

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Independent School District No. 820

Sebeka, MN 56477

Regular meeting Tuesday, November 12, 2024

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Nate Erickson, Kayla Frame, Charles Funk, Rod Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson and JoAnn Olson. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; Principal Amie Westberg; Holly Paulson (virtually), DOS/AD Jon Lillquist (arriving at 6:45 p.m.); staff member Melissa Koch; Student Council Representative Kelcie Kuschel and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

Olson moved, Funk seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 7.5.3 Approve Resignation of Jon Lillquist as Co-Assistant Volleyball coach and 9.3 Approve early dismissal at 12:30 p.m. on December 20th. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council Representative Kelcie Kuschel reported on Halloween activities that took place; Cross Country and Volleyball to state and noted that the pep band traveled to the Xcel Center for the State Volleyball tournament on Thursday (11/07) and Friday (11/08); held a mock election on November 5th; Americanism program and organizations have started fundraising.

The Pairing Committee met in Menahga on Wednesday, November 6th to review current pairing agreements for updates and/or changes. Discussion was held on TRA contributions for coaches paid by the employee's home school instead of the school who holds the contracts for paired sports; both school boards had approved a \$15,000 set aside for the FY25 school year; discussed coaching positions for wrestling, speech, golf, track and cross country noting no changes. Other discussion topics included alignment of school calendars, warrior mascot, online school research and the 2024 legislative session. The next pairing meeting will be April 2, 2025 in Sebeka.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on the following: attended the Fall MASBO Conference in Brooklyn Park; set up a second account in the Minnesota Unemployment to track employees that are not reported in the current account for unemployment (i.e. board members, students) noting that this is a new requirement for the new Minnesota Paid Family Leave that will start January 1, 2026; completed the Minnesota Unemployment survey and submitted to MDE for the summer unemployment for 2024; completed the MDE District Revenues and Expenditures budget for Fiscal year 2024 and Fiscal year 2025 and will publish in the Review Messenger and school website; and Special Ed staff schedules have been coded and reported to Freshwater for FY2025.

Dean of Students/Activities Director Mr. Lillquist reported on the following: attended a PRC AD meeting on November 13th; Girls Cross Country team placed 4th at the state meet and Cross Country Coaches were named Conference Coaches of the year; Football lost in the first round of sections to Verndale; and Volleyball made it to state but lost both and Becca Pulju was named Volleyball Coach of the year; Girls Basketball will begin practice on November 13th; Wrestling and Boys Basketball will begin practice on November 18th; all Winter coaching positions are filled; all Spring positions are filled at this time; and resigned his position as assistant co-volleyball coach.

Principal Westberg reported on: staff had several options for the state volleyball tournament - attend the game, take personal time or stay at school (teachers work in classroom and paras help with teachers and cleaning); Monday, November 11th was a staff development day; Snap-On certification opportunities for two of our classes will begin next semester in Mr. Smith's room with Sourcewell coming in to teach and could possibly get 20 students certified; Mr. Smith is looking into OSHA-10 certification with Sourcewell; CDL course information - waiting on the M-State contract to determine costs and waiting more information to come; schools can determine their structure (course with assigned teacher or asynchronous/independent study); students not interested in doing Behind the Wheel should not be considered for this course and students will be expected to identify their plan for BTW completion after spring graduation and exploring funding support options; Career Pathways met as a small group at Sourcewell on November 1st and determined how the class of 2025 will get recognized for a pathway noting that students must earn a C for each class in the pathway they qualify for and can earn recognition for more than one pathway in Health and Human Services, one Language Arts elective, one Science elective, three other electives where at least two are not in Language Arts, five courses from Agriculture and Trades, five elective courses in Business and Fine Arts noting that she will meet with Mrs. Kern and the seniors on the 18th to relay the information and will look at what the class of 2026 and beyond will need to earn next spring; and are finalizing what we want our Career Week to look like.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the following: discussed the Warrior Mascot Appeal with Superintendent Kjos and will not know of any legislative changes until this spring; updates from MREA, MSBA, MASA and MDE; Custodial/Facilities Updates - rooftop motors still need to be replaced but are on order; boilers are set for the winter season; stadium lights at the football field will be replaced when the ground freezes and construction trade class is still working on the garbage shed;

MSBA policy 522 Title IX updates; Food Service Manager DeAnn Evans invited the school board and superintendent to help serve the school Thanksgiving dinner scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th; Transportation department is now organized to train drivers in-house and met with NYM superintendent and are connecting transportation directors to discuss helping each other out if short on sub bus drivers; Solar Project - noted that the full grant application deadline was extended to December 20th; virtually attended a free school law seminar on November 8th, 2024 regarding topics which included the impact of shifting politics on Minnesota schools, unfair labor practices, cell phone policy, takeaways from special education cases, FLSA rules, artificial intelligence, Title IX and the Minnesota Human Rights Act; completed and submitted the CACR (formerly World's Best Workforce WBWF) report and posted it on our website; thanked all of the staff and students who participated in the Americanism program and thanked the veterans of the Star of the North Color Guard who were present at the program.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Kerkvliet reported that a Strategic Plan meeting was held on October 21st and noted that they will focus on a few categories and referendum information at the next meeting scheduled for Monday, November 25th; reviewed bond information that will be on the school website and a brochure that will be sent out to taxpayers before the special election; reviewed information regarding the MREA conference and noted that he and Mr. Funk will be attending; and noted that the annual MSBA Leadership Conference will be held on January 16th & 17th at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Funk moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: October 15th regular meeting minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for November; monthly bills at \$806,843.57; resignation of Whitney Jones as paraprofessional; assignment of Travis Ostby as Jr. High Knowledge Coach; resignation of Jon Lillquist as Assistant Co-Volleyball Coach; and November enrollment at 443 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Funk moved, Nelson seconded to approve the adoption of MSBA updated Policy 522 Title IX on a 6-1 vote. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Nelson and Olson; against: Kangas. Motion carries.

Frame moved, Erickson seconded to approve the second reading of the EMS-ESP Seniority List for 2024-2025 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Erickson moved, Funk seconded to approve the second reading of the 2023-2024 audit report presented by Brian Opsahl from the Brady Martz Audit Firm noting that it was a clean audit with minimal findings of segregation of duties, preparation of financial statements and material journal entries and noted that these findings are not uncommon for a district of our size but did have a finding regarding no review or approval of a journal entry for federal expenditures in the ESSER fund and no review or approval of reports being submitted to the Child Nutrition Cluster Reporting to ensure accuracy and recommended that the district should establish a procedure for review of journal entries. Motion carried unanimously.

Erickson moved, Olson seconded to approve the resolution accepting the following donations: \$300 from Community First Bank for the Volleyball program and \$500 and supplies from Northern Lights Chorale for the choir program. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Funk moved, Kangas seconded to approve the resolution canvassing the results of the school board election with the following members being elected: RODNEY HUTTUNEN – 969 VOTES; ERIC NELSON – 937 VOTES; JEANNIE ARTHUR – 861 VOTES. 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 resolution canvassing the certificates of elections for Rodney Huttunen, Eric Nelson and Jeannie Arthur. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Frame moved, Kangas seconded to approve an early dismissal of 12:30 p.m. on December 20th. Motion carried unanimously.

Erickson moved, Frame seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:18p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson

Clerk of Sebeka School District