

Minutes for September 16, 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 6:00 PM on September 16, 2020 in the HS Meeting Room using social distancing.

Pledge was recited.

Members present: Evelyn Martini, Elissa Ebnet, Ed Feia, Ben Christensen, Lori Opatz, Rob Knettel, and Pat Meier. Member absent: None

Also attending was Superintendent Chris Swenson, Elementary Principal Jim Stang, Secondary Principal Angela Safran, Business Manager Beth Heinze, Luke Selken with ICS, Mike Kosiak with Star Publications and Adm. Assistant Linda Zapzalka. Guest in attendance: Luke Mitchell.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Opatz, to approve the amended agenda. Items added: 6.6. MSHSL Survey regarding fall football and volleyball; Revision to item 7.3. Motion carried. All In Favor. (AIF)

Motion by Meier, second by Knettel, to approve the consent agenda. Items in the consent agenda included: approval of the minutes from the August 20, 2020 Regular School Board meeting and Sept. 2, 2020 Work Session; approval of the schedule of bills in the amount of \$1,164,363.87; computer checks 84882-85045; approval of the electronic transfer for August \$2,230,424.48; approval of Policy 522 Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process; approve lane change for Jennifer Clear to MS20 Step 9; approve lane change for Jessica Mickelson to MS20 Step 11; approve Fall Coaches; accept resignation from Ashley Hoffmann for Co-Advisor of the Middle School Leadership Group; accept resignation from Para, Jenna Palmer effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; accept resignation from Para, Cassy Peabody effective 9/1/2020; accept resignation from Para Katrina Kolles effective 8/21/2020. On roll call voting in favor: Martini, Ebnet, Feia, Christensen, Opatz, Knettel, and Meier. Voting against: None. Motion carried.

No citizen participation.

Reports

Mr. Selken updated the Board on the building projects. He reported the Punch List items are being taken care of and the parking lot drainage has been repaired it will continue to be monitored. Mr. Selken reviewed change order #012 which includes demo of the wall above lockers; adding Glycol to pipes; fire stopping work at elementary; one-way glass install in elementary; and adding overflow gutter to high roof. He then presented three options for the track renovation. Option 1 to resurface top only \$211,000 with life expectancy of 5 years. Option 2 included new asphalt & new top surface \$419,000 with life expectancy of 8-10 years. Option 3 all new subgrade, asphalt, and top surface \$796,000 with life expectancy of 15 plus years. Lastly Mr. Selken informed the Board next month will be one more change order then the contracts will be closed. ICS will still follow up through next July or when new projects come up.

Mr. Swenson reported USDA has extended waivers related to school meals and as a result the school is able to offer free meals to all students through Oct. 30th, pick up after school is getting resolved, transportation ridership is being reviewed, and adding 5th grade to everyday in person is being considered. He informed the Board that initial feedback from Distance Learners is positive and explained the COVID notification process that took place.

Mr. Stang reported it is good to have students and staff back in school and it has been a good start to an abnormal year. Preschool and Kindergarten orientations through out the first couple school days went well and assessments are in progress. Board member Opatz asked how many students were lost to homeschool? Mr. Stang estimated in K-6, 14-20 students went to homeschool; about 28 are doing distance learning and with new students coming in the total student count remains about the same as last year.

Ms. Safran reported the start to the year is going well all things considered. 7th grade orientation was well received and staff and students are working hard. She met with a committee of 6 seniors and 3 parents to discuss student activities. They would like to see Homecoming activities / traditions take place. Ms. Safran gave enrollment numbers she has 35 students doing distance learning, 24 left to Homeschool or another district and overall in grades 7-12 enrollment has increased from last year. She added distance learners are engaged and Hybrid Learning is off to a good start. Her Assessment update included ACT test date for seniors is Oct. 6th, which is a makeup from last spring. Ms. Opatz commented the Chrome books are a nice addition for grades 7-12.

