

Minutes for June 17, 2020 School Board Meeting Holdingford Public School

Chair Christensen called the regular meeting of the school Board of Independent School District #738 to order at 6:03 PM on June 17, 2020 in the LMC using social distancing guidelines.

Pledge was recited.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Elissa Ebnet, Ben Christensen, Lori Opatz, Robb Knettel, and Pat Meier. Member absent: Ed Feia

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Business Manager Beth Heinze, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Secondary Principal Angela Safran, Technology Director Lance Feia, Adm. Asst. Linda Zapzalka, Luke Selken with ICS, Mike Kosik with Star Post and guest Sam Welle.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to approve the amended agenda. Items added: 6.10. Approve Chromebook purchases; 6.11. Adopt Resolution with SCSU to provide supervisory services for student teachers; 6.12. Approve FFA Alumni to sell raffle tickets at fall home athletic events; 7.4. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation; and 7.5. Approve Phased Retirement Agreement for Marcia Hess. Motion carried. All In Favor. (AIF)

Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the May 20, 2020 Regular School Board meeting and June 3, 2020 Work Session; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$1,181,263.10 computer checks 842385-84490; approval of the electronic transfer for May \$2,516,442.43; the Treasurer's Report balance per books \$10,917,378.52 for month of May; approval of Policy 205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings, Policy 402 Disability Nondiscrimination Policy, Policy 423 Employee-Student Relationships, and Policy 424 License Status; accept resignation from Alexandra Szczech from her current Preschool Teaching position effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; approve increase to Aquatics and Kid Zone pay effective 7/1/2020; hire Ron Makela for LA LTS from approximately 10/6/2020 to 12/7/2020 at MS20 Step 17; hire Patty Jo Halvorson for 1:1 Kid Zone Para at her current Para wage; hire Lynn Nelson for Elementary SPED Department Chair; accept Food Service donation from Streit family; and approval to renew membership dues with MREA for 20-21 \$2,032.

On roll call voting in favor: Martini, Christensen, Meier, Opatz, Ebnet, and Knettel. Voting against: None. Motion carried.

The Board thanked the Streit Family for the generous donation!

Citizen Participation: Sam Welle inquired about plans for the start of the next school year. Mr. Swenson assured Mr. Welle that a discussion will take place on this topic during his report.

Reports

Mr. Selken reported on building projects: casework and lighting is being installed in the Elementary classrooms, terrazzo prep, bathroom tile work and door framing is also being done. In the High School interior framing, mechanical and electrical rough-ins, sheetrock mudding and taping, metal panel installation, and terrazzo prep is all being done. He also reported the parking lot work has started and preschool playground is nearly complete.

Mr. Swenson reported outdoor athletic workouts have started using guidelines of the CDC, MDH, MDE and the Governor. The Gym workouts will start in the near future following the

same guidelines. There are some concerns with how the workout information was relayed to athletes. Mr. Swenson will follow up with Mr. Bruns and Ms. Posch. He also reported MDE and MDH sent preliminary guidance to schools on how to plan for the start to school year. Mr. Swenson is asking administration to start planning under the three different scenarios. One, being returning to school following the most current CDC and MDH guidelines. Two, a Hybrid model. Three, no students return to school. More guidance will come tomorrow and then in the end of July the governor's office will release which model we are able to start the school year with. The hopes are that we can start the school year with students back at school, however the school district doesn't get to decide. The school has to follow state orders or risk losing funding. Mr. Welle spoke of concerns he is hearing from parents about not having summer school and the need for students to be back at school this fall. He asked for more communication when decisions are made and if parents will get any input on the plan for students in the fall. Mr. Swenson assured everyone that he will be communicating more information after he receives more guidance from the state. Mr. Knettel thanked Mr. Welle for coming in to the Board meeting and voicing the concerns he is hearing in the community. Mr. Swenson asked Tech Director Mr. Feia to present plans to put chromebooks in the hands of all students in grades 7-12 for the 2020-2021 school year. He explained that this was on the technology five-year plan and with the current situation it was decided to move forward so that the District will be better prepared. Mr. Feia explained that the logistics are being finalized but there will be a fee per device to families to cover damages. The administration anticipates putting the devices in the hands of more students will lessen the equity gap for students who don't have devices at home. The Board and Administration thanked Mr. Feia for his diligence to make this happen.

Mr. Stang explained with the huge number of students that attend summer school here in Holdingford it wasn't feasible to hold it with the limitations that would have had to be followed. He assured the Board that all students on IEP's will be provided with an Extended School Year Program (ESY). It will be later in the summer than in the past and families will all be notified. Mr. Stang also reported Ms. Gustafson has been working on updating class lists and getting the Kindergarten students assigned to a teacher, the Elementary Office is currently tore apart and work is being done to create a secure entrance, the rest of the elementary is getting a very thorough cleaning, he is excited for the new classroom additions and is missing the students.

