

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Independent School District No. 820

Sebeka, MN 56477

Regular meeting February 10, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jeannie Arthur, Nathan Erickson, Rodney Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson and JoAnn Olson. Absent: Kayla Frame. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; Principal Amie Westberg; Business Manager Holly Paulson; staff members Melissa Koch and Jerome Meyer; and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

Erickson moved, Kangas seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions: 7.5.1 Approve Long-term substitute Kristena Richmond and 7.5.2 Approve Jerome Meyer and Jon Lillquist as Co-Head Coaches for Softball. Motion carried unanimously.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on the following: W-2s were available online through SmartER for those that had consented and paper copies have been given to employees and were mailed out; completed and dispersed ACA Forms 1095 for health insurance coverage for calendar year 2024 to employees; Title I, II and IV draw requests have been requested and received for expenses through December 2024; filed the 4th quarter Minnesota Unemployment for unreported employees noting this additional account has been set up for the sole purpose of tracking unreported wages for the Minnesota Paid Family Leave that will start in calendar year 2026; submitted the Request for Proposals for the district health insurance plan and will open bids on March 24th; submitted the Youth Skills Training Ag Grant through Sourcewell for reimbursement noting that it was a grant that Mrs. Westberg applies for students to get certified in either OSHA -10 general agricultural or veterinary; REAP funds for expenses through December 2024 has been drawn and received in the amount of \$18,002.44; and continues to work on the Fiscal Procedure Manual with Freshwater.

Jon Lillquist's AD report included the following: received the MSHSL Form A Grant in the amount of \$1,746; Annika Pulju competed for the Section 6A AAA Award at Ottertail on February 5th and won and will represent Sebeka at the State AAA Awards Banquet; playoff dates for wrestling starts on February 11th with the section team tournament; GBB starts the week of February 24th and BBB will start the week of March 3rd; and Spring Coaching Change - Jon Lillquist and Jerome Meyer as Co-Head Softball Coaches.

Principal Westberg reported on the following: presented to the Career Cohort meeting at Sourcewell about our Career Week; three students have signed up for CDL class and noted that there are 60 in the region who are signed up; conferences on Thursday, February 13th; and attended the three-day MESPA Winter Institute Conference.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the following: Warrior Mascot Appeal noting that he had created a resolution for board consideration to resolve this issue noting that he had sent it to Menahga to approve and once both school boards approve the resolution, he will send the report in; updated information regarding MREA (Legislative agenda is being worked on for the next session), MSBA (Leadership conference was very informative), MASA (concerns about the executive order to freeze federal funds and the impact it would have on schools); and MDE (continue to work with Freshwater on our MDE special education program review); Custodial/Facilities - working on fixing/replacing emergency lighting on the high school side; working on updating MSBA Policies; reviewed a document on how the Direct Pay Federal rebate program for clean energy projects could be affected by the current administration; continue support of the ElevatePD, AVID, Metier, and Career Pathways program through Sourcewell; thanked Rod Huttunen for taking on the chairperson role at Freshwater; completed and submitted the Civil Rights Data Report; received a donation from Jay and Deb Kerkvliet to Sebeka School in memory of Mark Ristinen who was a special education teacher at Sebeka School; and noted that MSBA Day at the Capitol is March 10th.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Kerkvliet met with Mrs. Westberg and Eileen from Sourcewell to continue updating the Strategic Plan; noted that he had met with organizations in the area to provide information on the bond referendum and Superintendent Kerkvliet and Board members reviewed sessions they attended and what they learned while in attendance at the annual MSBA Convention.

Olson moved, Arthur seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: the January 13th reorganizational and regular meeting minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for February; monthly bills at \$737,973.32; assignment of Kristena Richmond as 2nd grade long term substitute; assignment of Jon Lillquist and Jerome Meyer as Co-Head Softball coaches; and February enrollment at 435 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Huttunen seconded to approve to rescind the 2024 MSBA Policy 522 Title IX due to the change in administration at the federal level. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Erickson seconded to approve the 2020 MSBA Policy 522 Title IX. Motion carried unanimously.

Erickson moved, Arthur seconded to approve the following donations: Homecoming - \$125 from Community First Bank; two one-year subscriptions from Review Messenger; two \$20 gift certificates from Hub 71 restaurant; six \$10 gift certificates from Hub 71 gas station; \$25 from Kinnunen Agency; two \$25 gift certificates from Rifes; \$100 from AIM Chiropractic; two shirts from Sawdust and Ink; \$100 from WCTA; and \$50 from Anderson Homes; \$250 from Jay and Deborah Kerkvliet for a memorial gift in memory of Mark Ristinen; and Prom - \$500 from Wadena Fire Department Relief Association. The following members voted in favor: Arthur, Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; absent: Frame; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Arthur moved, Kangas seconded to approve the first reading of the 2025-2065 school calendar starting with new teachers August 20th and all staff on August 25th through August 28th with the option of one or two floating teacher in-service days during the week of August 18th-August 22nd or August 29th; first student day starting on September 2nd; Graduation and last student day on May 22, 2026 and teacher in-service on May 26th and May 27th as a second option for a floating teacher day and noted 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.

Huttunen moved, Olson seconded to approve Freshwater options for FY26 which includes shared Special Education assessments, ECSE, Social Worker services, Medical Assistance billing, ALC, Targeted Services, Credit Recovery, Wide Area Network and Internet access, and Student Support Personnel if needed. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Erickson seconded to approve a Warrior Mascot resolution to comply with Minnesota Statute 121A.041 stating that the school boards of Sebeka and Menahga agree to not associate the name and logo with American Indian Tribal Culture similar to several other school districts with the Warrior title, that the Warriors Mascot shall be symbolized with a shield containing a Trojan Sword connected to the legendary story in Greek Mythology and a loggers axe in connection with the Nordic Vikings symbolizing power and rank, will implement educational programs and initiatives that promote cultural understanding, respect for diversity, and sensitivity towards all cultures and communities will seek community engagement from students, staff, families, and community members in the ongoing development and implementation of mascot representation and related educational efforts. The following members voted in favor: Arthur, Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; absent: Frame; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Huttunen moved, Arthur seconded to set Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the district office for a special board meeting to canvass the Bond Referendum and Capital Project Levy election. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Arthur seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:11p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson,
Clerk of Sebeka School District