

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
Regular Meeting Monday, December 9, 2024

The regular school board meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Kayla Frame, Charles Funk, Rodney Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson (virtually from The Peregrine Omaha 203 S 18th St. Omaha, NE 68102) and JoAnn Olson. Absent Nate Erickson. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet, Principal Amie Westberg, school board elect Jeannie Arthur; staff member Nikki Ament; and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

Frame moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions: 7.5.1 Approve Paraprofessional Cya James and 9.7 Approve Appointing Election Judges for the Special Election. Motion carried unanimously.

Principal Westberg reported that the Student Council will be doing a Holiday Fun Week the week of December 16th. Activities will include hiding gingerbread men; frozen treats delivered to classrooms; bingo during advisory and a fun day on Friday, December 20th with movies and games.

Mr. Lillquist's AD report included the following winter sports athlete numbers: wrestling: Sebeka has 9 boys and 4 girls and Menahga has 21 boys and 5 girls; GBB has 13 girls in grades 9-12; Jr. High GBB has 15 girls in grades 6-8; and BBB has 15 boys in grades 9-12.

Principal Westberg reported on the Parent Teacher conferences noting that elementary had an average of 92% attendance and high school averaged 45% attendance; STEMbound (formally Tech Mobile) is coming back to the school; Career Week will be held February 10th through the 13th; and updated information regarding the READ Act.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the Warrior Mascot appeal noting that he connected with the representatives from the Tribal Nations Education Committee at the MREA conference and discussed the complications with the 2023 legislation school mascot branding and also received a personal phone call from Commissioner Willie Jett regarding possible legislative changes with legislators and the tribes; updated information from MREA, MSBA, MASA and MDE; noted that G&R Controls will be addressing some exhaust fans that need replacement in the high school teacher's lounge and the old locker rooms; policy updates; Thanksgiving meal was appreciated by staff and students; able to find a sub bus driver; Solar Connections were out to take measurements for the solar project; Administrative team met with Eileen Weber on identifying areas of focus for the next three to five years; EMS approved the READ Act MOU; a Health and Safety meeting was held and noted that there were no major issues; received a thank you from the Byman family for all of the support for Greyson; attended a Wadena County Joint Task Force with law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, county health officials and school superintendents and participated in an active shooter tabletop exercise with a law enforcement specialist from South Carolina; attended a Sebeka Area Historical Society meeting with discussion regarding funding, operations, fixing up the park museum and a Sebeka history display project; and noted that early estimates of the State Budget Forecast shows a shrinking surplus.

Under Discussion Item, Superintendent Kerkvliet noted that the last Strategic Planning meeting will be held on Monday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m.; noted that he had a meeting with the Secretary of State's office to review items regarding the special election and absentee ballot voting will begin on December 27th but noted that with Christmas break, the district office will be closed until January 2nd; election judges have been selected and received a positive Review and Comment from the Commissioner of Education department and has put all of the bond referendum information on the school website. Mr. Funk and Superintendent Kerkvliet had attended the MREA conference held November 17th –19th and shared information on sessions they attended. Superintendent Kerkvliet also noted that the annual MSBA Leadership conference will be held on January 16th & 17th and noted that hotel rooms and reservations for the conference have been made for those attending.

Huttunen moved, Kangas seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: the November 12th regular meeting minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for December; monthly bills at \$729,552.22; assignment of Cya James as paraprofessional beginning Monday, December 9th; and December enrollment at 433 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Olson seconded to approve the following MSBA policies: Technical updates to policies 503 (Student Attendance), 507.5 (School Resource Officers), 606 (Textbooks and Instructional Material), 606.5 (Library Materials), 613 (Graduation Requirements), and 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications and Exemptions for IEP's, Section 504 Plans and LEP Students). Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Frame seconded to approve policies 519 (Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies) and 721 (Uniform Grant Guidance Regarding Federal Revenue Resources) reflecting current statutory changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Kangas seconded to approve policy 617 (School District Ensurance of Preparatory and High School Standards which is connected to the Profile of Learning) has been rescinded. The Board took a roll vote on the rescinded policy of 617 with the following voted in favor: Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson (virtually) and Olson; absent: Erickson; motion passed unanimously.

Frame moved, Huttunen seconded to approve policy 614 School District Testing Plan and Procedure. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Kangas seconded to approve the first reading of the 2024-2025 EMS Seniority List as presented noting that the seniority list has been posted in both lounges. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Huttunen seconded to authorize the resolution authorizing administration to make recommendations for cost containments for the 2025-2026 school year noting that this is a yearly process that is done in the event there would be a change in state funding or some other unforeseen changes in demographics that would take students out of our district, declining enrollment, and other expenditures including inflationary concerns that affect the budget for the following year. The following members voted in favor: Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson (virtually), Olson; against: none; absent: Erickson; therefore; the resolution was duly adopted.

Olson moved, Frame seconded to approve the MOU for the READ Act agreeing that teachers will participate in LETRS Training and the number of hours (56) will be outside of other paid contract time; must hold a license issued by PELSB, be employed by the district between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2027; be required to complete approved training described under Minn. Stat. 120B.123, subd. 5. Compensation will be earned as a stipend of \$500 upon completion of the training for a maximum total of \$1000 over two years and no credits will be awarded for training through Sebeka School and the MOU will continue in effect until the Read Act training is completed or the end of the 2027 school year whichever comes first. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the first reading of the 2024-2025 budget revisions presented showing revised revenues of \$8,064,223 and revised expenditures of \$8,331,697 and a revised budget deficit of \$267,474 for FY 2025 and noting that this is an early budget revision knowing it will be adjusted when completed again in May. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed the regular meeting at 6:01 p.m. to open the Truth in Taxation meeting at 6:02 p.m and reconvened the regular meeting at 6:45 p.m. after the conclusion of the Truth in Taxation meeting.

Frame moved, Huttunen seconded to approve a resolution appointing election judges for the February 11, 2025 special bond election. The following are the election judges: Head Judge Anne Graham, Deb Klovstad, Dick Dissmore, and Dan Whiteford; Alternates are Vickie Paurus, Tegan Kempenich and Doug Koskiniemi; and Absentee Ballot Board judges are Joy Weyer, Barb Huhta and Janet Mattson. The following members voted in favor: Frame, Funk, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson (virtually), Olson; against: none; absent: Erickson; therefore; the resolution was duly adopted.

Huttunen moved, Frame seconded to approve the final school tax levy 2024 payable 2025 at a 1.93% increase noting that the total levy for the 2024-Payable-2025 is \$1,536,141.67 compared to the total levy from 2023-Payable-2024 of \$1,507,105.84. Motion carried unanimously

Funk moved, Frame seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District