

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
Regular meeting February 12, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Nathan Erickson, Kayla Frame, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson and JoAnn Olson. Absent: Charles Funk and Rodney Huttunen. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet (attended virtually); Principal Amie Westberg; Business Manager Holly Paulson and Jon Lillquist (arriving at 6:24 p.m.); staff members Melissa Koch and Nicole Johnson; and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

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

Student Council Representative Logan Helland noted that Student Council was selling “Bubbler for your Boo” and having a heart match activity for Valentine’s Day and will be providing treats for Career Day on Thursday, February 15th.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on: W-2s were available online through SmartER for those that had consented and paper copies have been given to employees and were mailed out; working on ACA Forms 1095 for health insurance coverage for calendar year 2023 to be distributed to employees by the end of February; updated and submitted the Pay Equity Report for review to the Minnesota Pay Equity Management System; working to comply with the new Earned Safe and Sick Time requirements that started January 1, 2024 and keeping a running total of hours worked for part time employees and substitute staff; and Title I, II and IV and ESSER III draw requests have been entered into the MEGS system through December 31, 2023.

Jon Lillquist’s Dean of Students/Activities Director’s reported on received the MSHSL Form A Grant in the amount of \$1,767; Spring Sports Coaches: Baseball - Head Coach Jeff Lake, Assistant Reggie Kiser, Junior High Tanner Burgau; Softball - Head Coach Jerome Meyer, Assistant Stephney Maloney; Junior High Emily Crabb; Track - Head Coach Tom Smith, Assistant Ed Heltunen, Assistant Open, Junior High Katie Smith; Golf - Head Coach Tim Wurdock, Assistants Josh Roiko and Becca Pulju.

Principal Westberg reported on having a Career Exploration Day on February 15th for students in grades 7-12 and will have 25 speakers representing the three Trojan Pathways of Health and Human Services; Agriculture and Trades; and Business and Fine Arts; updated information on the READ Act curriculum; Mrs. Kern, Mrs. Seieroe and Steph Drange from Sourcewell have redone our course offerings; 4th and 8th graders were chosen to take the National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP test noting that 8th grade will test on February 28th and 4th grade on February 29th and students will either be assessed in reading or mathematics; and will be having a virtual author, Judy Young, on February 29th and March 1st.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the Warrior Mascot Appeal noting that since the last board meeting he has made more connections on this issue with contacting Senator Mary Kunesh’s office, who was the author of the bill and has had discussions with Superintendent Dennis Laumeier from Benson Schools who are in a similar position as Menahga; updated information regarding MREA (Legislative agenda is being worked on for the next session), MSBA (Leadership conference was very informative), MASA (Spring conference is scheduled for March 14th and 15th); and MDE; has been researching a solar project and toured Verndale’s solar project with Jason; had a building safety inspection and noted that fourteen issues were identified as minor issues and all were taken care of and will be having the gym curtain inspected; working on updating MSBA Policy 504 Student Appearance; Food Service Department is running smoothly; will be coordinating bus service in June for summer targeted services with remaining ESSER funds noting that this will be the last summer to support the transportation services; met with Dan Weir from the Minnesota Healthcare Consortium to get an update on the school’s health insurance; attended the MASA Region 5 Quarterly meeting on January 17th noting that MASA, MSBA, and MREA all reviewed their legislative agenda for the next session and Sourcewell provided updates on their crisis management team support program; completed the Civil Rights Data Collection report for the United States Department of Education; and continuing leadership training through Sourcewell with Mrs. Westberg and Mr. Lillquist.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Kerkvliet and Board members reviewed sessions they attended and what they learned while in attendance at the annual MSBA Convention; Superintendent Kerkvliet thanked the school board for all they do for the students and staff and presented certificates to the school board members in recognition of School Board Recognition Month; reviewed a list of capital expenditures for the 2024-2025 school year noting some of the items included sports uniforms for Track, Volleyball and BBB, Warrior rebranding, Bus Lease/purchase, van purchase, roof repairs, track maintenance, transportation equipment, and gym floor maintenance and also noted that the list was reviewed and will be prioritized at a later date and a recommendation forthcoming to spend LTFM and Capital revenue on the priorities for the 2024-2025 school year; reviewed budget considerations for the 2024-2025 revenues and expenditures and will have a targeted amount for cost containments at the March board meeting; Superintendent Kerkvliet and Nicole Johnson reviewed a plan to offer an extended day

daycare one hour before school and two hours after school for Sebeka School students in grades K-6; and Superintendent Kerkvliet provided information regarding the installation of solar panels noting that a representative is planning on coming to the March board meeting to present information.

Frame moved, Erickson seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: January 8th reorganizational and regular meeting minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for February; monthly bills at \$680,384.51; lane change for Melissa Koch from BA+30 to MA; resignation of Nicole Oyster as Co-Head Cross Country Coach; resignation of Connor Korvela as Assistant Track Coach; and February enrollment at 466 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Frame seconded to approve the second reading of the 2023-2024 budget revisions as presented by Business Manager Holly Paulson showing revised revenues of \$8,103,455 and revised expenditures of \$7,760,894 and a projected surplus of \$342,561 for FY 2024 noting that this is an early budget revision knowing it will be adjusted when completed again in May. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Kangas seconded to approve the first reading of the 2024-2025 school calendar (Option B) starting with new teachers August 21st and all staff on August 26th through August 29th with one floating teacher inservice day during the week of August 19th-August 23rd or August 30th; first student day starting on September 3rd; Graduation and last student day on May 23, 2025 and last teacher day May 28th noting that feedback will take place over the next month and a final approval will take place as a second reading in March. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Erickson seconded to approve the following donations received: 1. Homecoming received the following donations: \$40 -\$50 in certificates from Hub 71; Amazon Echo Dot from WCTA; \$125 from Community First Bank of Menahga and Sebeka; \$100 Arco Card from Rife's Stop and Shop; three party platters for the royal court at coronation from Wadena Subway; two subscriptions from Review Messenger; \$100 from North Central Tire and Alignment; \$50 from Anderson Homes; two t-shirts and one sweatshirt from Olson's Custom Farm Service; six product items from the Hair Company; \$50 from Zachary Kreklau; \$500 from AIM Chiropractic; \$50 from Ordella; and one sweatshirt and one t-shirt from Sawdust and Ink. 2. General Scholarship Fund: \$1,000 from Dave and Kathy Fjeldheim and \$600 from Lake Region Electric. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Nelson and Olson; against: none; absent: Funk and Huttunen; there the resolution was duly adopted.

Frame moved, Nelson seconded to approve to offer Trojan Care Daycare Community Education Daycare for Sebeka School students in grades K-6. Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken on the Solar for Schools Grant Project.

Frame moved, Kangas seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:54p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson,
Clerk of Sebeka School District