

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
Regular Meeting Monday, December 12, 2022

The regular school board meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Nate Erickson, Charles Funk, Rodney Huttunen, Russell Johnson, Eric Nelson, and JoAnn Olson. Absent Kayla Frame. Also present were Superintendent Dave Fjeldheim, Principal Amie Westberg, School Board Elect Cheri Kangas; staff member Dave Kerkvliet; Student Council Representative Anna Vargo and Review Messenger Reporter Tim Bloomquist.

Student Council Representative Anna Vargo reported that the Student Council will be doing Christmas activities the week of December 19th. Activities will include hiding snowman cutouts for students to find, ice cream treats for grades 7-12, candy cane match and a fun day on Thursday with a movie during 2nd and 3rd hours and will be playing bingo during advisory times.

A Pairing meeting was held at Menahga School on Wednesday, November 30th. Items of discussion included review of the paired fall sport of Cross Country and winter paired sports of wrestling and speech; reviewed coaching assignments, practice schedules, transportation schedules, shared teaching assignments of FACS and Spanish, school calendars and the term of current agreements noting that the renewal for Cross Country, Wrestling, Speech, Track and Golf is the 2023-2024 school year. Previous renewals have been for a six-year period of time.

The School Board held a work session on Wednesday, November 30th. Discussion items included a review of the 2022-2023 budget revisions; the 2023-2024 estimated budget; potential cost containments; administrative staffing model for 2023-2024; vision and mission statement and school identification; and strategic initiatives for short-term and long-term goals.

Holly Paulson's Business Manager report included information regarding finishing the FY2023 budget revisions for the work session; Federal Funds have all the budgets entered in SERVS and waiting for approval on ESSER II fin 160 and Pandemic Enrollment Loss fin 171; the WEX open enrollment due date was November 30th for employees opting to FLEX in the new system; and attended an area Business Manager meeting at Freshwater and a virtual meeting held by LCSC regarding HITA bids due this year for health insurance.

Mr. Lillquist's Dean of Students/Activities Director report included information that there were eleven cell phone violations in November and six so far in December; will be attending a Dean of Students network at Sourcewell on December 15th; received a grant in the amount of \$1,236.00 from the MSHSL Foundation; and received a reimbursement check in the amount of \$4,969.43 from Region 6A noting that Region 6A had a surplus in funds from last year and are only allowed to keep 20% of revenue so they have to reimburse districts based on participation.

Principal Westberg reported that the Wellness Committee had met a couple of times and updated the Wellness Policy noting that the only change that was made was to clarify no direct sales of fundraisers during school hours; illnesses have been fluctuating; having dress up days for students and staff for the month of December; the Career Pathways Committee met on November 29th at Sourcewell and were able to discuss how they would like the school to look in the future noting that they would like to see adjustments in credits; change the Work Based learning criteria; have elective classes on a 2-year rotation; more electives in the health science areas and depending on what happens with FACS, an 8th grade business class; and are hoping to have a Career exploration for 7-12th graders on February 16th.

Superintendent Fjeldheim reported on the Minnesota Budget and Economic Outlook noting a state budget surplus of \$17.6 billion; there will be a Legislative Day for area superintendents and school board members on Wednesday, December 14th at Freshwater in Wadena; Sourcewell Board of Directors election nominations; information on instructional days and length of a school day; thank you to the School Board from Mackenzie Kuschel on behalf of the Sebeka FFA Chapter for helping with expenses for the National FFA convention; attended a virtual school law conference December 2nd; and custodial, transportation and food service departments all seem to be running smoothly.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Fjeldheim reviewed details regarding the MSBA Leadership Conference which will be held January 12th-13th and noted that four board members have committed to attending and reservations have been completed for rooms and the conference. He also noted that he had completed the requirement for the 2022-2023 World's Best Workforce Summary and Achievement and Integration Progress Report and provided a public report of the goals established for the five areas of the World's Best Workforce: 1) Preparing all preschoolers for kindergarten; 2) Providing and implementing reading programs so all students in third grade achieve grade-level literacy; 3) Closing the

achievement gap for all student populations; 4) Prepare all students Career and College Ready by graduation; and 5) make sure all students graduate. Goals 2, 3, 4 are all evaluated based on the results of the MCA III tests that are administered at the end of March through April. Superintendent Fjeldheim also presented Russell Johnson with a plaque and thanked him for his 16 years of service as a school board member noting that he has served as the School Board Treasurer, been a member of the Facilities & Grounds Committee, Negotiations Committee, Budget Committee and numerous other committees during his tenure on the School Board. Discussion also took place about what direction the district should move due to Mr. Fjeldheim's decision to retire at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year. Several options were discussed, with a final decision to officially be approved at the January School Board Meeting. The opinion by a majority of board members is to advertise for a full-time position on our own first and if the need arises to hire MSBA or another firm to complete the superintendent search. Superintendent Fjeldheim was requested to put together an advertisement for the position with timelines to be approved to complete this process.

Funk moved, Nelson seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: the November 14th regular meeting minutes; the November 28th Work Session minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for December; Monthly bills at \$642,719.27; resignation of Food Service Assistant Jamie Melott; assignment of Matthew Adams as Assistant Speech Coach; assignment of Keegan McCorkell as Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Advisor; and December enrollment at 465 students K-12.

Nelson moved, Olson seconded to approve the 2022-Payable-2023 tax levy at \$1,453,609.50 noting that the total levy for the 2022-Payable-2023 increased by approximately 3% and that the primary reason for the increase was due to an increase of the valuations on property. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Erickson seconded to approve the first reading of the 2022-2023 EMS Seniority List as presented noting that the seniority list has been posted in both lounges. Motion carried unanimously.

Funk moved, Nelson seconded to approve the E-Learning Plan for the school year 2022-2023 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Nelson moved, Funk seconded to approve a resolution accepting the following donations: \$2,000 to Sebeka FFA from Lakes Area Cooperative and \$1,000 from Faye Mavis for the Sebeka Scholarship Fund. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Funk, Huttunen, Johnson, Nelson, Olson; against: none; absent: Frame; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

It is noted that Board member Nelson left the regular meeting at 7:31 p.m. to attend the Band Christmas program.

Funk moved, Olson seconded to approve a resolution establishing a combined polling place in case of a special election noting that this is a yearly resolution that has to be approved by the school board and the combined polling places have to be the same as designated by the city or county. The combined polling places for a special election for Sebeka School not held on the same day as a general election would be the Sebeka Fire Hall and Nimrod Community Hall. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Funk, Huttunen, Johnson, Olson; absent: Frame and Nelson; against: none; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Johnson moved, Olson seconded to approve an early dismissal of 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 22nd for students and staff to begin the holiday break early. Motion carried unanimously.

Funk moved, Erickson seconded to approve to cast their vote for Michelle Koch from Menahga High School for the MREA Board Director position. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson moved, Olson seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District