Ms. Ebnet new to the BSED committee taking Ms. Martini's place reported discussion took place on the move into the second location, learning models for revisions to accommodate student IEPs. Mr. Christensen thanked Ms. Martini for her service on the BSED Board and Ms. Ebnet for taking over the position.

Ms. Heinze reported on COVID money with a large amount already being spent on hot spots and chromebooks and the remaining dollars to be used on any extra costs associated with COVID. Mr. Swenson added he is considering hiring a full time Sub Teacher to be here on staff everyday to help with absences. Ms. Heinze explained the COVID Funds may not be used to replace lost tuition or revenue in any area. She reported the first MARS reporting has been submitted and accepted and last years reporting is nearly complete.

Business

Motion by Meier, second by Feia, to approve Building Project Change Order #012 as presented. Total amount \$40,787. Motion carried. AIF.

Ms. Heinze presented the proposed 2020 payable 2021 Levy, which will be an estimated 11.87% decrease from last years' levy. This is partly due to more state aid and less levy dollars. Motion by Meier, second by Martini, to Certify the Proposed 2020 payable 2021 Tax Levy at the maximum amount. Motion carried. AIF.

Acknowledgement of the Treasure's Report balance per books as of August 2020 is \$7,684,885.56

Motion by Martini, second by Feia, to approve the MOU-Secondary School Block Schedule for the 2020-2021 School Year with Education Holdingford. This will become part of the Teachers Master Agreement for 2020-2021. Motion carried. AIF.

Mr. Swenson explained the proposed amendment to add a situation under IV. C. adding 1. 12. The school administration shall seek opportunities for students to remove face coverings that are consistent with Executive Order 20-18. Motion by Meier to approve Policy 808 COVID-19 Face Covering Policy with IV. C. 1. 12. added, second by Knettel Motion passed with board members Martini, Ebnet, Christensen, Opatz, Knettel and Meier voting in favor, and board member Feia voting against.

Discussion took place on MSHSL Survey regarding allowing football and volleyball to be played this fall. Mr. Swenson presented the pros and cons of returning to play this fall. Mr. Mitchell, Head Football Coach was present to answer questions and explained how practice is being conducted currently in both football and volleyball. He was asked how he would handle starting practice at this time. He, his assistants and the Volleyball Coaches are all prepared to start Monday if they could. Mr. Swenson commented he leaning towards voting yes however concerned about the unknowns. He asked the Board for input the consensus of the Board is in support of letting the kids play and they are confident parents and spectators will follow the guidelines. Ms. Safran reinforced that student athletes need to play. They light up just hearing there is a chance. She also supports letting them play.

Personnel

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to add a 6.5-hour per day Elementary SPED Paraprofessional. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Feia, second by Martini, to add 15 minutes per day for the 2020-2021 school year to the Secondary Paraprofessionals positions due to the increase in the length of the secondary students' school day. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Feia, to increase contract for Ronald Makela from .2 to .4. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Ebnet, to hire Janet Skroch for Elementary SPED Paraprofessional, 6.5 hours per day at Para Grade IV starting rate. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Martini, second by Knettel, to hire Kristine Masters for Elementary SPED Paraprofessional, 6.5 hours per day at Para Grade IV starting rate. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Meier, second by Feia, to hire Kimberly Gerads for Elementary SPED Paraprofessional, 3.5 hours per day at Para Grade IV starting rate. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Ebnet, second by Opatz, to hire Kelly Tschida for Elementary SPED Paraprofessional, 6.5 hours per day at Para Grade IV starting rate. Motion carried. AIF.

Motion by Opatz, second by Feia, to approve FMLA Leave from approximately 11/30/2020 to 3/8/2021 for Tina Gross First Grade Teacher. Motion carried. AIF.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work Session Oct. 7, 2020 @ 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room.

POC meeting Oct. 14, 2020 @ 8:00 AM in the Meeting Room.

Regular Board meeting Oct. 21, 2020 @ 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room.

The agenda was completed at 7:59 PM with a motion to adjourn by Feia, second by Knettel. Motion carried. AIF.

Respectfully Submitted by
Evelyn Martini, Clerk