

## **Minutes for January 17, 2024 Organizational School Board Meeting**

Acting Chair Feia called the Organizational meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:00 PM in the meeting room.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Nicole Burg, Ed Feia, Lori Opatz, Pat Meier and Student Representative Jada Mosey.

Member absent: Robert Knettel.

Also attending was: Superintendent Chris Swenson, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Business Manager Garrity Gerber, Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka and Star Post Reporter Hans Lammeman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Opatz, second by Meier, to approve the amended agenda. Item added: 8.2. Authorization to hire Kayla Hellermann for a new Para position. Motion carried. All In Favor (AIF).

Acting Chair Feia called for nominations for Chairperson, Martini nominated Opatz, no other nominations were received. Acting Chair Feia moved nominations to be closed. Opatz is the only candidate nominated for the office of chair, and I hereby declare her elected by acclamation and direct the acting clerk to so record in the minutes. Opatz was named Chairperson.

Chair Opatz called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson, Feia nominated Knettel, no other nominations were received. Chair Opatz moved nominations to be closed. Knettel is the only candidate nominated for the office of vice-chair, and I hereby declare him elected by acclamation and direct the acting clerk to so record in the minutes. Knettel was named Vice-Chairperson.

Chair Opatz called for nominations for Clerk, Martini nominated Meier, no other nominations were received, Chair Opatz moved nominations to be closed, Meier is the only candidate nominated for the office of clerk and I hereby declare him elected by acclamation and direct the acting clerk to so record in the minutes. Meier was named Clerk.

Chair Opatz called for nominations for Treasurer, Feia nominated Martini, no other nominations were received, Chair Opatz moved nominations be closed, Martini is the only candidate nominated for the office of Treasurer and I hereby declare her elected by acclamation and direct the acting clerk to so record in the minutes. Martini was named Treasurer.

Mr. Swenson pointed out that meetings can't be held on June 19th so the June meeting will be scheduled for June 12, 2024. Motion by Meier, to set the 2024 school board meeting calendar as presented with the revision of the June meeting. Time and location are as follows: Meetings will begin at 6:00 PM, unless otherwise noted or publicized. Meetings will be held in the High School Meeting Room. Meet and Confer meetings are at 3:15 PM, in the Boardroom and Work Sessions are at 6:00 PM in the High School Meeting Room, second by Martini. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, to set the board salary as follows: \$60 for regular, special and committee meetings; \$85 for out of district meetings, and \$85 for meetings that exceed 6 hours in length; Chair \$300/year, Clerk \$100/year, Treasurer \$100/year, second by Meier. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Burg, to set the mileage rate at the established Federal IRS reimbursement rate while using your own vehicle on school business. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Martini, to set the meal reimbursement rates to follow the State of MN Commissioners' Plan while on school business. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to retain the Star Post as the official newspaper. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Feia, to retain Stearns Bank Holdingford, MN Trust, and Minnesota School District Liquid Assets Fund (MSDLAF), and that the Superintendent/Business Manager are authorized to make deposits in official depositories. Motion carried.

Motion by Martini, second by Burg, to allow the use of facsimile board signatures affixed by computer on payroll and disbursement checks. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to name district administrative assistant as clerk's designee for routine school duties and handling election duties. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Meier, to authorize the superintendent to sign/renew contracts and service agreements in amounts up to \$20,000. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Feia, to authorize the business manager as treasurer's designee for routine duties including investments and electronic transfers. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Meier, to authorize providing meals, coffee, and light refreshments to visitors. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to authorize the board chair and superintendent to be exclusive contacts with district counsel and to use one firm. Jovanovich, Dege, Athmann, PA of St. Cloud with Susan Dege as our Legal Counsel. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Burg, to participate in Title Programs I, II, and IV. The superintendent is the LEA representative for the programs. The elementary principal is authorized as the contact person. Motion carried. AIF.

Discussion ensued on board committee assignments. Tabled until next month.

