8.4%. Part of the reason for the increase is because the District is receiving less aid because of the increase in District wealth.

Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to Certify the Proposed Tax Levy at the maximum. Motion carried. (AIF).

Motion by Martini, second by Opatz, to appoint the Election Judges as presented. Head Judge Audrey Lange, and Election Judges Kathy O'Hara and Linda Zapzalka with alternates of Diane Konsor, Karen Larson and Lynne Nienaber. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Binek, Feia, Opatz, Knettel and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Beehler opened discussion on how to increase Pep Band participation discussion ensued and the Board suggested having the Student Board Representative conduct a poll to see why students aren't interested in participating in Pep Band.

Mr. Beehler explained the parking lot concerns brought up by some parents. Officer Meemken suggested having one way traffic flow with all cars entering going to the right around the back of the parking lot or possibly not allowing vehicles to park along the sidewalk for pickup. Mr. Ebnet agreed that the one way traffic flow would be helpful. The consensus was to try putting out cones to route traffic around the back of the parking lot so that the traffic in front of door #1 is all going in one direction.

The meeting continued with Mr. Swenson summarizing the changes in Policies 406 Public and Private Personnel Data and 427 Workload Limits For Certain Special Education Teachers.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Meier, second by Martini to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the American Sign Language Interpreter Genelle Jackson. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Binek, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with Grade III and Grade IV Food Service Employees. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Technology Director Lance Feia. Abstaining was Feia and Martini. Motion carried.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Food Service Director Jan Notch. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Binek, second by Martini, to hire Paige Fiedler at a starting wage of \$12.75 for Kids' Zone Assistant with a start date of 9/6/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to accept the resignation from Becca VanHeel Preschool 3's Para position effective 8/23/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to hire Rachel Varner for the 3's Preschool Para and to cover 4's School Readiness Lunch Breaks. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Binek, to accept resignation from Kim Eikmeier Secondary Para effective 8/21/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by RKnettel, to accept resignation from Diane Hartung Elementary Para effective 8/18/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Binek, second by Opatz, to accept resignation from Megan Asperheim Kids' Zone Site Leader effective 8/25/2023. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by EBnet, to hire Kari Dombrovski for Fourth Grade LTS Teacher from approximately 10/10/23-12/21/23 at MS30 Step 1. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Binek, to hire Lynn Beuning for First Grade LTS Teacher from approximately 12/7/23-2/29/24 at BS Step 1. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Ebnet, to approve lane change for Lauren Volkers from MS20 to MS30 Step 12, effective at the start of the 2023/2024 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Binek, to approve request for Maternity Leave for Elementary SPED Teacher Taylor Gerads from approximately 3/22/2023 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Binek, second by Ebnet, to approve the 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 Work Agreement with the Community Education Coordinator Becca VanHeel. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Opatz, to hire Eldred Jonas for a shared route Bus Driver position. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Binek, second by Ebnet, to hire Arlan Schermerhorn for a full time Bus Driver. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

School Board Meeting October 11, 2023 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

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

**Adjourn**

Agenda completed at 7:09 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Opatz, seconded by Knettel. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Clerk Patrick Meier