

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

The regular school board meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Nate Erickson, Kayla Frame, Charles Funk, Rodney Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson, and JoAnn Olson. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet, Principal Amie Westberg, Business Manager Holly Paulson; staff member Nikki Ament; Student Council Representative Brianna George and Review Messenger Reporter Tim Bloomquist.

Under Visitor and Delegation Comments, Mackenzie Kuschel shared her National FFA experience via Zoom and thanked the school board and school for their support and Jen Chapman from Ehlers was present via Zoom to answer any questions regarding the Truth-in-Taxation and the operating levy renewal.

Frame moved, Kangas seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council Representative Brianna George reported that the Student Council will be doing Christmas activities the week of December 18th. Activities will include selling candy grams, ice cream treats for grades 7-12, and a fun day on Thursday, the 21st with movies and games.

A Pairing meeting was held at Sebeka School on Wednesday, November 22nd. Items of discussion included review of the paired fall sport of Cross Country noting that Cross Country had an excellent season. They also discussed the winter paired sports of wrestling and speech and the paired Spanish program noting that there were no current issues. It was noted that there are seven wrestling cheerleaders from Menahga and none from Sebeka. Discussion also took place regarding the current Pole Vault Pit for Track and Mr. Lillquist provided information on quotes ranging from \$17,000 to \$26,000. Options to rent and a possibility to obtain a used one after a university event were other ideas presented for the replacement of the pole vault. AD's will continue to research the best options. Other items of discussion included an idea brought up by Superintendent Kjos of a joint instructor(s) for CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) training; an update on the Warrior Mascot Exemption; legislation in regards to the Read Act and LETRS training and comparing school calendars and looking for more alignment possibilities. The next Pairing Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25th in Menahga at 7:30 a.m.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on information regarding working on FY2024 budget revisions; the WEX open enrollment due date is December 15th for employees opting to FLEX; published the District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 in the local paper and on the district website; and been watching webinars regarding the new ESST (Earned Safe and Sick Time) noting that this is a new leave law that will need to be implemented on January 1, 2024 and information regarding this new law can be found on the Minnesota Department of Labor.

Principal Westberg updated the School Board on the Read Act noting that there is some funding for this program and two phases to the program with Phase 1 to have K-3 teachers trained in LETRS by 2025 and Phase 2 to have 4-12 teachers trained by 2027 but hoping to have all K-6 teachers trained in the first phase; also reviewed updates on Prolific and Career Pathways; attended the "Future of Work-Adapting to a Changing Landscape" and visited Walker to learn more about AVID noting that this is a program through Sourcewell and is connected to the College and Career Readiness program.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported that he has received a couple of letters from Indian tribes stating they do not oppose our appeal for the Warriors name and mascot but has also received a couple stating they are denying our appeal; reviewed updates from MREA, MSBA, MASA and MDE; custodial department is in need of a new floor scrubber; bus garage had an inspection and Frank is addressing the issues that were pointed out by Jeff Preuss; Food Service is going well; and signed the annual agreement with Wadena County Public Health.

Under Discussion Items, Jen Chapman from Ehlers reviewed information, via Zoom, in regards to renewing the existing operating levy through board authority instead of a vote as long as the levy parameters remain the same. Superintendent Kerkvliet reviewed information on Elevate PD noting that this is an alternative way for teachers to earn credits that could be applied towards a lane change and if a teacher is all the way to the right of the lanes, they could

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earn a \$500 stipend and also noted that this benefit would help to encourage teachers to get the necessary training to implement LETR's training which supports literacy and the Read Act and any material costs of the teacher projects are reimbursable through Sourcewell saving the district staff development funds. This would be a two-year MOU between ISD 820 and EMS. Superintendent Kerkvliet noted that MREA had an opening on their Board of Directors and the school board's consensus was to nominate Jeff Drake, former superintendent in Battle Lake and current superintendent in Fergus Falls.

Funk moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: the November 14th regular meeting minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for December; monthly bills at \$635,076.71; assignment of Casey Strayer as 2/8 Jr. High Boys Basketball Coach; assignment of Luke Warmbold as Jr. High Girls Basketball Coach; and December enrollment at 470 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Frame seconded to approve the MSBA Policy regarding library materials. Motion carried unanimously.

Funk moved, Erickson seconded to approve the resolution to renew the existing operating levy for a period of 10 years without going for a vote due to levy parameters remaining the same. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; therefore the resolution was duly adopted.

Erickson moved, Olson seconded to approve the resolution accepting an anonymous donation in the amount of \$2,350 for an Early Learning playground. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; therefore the resolution was duly adopted.

Funk moved, Frame seconded to approve the 2023-Payable-2024 tax levy at \$1,507,105.84 noting that the 2023-Payable-2024 tax levy increased by approximately 3.68%. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the first reading of the 2023-2024 EMS Seniority List as presented noting that the seniority list has been posted in both lounges. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Olson seconded to approve the 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, Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; therefore the resolution was duly adopted.

Funk moved, Erickson seconded to authorize the resolution authorizing administration to make recommendations for cost containments for the 2024-2025 school year noting that this is a yearly process that is done in the event there would be a change in state funding or some other unforeseen changes in demographics that would take students out of our district, declining enrollment, and other expenditures including inflationary concerns that affect the budget for the following year. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; therefore the resolution was duly adopted.

No Action was taken on the approval of the Elevate PD MOU Between ISD 820 and EMS for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Funk moved, Frame seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District