

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Independent School District No. 820  
Sebeka, MN 56477  
Regular meeting April 21, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office with the following members in attendance: Jeannie Arthur, Nathan Erickson, Kayla Frame, Rod Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson and JoAnn Olson. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; K-12 Principal Amie Westberg; Business Manager Holly Paulson (virtually); staff member Jerome Meyer; and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

Frame moved, Olson seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions: 7.5.5 Resignation of Paraprofessional Sierra Miller and 9.5 Adjusting the May 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Budget Committee met on April 8<sup>th</sup> to review ideas for cost containments and budgeting for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Pairing Committee of Sebeka and Menahga met on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> in Sebeka to review pairing agreements for updates, additions and changes and noting that the pairing agreements are good through the 2028-2029 school year. Items of discussion on paired sports included the Track Fund and noted that each school set aside \$15,000 last year in the track fund and will be considered again at the next pairing meeting and track uniforms were ordered; wrestling had a good year going to state for the 4th year in a row; Speech events have been going well; Golf noting that the season will pick up as the weather improves; Cross Country coaches are in place for next season; and will monitor girl's wrestling as interest and participation grows. Other items of discussion included Warrior Mascot updates noting that mascot tasks along with resolutions passed by both boards and were sent to the legislature; no shared teaching positions for next school year; and school calendars for school year 2025-2026 noting that both school calendars are mostly similar.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on: health insurance bids received and noted that staying with the MN Healthcare Consortium through LCSC was the best option with a 9.9% increase and a renewal date of 07/01/2025; Delta Dental plans increased 8% and Vision, Group Term Life and Long Term Disability plans remained the same; working on the FY2025 final budget revisions and the initial FY2026 budget; Title I,II and IV draws for claims for January through March 2025 have been submitted; Fiscal Self-Monitoring document along with the Procedure Manual has been submitted to Freshwater; 1<sup>st</sup> quarter payroll reports have been completed and filed with appropriate agencies; negotiation spreadsheets have been completed for FY2026 and FY2027 and have shared them with the teacher's union as a starting point for the base year; and will be attending the annual MASBO conference May 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> in Duluth.

Jon Lillquist's activities report included spring sports participation numbers: Baseball grades 6-12 have 40 participants; Softball grades 6-12 have 32 participants; Track 7-12 has 18 participants from Sebeka and 30 from Menahga and Golf has 3 girls from Sebeka and no boys and Menahga has 4 girls and 16 boys and MSHSL Section realignments were released and Sebeka will stay in the same sections for all sports but will have a slightly different football district but won't find out information until early summer.

Principal Westberg reported on: Ninja Anywhere will be at our school on May 2nd for Kindergarten through 6th grade and each grade will have about 50 minutes to do activities and noted that Preschool has also been invited to join if they want; finishing up MCA testing week of April 21<sup>st</sup> with 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> graders taking their Science MCA's; updated Portrait of a Graduate noting that the competencies that we landed on were Critical Thinker, Effective Communicator (Thoughtful Communicator?), Adaptable Learner, Engaged Collaborator and Innovative Contributor and will be meeting with Jessica Harding from Battell for Kids on April 30<sup>th</sup>; and will be meeting with Mrs. Kern and 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> graders to explain to them how Course Planner will work in planning their classes for next year and how they will qualify for recognition for a Trojan Pathway at graduation.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on: updated legislative information from MREA and MSBA; attended the MASA Spring Conference in March and noted that Title I and IV and IDEA seem intact for next school year; MDE has approved the capital facilities bond plan and the solar project has been approved; have had issues with roof leaks over the kitchen area; purchased a 2016 Dodge Caravan utilizing MA dollars and will be restricted to Special Education use only; attended the Region 5 Superintendent's Day at the Capitol and a Freshwater meeting to review their cost containment plan; Applied for a "No Child Left Inside" Grant from the Minnesota DNR and was awarded \$5,000 for the Fishing Team; noted that Annika Pulju was the third student from Sebeka to win the State MSHSL AAA Award and received a \$4,000 scholarship; Logan Dehmer and

Kayeleigh Warmbold were awarded Sourcewell's Student of Character Award; reviewed the HITA Bid process for health insurance noting that we will be getting a 9.9% increase in our health insurance; and Northern Pines Mental Health Services contract for next school year will have a 18.5% reduction for their services.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Kerkvliet reviewed end of year responsibilities; legislative updates and cost containment items.

Huttunen moved, Erickson seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: March 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes Treasurer and Investment report for April; monthly bills at \$766,130.35; resignation of Paraprofessional Addie Lake; resignation of Paraprofessional Sierra Miller; assignment of Elementary Instructor Emily Huotari for the 2025-2026 school year at MA/Step 5; assignment of Summer Technology Assistant Casey Blixt; adjustment of Summer Contracts for Instrumental Music noting that summer band will be for 20 contract days with a set standard of twelve students for a full day and adding a \$35 fee per student to match Summer Rec fees and Summer Agriculture will be adjusted to 12.5 days and noting that 8.5 student contact days will be paid at the teacher daily rate of pay and 4 non-student contact days will be paid at sub teacher rate of pay; and K-12 enrollment at 432 students. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Kangas seconded to approve the resolution accepting the following donations: 1. Baseball - \$100 from Chad & Sarah Olson and 2. BPA - \$400 from Community First Bank; \$100 from Wadena State Bank; \$100 from J Brothers Mechanical; \$500 from Gateway Lions Club; \$800 from Menahga VFW; \$50 from Johnson Well Drilling. The following members voted in favor: Arthur, Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson; against: none; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Huttunen moved, Arthur seconded to approve the following cost containments for school year 2025-2026: reduce 1 Elementary FTE \$62,415; continue Title Staffing at 1 FTE .82 FTE and a Para Position (Adjust Part Time) \$48,510 (Title funding); reduce .5 FTE Foreign Language Position \$50,237; shift Transportation Assistant to Paraprofessional time by 1 day per week \$6,000; reduce two full page newspaper Ad. \$3,800; reduce two paraprofessionals \$27,880; reduce one bus route (Delay \$130,000 bus purchase) \$20,000; move media specialist position to paraprofessional contract \$23,750; reduce MARSS/EDFI Coordinator by 30 days \$6,750; pause 1 Act play Program \$2,000; pause uniform purchases 1 year \$10,000; reduce weight room supervision pay to minimum wage and cap hours \$667; adjust Summer Band Contract (20 max, adjust to student enrollment, add \$35 lesson fee, utilize Sourcewell small project support grant) \$3,050; adjust Summer Ag (12.5 days, 4 paid at sub pay level) \$1,253; **Total: \$266,312. Other Savings:** Solar for Schools Energy Savings \$30,000; Copier Lease Savings \$8,000 **Total: \$38,000. Revenue Increases:** Increase Tickets to \$5 & \$8-Season pass stays the same. (At July meeting) \$8,000. **Total: \$8,000 Estimated Grand Total \$312,312.** Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved, Frame seconded to approve a quote from Herzog Roofing in the amount of \$70,000 to repair the roof section over the kitchen area. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Olson seconded to approve a clerical fix for District Policy 9.7 District Reimbursement for State and National events by removing the words "and national" from paragraphs 1 and 2 of the policy. Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken on adjusting the May 12<sup>th</sup> school board meeting.

Olson moved, Arthur seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson  
Clerk of Sebeka School District