

Minutes for November 18, 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 6:08 PM on November 18, 2020 in the HS Meeting Room using social distancing.

Pledge was recited.

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

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Luke Selken with ICS, Mike Kosiak with Star Publications and Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka. Guest in attendance: Amy Streit.

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to approve the amended agenda. Item added 6.6. Approve E-Learning Plans. 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 Oct. 21st, 2020 Regular School Board meeting and Nov. 2nd, 2020 Work Session; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$735,656.91; computer checks 85232-85380; approval of the electronic transfer for October \$1,814,908.75; acknowledgement of the Treasurer's Report balance per books for Oct. 2020 was \$7,225,862.76; approval of winter Com. Ed. Coaches/Instructors; approval of winter coaches; approval of Policy 620 Credit For Learning; annual review of Policy 410 Family and Medical Leave Policy; Policy 413 Harassment and Violence with form; Policy 414 Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse with form; and Policy 415 Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults. On roll call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Christensen, Opatz, and Knettel. Voting against: None. Motion carried.

Citizen participation: Amy Streit asked questions regarding COVID statistics and asked what can be done to get students back in school. She displayed concern for the education and mental health of the students and staff. Board Chair thanked Ms. Streit for her input.

Mr. Selken presented the Amendment to Project Representation Services for the Track Renovation Project. The project is slated for design and bidding this winter and construction for spring and summer with completion by the end of August 2021. Total project estimate is \$734,625. Motion by Knettel, second by Opatz, to approve the Contract Amendment with ICS for the Track Renovation Project. Motion carried. AIF.

Reports

Mr. Stang thanked the staff, students, and parents for all the support. He reiterated the District is doing everything possible to keep as many students as possible in person learning and reported on E-Learning/Blizzard Bag plans for the Elementary. These plans are an option for make-up days if needed.

Mr. Swenson reported on Emergency Executive Order 20-99 Implementing a 4 week dial back on certain activities to slow the spread of COVID-19. Items affecting the school are a pause of all youth activities effective 11/20/2020 at 11:59 PM and no facility rentals. He explained the school district does not have a choice in this matter.

Executive Order 20-94 Teacher Prep Time Guidance was also discussed. Mr. Swenson explained the staff prep time requirement has to be in place by Nov. 30th. Several options have been discussed. The District and Union will craft a MOU for approval next month.

Mr. Swenson then reviewed the Decision Tree explaining the reasoning behind it and reported on more of the dashboard data.

Next Mr. Swenson updated the Board on the new MSHSL protocol for allowing athletes to return to play after having COVID-19. He addressed the Solar Garden proposals and will present more information at the Dec. Work Session and lastly discussion on the next Facebook live took place.

Ms. Ebnet reported on BSED meeting where the Audit report was presented and early intervention program numbers were discussed. She also informed the Board that all BSED students are in Distance Learning as of Monday.

Business

The Audit report was presented virtually by Caroline Strutsman from berganKDV. Business Manager Beth Heinze also joined virtually for the Audit report. Ms. Strutsman 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 and one Legal Compliance - Prompt Payment to Subcontractors Verbiage. She summarized the revenue sources and expenses explaining that the Activity accounts are now included in the general fund and informed the Board that the unassigned general fund balance has increased to 19.9%. Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to approve the FY20 Audit Report. Motion carried. AIF.

The meeting continued with the first reading of Policy 419 Tobacco-Free Environment: Possession and use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Knettel, to accept the following donations from PTA: \$1,000 to Husker High Five, \$200 to Social Services Child Support Account, \$500 to Elementary Activities Account, \$629.85 proceeds from Book Fair to purchase library books and an additional \$5,000 for library books. Also the gracious donation of baked goodies from Arly and Marcia Lawrenz to thank the entire staff for what they do! The Board thanked the donators for their generosity! Motion carried. AIF.

Holdingford is currently in Distance Learning for grades 7-12, 6th grade is in Hybrid, and Pre-5 is in Hybrid in person. Mr. Swenson inquired about setting up a Regional Consult in order to get approval to bring grades 7-12 back to Hybrid Learning, however the state is not scheduling any Consults until into December and they are not allowing schools to change back to Hybrid until into January. The Board members are concerned for the student's education and mental health issues. Mr. Swenson concurred that the Administration wants the students back, however they have to follow the state guidelines. A lengthy conversation took place and the consensus of the board is to get a Consult scheduled in December in hopes to bring students back in January.

Mr. Swenson presented the District E-Learning Plans. These plans are an option to be used for make-up days. Motion by Ebnet, second by Opatz, to approve E-learning Plans.

Personnel

Motion by Opatz, second by Martini, to hire Michele Cottrell for Daily Substitute Teacher at a daily wage of \$140 with an anticipated start date of Nov. 30th, 2020 through March 8, 2021. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Knettel, second by Ebnet, to hire Denise Waletzko at MS10 Step 1 for Title I Teacher effective at the start of semester two 1/25/2021-6/3/2021. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Ebnet, to hire Brianna Rudolph for Kid Zone Assistant, starting wage of \$10.70/hr. Motion carried. AIF.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Session Dec. 2, 2020 @ 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room.

Truth in Taxation Hearing Dec. 16, 2020 @ 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room.

Regular Board meeting Dec. 16, 2020 following the TIT Hearing in the Meeting Room.

The agenda was completed at 8:39 PM with a motion to adjourn by Opatz, second by Ebnet. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Evelyn Martini, Clerk