

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
Regular meeting Monday, September 11, 2023

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Nate Erickson, Kayla Frame, Charles Funk, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson, and JoAnn Olson. Absent Rod Huttunen. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; Principal Amie Westberg; AD/Dean of Students Jon Lillquist and Business Manager Holly Paulson; staff members Melissa Koch and Jerome Meyer and Review Messenger Reporter Tim Bloomquist.

Olson moved, Funk seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 7.5.4 Approve Paraprofessional Miranda Jansson and 9.6 Approve Superintendent Goals. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council Representative Brianna George reported on the following: Student Council held their first meeting discussing expectations and duties; provided fruit snacks for all students on the first day of school as a “welcome back to school”; planning Fall Festival for the week of October 9th; and planning on attending a leadership workshop at Sourcewell late October.

Board Member Funk noted that the Negotiations Committee had reached a tentative agreement with the ESP Group.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported that she has entered actual expenditures into the CTE Levy area on MDE for FY2023; Title applications have been submitted and waiting for final approval; audit is almost completed and they are waiting for the tuition billing for SPED to be available in MDE; and all new year paperwork has been distributed to employees.

Activities Director Jon Lillquist reported on numbers for Fall sports as follows: Cross Country grades 7-12: Boys 11 (Menahga 8, Sebeka 3) Girls 17 (Menahga 9, Sebeka 8) Football has 29 athletes in grades 9-12 and 21 athletes in grades 6-8; Volleyball has 14 athletes in grades 9-12 and 23 athletes in grades 6-8; and Football Cheerleading has 9 girls. He also noted that he had attended the MSHSL Area meeting on September 11th; is participating in a monthly live radio interview for activities director on KWAD; driver’s education classes have started; and the Fishing League had their final tournament on Saturday, September 9th and noted that Christine Krell was the coach and volunteer boat captains included Ed Bruns, Jake Rarick, Dave Kerkvliet and Luke Warmbold.

Principal Westberg reported on the following: will be using Schoolinks for students in grades 9-12 noting that this is through Sourcewell and will be used for the Career Pathways program and Mrs. Kern plans on using Schoolinks at least three times a month during advisory time; Ninja Anywhere will be here on Friday, September 22nd for grades K-6; Mr. Smith is the recipient of the High School Teacher Excellence Award from the Minnesota Technology and Engineering Educators Association and is also in the running for the Teacher Excellence Award from the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association; Sourcewell will be applying for the Youth Skills Grant with an emphasis on agriculture noting that Sebeka will be a part of that grant if they receive the grant; 7th & 8th grade students will be attending an ACRE Project through CLC and will be going to the Oasis Orchid and to CLC for hands-on projects; and school pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 27th.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the following: had a meeting with Executive Director Hope Williams from the Wadena County Development Alliance to discuss housing and business development needs in Sebeka; reviewed updates from MREA, MSBA, MASA and MDE noting that he will be attending the MREA Fall Conference in November, will be attending the fall conference for MASA in October, and has completed the Title I, II, and IV grant applications; reviewed custodial/facilities, transportation and food service updates and policy updates; sent in the Warrior Mascot appeal; noted that Pemberton Law presented “The Modern Workplace” training on topics which included Title IX topics, harassment, bullying, and other workplace issues; Tom Smith will be receiving the High School Teacher Excellence Award from the Minnesota Technology and Engineering Educators Association; received thank you cards from Becky Salo in regards to her career and Anni Olson for support of her; met with Jerry Messiven regarding the Sebeka Area Historical Society and noted that the school house in the park is available for classes and also noted that Northern Pines will be putting out a monthly newsletter to keep staff informed of their services for our school.

Under the Discussion Items, Principal Westberg and Superintendent Kerkvliet reviewed beginning of the year details, staffing, enrollment and other programming that will be implemented this year; MCA testing results will be reviewed at a later board meeting; Superintendent Kerkvliet discussed his superintendent goals noting that his goals include to look at ways to balance the budget and not deficit spend and ways to increase the fund balance reserves; updating policies and solid communication across the entire district and Principal Westberg noted that the Sebeka staff and Leadership Team has come up with a new Mission and Vision statement for Sebeka School - Mission: “BELONG to something bigger, BELIEVE in

possibilities, BECOME the future; Vision: “Our vision is to provide an inclusive education where all student BELONG, We BELIEVE in setting high expectations for all students to BECOME life-long learners.”

Funk moved, Kangas seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: the August 14th regular meeting minutes; the Treasurer and Investment report for September; monthly bills at \$614,671.44; EMS-ESP Employment agreement for 2023-2025; Paraprofessional assignments of Jessica Blixt and Miranda Jansson; lane change request for Jacob Haag from BA+15 to BA+30; and September Enrollment at 471 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Erickson seconded to approve the second reading of adopting the mandatory MSBA 2023 policies, and three of the MSBA model policies of 424 License status (adds annual report to PELSB requirement), 425 Staff development (adds paraprofessional professional development piece) and 509 Enrollment of Nonresident Students (adds application provisions). Motion carried unanimously

Frame moved, Funk seconded to approve the proposed 2023-Payable-2024 tax levy by maximizing the levy with final approval done at the December 11th Truth in Taxation meeting noting that the preliminary adoption states a 1% increase from the previous year. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Frame seconded to approve a resolution accepting the following donation for \$200 from the University of Minnesota to FFA for Crops contest. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; absent: Huttunen; therefore the resolution was duly adopted.

Funk moved, Kangas seconded to approve changing the Tuesday, October 10th school board meeting to Thursday, October 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board took no action on the eSports program.

Olson moved, Frame seconded to approve the FFA Crops Team of Allie Haverinen, Marissa Ewert, Tiffany Siltala and Natalie Vandermay to attend the Youth Crop Scouting Nationals in Ithaca, Nebraska from September 17th to September 18th and for Mackenzie Kuschel competing in Employment Skills to attend the FFA Nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana from Tuesday, October 31st to Friday, November 3rd. Motion carried as Mr. Funk abstained from voting.

Olson moved, Kangas seconded to approve Superintendent Kerkvliet’s goals of looking at ways to balance the budget and not deficit spend and ways to increase the fund balance reserves; updating policies and solid communication across the entire district and adding a goal of professional development to his goals. Motion carried unanimously.

Funk moved, Erickson seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District