

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
Regular meeting April 11, 2022

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office with the following members in attendance: Nathan Erickson, Kayla Frame, Charles Funk, Rodney Huttunen, Russell Johnson, Eric Nelson, and JoAnn Olson. Also present were Superintendent Dave Fjeldheim; Business Manager Holly Paulson; Student Council members Rachael Smith, Eion Ness and Gavin Kiser; staff members Melissa Koch, Nikki Ament, Cathy Baumgart and Thad Schulz; Community member Brandon Whitaker and Review Messenger Reporter Roy Rudderforth.

Nelson moved, Olson seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 5.2.1 Negotiations Committee Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council member Rachael Smith noted that the Student Council held an activity day at the end of the third quarter on March 25th; held a NCAA men's and women's bracket challenge with prizes going to the top competitors; and 7th – 12th grade students are holding one to two challenges during Advisory time and the top advisory class will earn a prize. Seniors Eion Ness, Gavin Kiser and Rachael Smith also requested for the school board to pay for their transportation for their senior class trip on May 25th. The School Board will add that request to their May school board meeting for approval.

Superintendent Fjeldheim noted that a Pairing Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, March 16th in Sebeka with discussion held on the paired sports and classes. It was noted that Menahga would provide the transportation for all track meets this spring. Most of the remaining discussion was over general items pertaining to paired sports and a brief discussion on renewing paired contracts this coming year.

Board member Funk noted that a negotiations committee meeting was set for Wednesday, April 6th with Mr. Fjeldheim but that meeting had to be rescheduled due to illness concerns. Another meeting will be scheduled and posted next week as long as it works for all parties involved. At the same time, it was brought up to also meet with the Transportation Director due to his probationary contract concluding June 30th.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on receiving a notice regarding the health insurance renewal from PEIP noting a 50% increase for FY2023. She reported that Justin Kroeger, our contracted representative from AJ Gallagher, is working to get our bid packages. The bids are due by Friday, April 15th; received the renewal for our Group Term Life and Long Term Disability from the LCSC pool for the next three years noting a reduction in rates which will result in an annual savings of approximately \$1,431 and also received renewal rates with Ameritas (our eye insurance) noting that the rates have been extended for another year; has drawn \$3,972.36 for Title II funds and \$62,626.69 in Title I funds for expenditures from January through March of this year; and Freshwater has received approval for the Finance 163 Expand Summer Program for all 18 participating districts.

Jon Lillquist's Activities Director report included Spring sports numbers: Baseball grades 9-12 have 14 participants and 6th-8th grades have 30 participants; Golf - Sebeka has 2 girls from Sebeka; Softball grades 9-12 have 13 participants and 6th-8th grades have 17 participants; Track 7-12 has 47 participants with 29 from Sebeka and 18 from Menahga.

Principal Westberg's report included information regarding MCA testing noting that testing will take place the following dates: Math - will test week of April 11th – 15th; Reading - will test week of April 18th – 22nd; and Science - will test week of April 25th – 29th; a full day of Cultural Competency training was held on March 28th noting positive feedback from the staff who attended and will help to look at how and what needs to be adjusted in our school; Jamie Tam was here for two full days of Catalyst coaching for teachers and paraprofessionals and noted that Carol Lindroos and Heidi Huotari were both recertified for Whole Group Certification; and Wadena County Sheriff's Department was here on April 4th to do a K-9 demonstration for Pre-K through 6th graders.

Superintendent Fjeldheim reported on the insurance renewal noting that a 50% increase would be catastrophic to our staff; the district reimbursement on costs for the 2022 National BPA conference; and staffing for the 2022-2023 school year noting that an interview was held for the open science position and administration continues to review enrollments and staffing to fill positions in the elementary.

Under Discussion Items, Mr. Fjeldheim reviewed some current legislative updates for the next biennium; discussed the new building dedication to coincide with the All School Reunion; and discussed appropriate use of cell phones and the potential of

a clearly defined understanding with staff and students as to enforcing our current policy or adjust the policy for the 2022-2023 school year. Thad Schulz reported on Esports noting that Esports has grown to become a competitive video gaming available to students and students can now compete against each other and have a chance to advance to a state level competition. He noted that Park Rapids and Perham schools both have Esports available for students. The board raised concerns over the content, graphic presentations of some of the competitive programs, and the costs of getting Esports for students. A request was made for a demonstration to the board which will take place at a later board meeting.

Funk moved, Nelson seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: regular meeting minutes from the March 14th meeting; Treasurer and Investment report for April; monthly bills totaling \$761,066.07; resignation of Becca Pulju as Jr. High GBB coach; and K-12 enrollment at 461 students.

Nelson moved, Frame seconded to approve administration to have staff members document extra time (7hours) to make up for the snow day on February 22nd due to the Master Agreement contracts for teachers and paraprofessionals. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Funk seconded to approve the resolution accepting the following donations for BPA Nationals: \$400 from Community First Bank of Menahga and Sebeka, \$50 from Johnson and Son Well Drilling, \$100 from Greg and Vickie Paurus, and \$100 from Renneberg Hardwoods. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Johnson, Nelson, Olson; voted against: none; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Erickson moved, Frame seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District