

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Independent School District No. 820

Sebeka, MN 56477

Regular meeting Monday, September 9, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Charles Funk, Rod Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson (virtually from the Peregrine Hotel Omaha, Nebraska, posted in District Office on September 3, 2024) and JoAnn Olson. Absent Nate Erickson and Kayla Frame. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; Principal Amie Westberg; AD/Dean of Students Jon Lillquist (arrived at 6:35 p.m.) and Business Manager Holly Paulson; staff member Jerome Meyer; Student Council Representative Kelcie Kuschel and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

Olson moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions: 7.5.4 Assignment of Paraprofessiona Addie Lake; 7.5.5 Resignation of K-12 Secretary Jackie Loeffen; and 9.5 Superintendent Goals for 2024-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council Representative Kelcie Kuschel reported on the following: Student Council held their first meeting discussing expectations and duties; will be providing treats for students on their birthdays; planning Fall Festival for the week of October 7th; and will be attending a strategic planning meeting at the end of September with Superintendent Kerkvliet.

The Pairing Committee met on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in the Sebeka District Office. Discussion took place on the track surface and budgeting for future repairs and a recommendation was made to set aside \$15,000 this school year in order to save up funds for future track surfacing needs; discussion also took place regarding the paired sports of wrestling noting that with girls wrestling gaining popularity a coach could be considered in future years; possibility of a practice sub for Michelle Koch for speech when she has principal duties; a request from Tim Wurdock for an additional golf coach; possibility of creating a "Communication Policy" for coaches/staff in relation to proper communications with students and parents; only shared position is Foreign Language; discussed possible future shared positions of science and a shared online school option; noted that legislation may change the current situation regarding the Warrior Mascot change; discussed pros and cons of a 4-day school week; and the next meeting is scheduled for November 6th at 7:30 a.m. in Menahga.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on the following working on the 2023-2024 audit and all new year paperwork for this school year has been distributed to employees.

Activities Director Jon Lillquist reported on numbers for Fall sports as follows: Cross Country grades 7-12: Boys 10 (Menahga 8, Sebeka 2) Girls 14 (Menahga 9, Sebeka 5) Football has 32 athletes in grades 9-12 and 19 athletes in grades 6-8; Volleyball has 19 athletes in grades 9-12 and 19 athletes in grades 6-8; and Football Cheerleading has 7 girls. He also noted that he had attended the MSHSL Area meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>; Jerome Meyer is resigning from Jr. High Boys Basketball; and formed a Hall of Fame committee (members include Jerry Miller, Diane Pettis, and Gene Kern) and noted that the first class of inductees are Jillayn Quaschnick, Dan Graham, David Salmela, Len Reishus, 2010 Knowledge Bowl Team and the 2011 Girls Basketball Team with introductions taking place on October 11<sup>th</sup> during the afternoon volleyball game and at halftime of the football game that evening and on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> will be school tours starting from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., social at the Event Center from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. with dinner and program starting at 6:00 p.m.

Principal Westberg reported on the following: the leadership team had decided that the theme for this school year is Trojan Pride (Be... Prepared, Respectful, Involved, Determined, Excellent) and are aiming to have the same expectations throughout the whole school K-12; first day of school went well; and school pictures are scheduled for Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on updates from MREA, MSBA, MASA and MDE noting that he will be attending the MREA Fall Conference in November, has been in contact with Deb Henton from MASA to provide ideas for the legislative agenda, working on a scheduled visit for Education Commissioner Willie Jett; and getting guidance from MSBA for the READ Act MOU; reviewed custodial/facilities, transportations and food service updates noting that the milk coolers that were purchased are working well along with the new salad bar, and policy updates; continued updates on the solar project; met with Aaron Sinclair to gain assistance with Strategic Planning; first listening session for strategic planning is set for Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>; Tier 1 Science application was approved through PELSB and Medical Careers for the CMA class is in the 60-day posting requirement period and then can apply for a Tier 1 license for that class; received thank you cards from the family of Shirley Olson and from Nancy Huhta supporting her during the loss of her mother; updated the Teacher Handbook and Emergency Operations Plan; and had another company (Tremco) take a look at the roof and do an assessment.

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, etc.; 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 noting that he is exploring a bond referendum to assist with large capital needs; updating the Emergency Crisis Plan to match current procedures and educate staff and students through appropriate drills and conversations; implement Strategic Planning for Sebeka School; and continue Professional Development opportunities.

Huttunen moved, Kangas seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: the August 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for September; monthly bills at \$646,426.16; Paraprofessional assignments of Kaylee Bettin, Kassie Meech, Sierra Miller and Addie Lake; resignation of K-12 Secretary Jackie Loeffen; September enrollment at 446 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Funk moved, Olson seconded to approve the first reading of adopting the mandatory MSBA Policy 522 Title IX. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the second reading of the Sebeka School Literacy Plan for school year 2024-2025 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Kangas seconded to approve the resolution accepting the following donation: - a drum set donated to the Band program from Amy and Tighe Lane. The following members voted in favor: Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; absent: Erickson and Frame; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Huttunen moved, Kangas seconded to approve the proposed 2024-Payable-2025 Tax levy by maximizing the levy with final approval done at the December 9<sup>th</sup> Truth in Taxation public meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved, Olson seconded to approve \$15,000 this school year to be set aside in the Track Fund in order to save up funds to address future track surfacing needs. Motion carried unanimously.

Funk moved, Kangas seconded to approve a resolution calling the school district general election in conjunction with the November 5<sup>th</sup> general election noting that we have three board members whose terms are up and four people who filed to be on the school board (Rod Huttunen, Eric Nelson, Jeannie Arthur and Terry Lepinski). The following members voted in favor: Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; absent: Erickson and Frame; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Olson moved, Kangas seconded to approve Superintendent Kerkvliet's goals for school year 2024-2025 as presented in the Discussion Items. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Huttunen seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson  
Clerk of Sebeka School District