Ms. Safran reported Graduation went very well she thanked all staff involved, the graduation rate was 97.3% which is good however her goal is always 100%, and the DERRS Report as been submitted. She explained that ESY will take place for secondary students on IEP's in late July and early August. Ms. Safran talked about the difficulties with Distance Learning for some students, 17% of students in grades 7-12 failed at least one course. These credits have to be made up by retaking the course or through an ALC Program. She also reported Distance Learning worked well for other students with the A Honor Roll having more students make it than ever before! Ms. Safran informed the Board that material return went well. She congratulated and thanked Spencer Trobec for being the Student Board Representative and wished him well as he moves on to his next chapter. Testing update. Ms. Safran reported the only MCA Test that took place prior to the shut down was 7th grade Math, the ACT will be given in Oct. for students that were registered to take it last April.

Mr. Swenson reported on the BSED meeting, updates from the Director and Assistant Director was presented.

Ms. Heinze asked for questions, being none she will present preliminary budget later in the meeting.

Business

Mr. Swenson summarized Change Order #009 that includes a modification to the columns in the cafeteria ceiling demo in room B112 and Boiler Room, adding aluminum grilles to bench seats and a correction in the cost of power and data to monitors totaling \$29,889.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve Building Project Change Order #009 as presented. Total amount \$29,889. Motion carried. AIF.

Ms. Heinze summarized the preliminary budget assumptions, presented revenues showing increases and decreases, reviewed expenses and highlighted the changes, presented an analysis of the general fund projecting an increase to the fund balance of 3.1 million at the completion of the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Opatz, second by Meier, to approve the FY 2020-2021 Preliminary Revenue and Expenditure Budgets. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to authorize the additional .4 Elementary SPED teacher position. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to adopt the Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Transfer to cover loss of \$10,725 of tuition in the School Age Care program due to Covid-19.

On roll call voting in favor: Martini, Christensen, Meier, Opatz, Ebnet, and Knettel. Voting against: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to adopt the Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Transfer to cover loss of \$28,032 of tuition in the School Readiness program due to Covid-19.

On roll call voting in favor: Martini, Christensen, Meier, Opatz, Ebnet, and Knettel. Voting against: None. Motion carried.

The meeting continued with the first reading of Policy 506 Student Discipline; Policy 523 Policies Incorporated; Policy 530FORM Immunizations Form and Instructions; and Policy 602 Organization of School Calendar and School Day. Mr. Swenson summarized the changes.

Motion by Meier, second by Opatz, to approve the Chromebook purchases for grades 7-12 from FireFly Computers as presented. CARES Grant will cover \$64,800, ADSIS Grant will cover \$14,100 and Tech Levy \$35,100 for a total of \$114,000. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Meier, to adopt Resolution with SCSU to provide supervisory services for students from SCSU. On roll call voting in favor: Martini, Christensen, Meier, Opatz, Ebnet, and Knettel. Voting against: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve FFA Alumni to sell raffle tickets at fall home athletic events. Motion carried. AIF.

Personnel

Motion by Ebnet, second by Opatz, for authorization to hire Alexandra Szczech for 1.0 Kindergarten Teaching position at BS Step 5 starting the 2020-2021 School Year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, for authorization to hire Jennifer Schwalbe for 1.0, 4's Preschool Teaching position at BS Step 8 starting the 2020-2021 School Year. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Ebnet, for authorization to hire Kristina Clem for 1.0 Elementary SPED Teaching position at MS Step 5 starting the 2020-2021 School Year. Motion carried. AIF.

Chair Christensen summarized the Superintendent's Evaluation. He met prior to the school board meeting with Mr. Swenson to review the data.

Mr. Christensen congratulated Mr. Swenson for doing a great job, tremendous work, and for leading a great administration team.

Mr. Swenson commented that it helps to have a great Administration and Board behind him!

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, for approval of the 2020 Superintendent's Evaluation. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve PERA Phased Retirement Agreement with Marcia Hess. Motion carried. AIF.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POC meeting July 8, 2020 @ 8:00 AM in the Board Room

Board Work Session July 8, 2020 @ 6:00 PM in the LMC.

Regular Board meeting July 15, 2020 @ 6:00 PM in the LMC

The agenda was completed at 7:35 PM with a motion to adjourn by Meier, second by Ebnet. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Evelyn Martini, Clerk