Motion by Martini, second by Feia, to approve the consent agenda. Items in consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from Dec. 20th School Board Mtg and Jan. 9th Spl Board Mtg; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$315405.54; Computer checks approved #55382 through #55500 and #30815 through #30844 in the amount of \$13,627.30; approval of the electronic transfer for Dec. 2023, \$478,328.06; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$6,371,842.32; approval of lane changes for Lydia Sailor from BS10 to BS20; Michelle Schumer from BS to BS20; Hunter Ahrens from BS to BS10; Emily Wolter from BS to BS30; approval of Policy 413 Harassment and Violence; approval of Policy 507 Corporal Punishment and

Prone Restraint; and accept the donation from Cherry Berry of \$250 worth of gift certificates to the middle school/ high school PBIS Team, \$500 Stearns Electric to HS Activity account, \$50 to Swimming from Bowlus American Legion, and \$25,000 from the Husker Athletic Booster Club. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Burg, Feia, Opatz, and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. The Board thanked the Donors for their generosity!

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

Citizen Participation: None

Superintendent Swenson reported on the MSBA Convention attended by Nicole Burg, Pat Meier and himself. Topics covered at the convention included: workforce needs, AI use, science curriculum, book selection and MSHSL Grants. Discussion ensued on the development of AI.

Student Representative Jada Mosey reported winter sports teams are doing well and NHS is planning for the winter formal.

High School report: Mr. Swenson opened discussion on sports teams state participation. Fan buses, and live streaming have been offered for fan participation. Some districts close school during the state competitions but our district has not in the past. He asked for input from the Board and explained further discussion will take place before decisions are made. Mr. Swenson also informed the Board that the high school will follow the elementary format for scheduling parent teacher conferences.

Elementary Principal Stang thanked ROCORI for hosting the Teacher Academy Day, PTA for sponsoring "Be the Nice Kid" Speaker Bryan Skavnakid, his message encourages kids to become kind, inclusive, confident adults. Mr. Stang also thanked the night custodians and their leadership for a great job cleaning up all the mud that gets brought into the building each day. He explained the Kindergarteners are working on Bus Driver Appreciation Letters to present to the drivers and preparation are in the works for Kindergarten Round-up. Lastly, Mr. Stang informed the Board that his Principal Association suggested inviting legislators into schools and he is working on inviting local legislators in to experience this great place from facilities to kids to staff.

Meier reported BSED business as usual including appointing committees, positions, and approving policies.

Business Manager Gerber reported expenses are trending along on track. All contracts are settled and W2's will be out shortly. He informed the Board that the grant that he and Rodney submitted for stop arm cameras for all current buses was awarded to the district.

**Business Items:**

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to approve the District Certified Staff Seniority list for 2023-2024 as presented. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Meier, to adopt the Resolution Filling a School Board Vacancy By Appointment. On Roll Call voting in favor: Martini, Burg, Feia, Opatz, and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously. Congratulations and thank you to Elissa Ebnet.

Mr. Gerber presented quotes to replace the swimming, baseball and softball scoreboards which are being purchased with funding from the Husker Athletic Booster Club. Motion by Meier, second by Feia, to accept the

quotes from AIM Electronics to remove existing boards, furnish and install the new boards in the amount of \$63,552.00. Motion carried. AIF. With a huge thank you to the Husker Athletic Booster Club!

**Personnel:**

Motion by Feia, second by Burg, to accept the resignation from Tech Assistant Brianna Rudolph with her last day being 1/18/2024. Motion carried. AIF. With many thanks to Ms. Rudolph for her time & assistance to the Tech dept.

Mr. Stang recommended Ms. Hellermann for an additional Paraprofessional. Motion by Feia, second by Martini, to hire Kayla Hellermann for the new Para position with a start date of 1/2/2024. Motion carried. AIF.

A review of the upcoming meeting dates took place.

Paraprofessional Week is January 22-26, 2024

Meet & Confer Meeting February 21, 2024 @ 3:15 PM in the HS Board Room

School Board Meeting February 21, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in the HS Meeting Room.

**Adjourn**

Agenda completed at 7:12 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Feia and a second by Meier. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Clerk Patrick Meier