

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
Regular meeting June 9, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jeannie Arthur, Kayla Frame, Rodney Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, and JoAnn Olson. Absent: Nathan Erickson and Eric Nelson. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; Principal Amie Westberg; Business Manager Holly Paulson; staff member Melissa Koch and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

Arthur moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 7.5.9 Resignation of Jr. High Cross Country Coach Katie Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

The Negotiations Committee (Rod Huttunen, JoAnn Olson, and Cheri Kangas) have met a couple of times with EMS to begin their negotiations. Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26th at 7:30 a.m.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on all employee open enrollment changes have been entered for health, dental and vision for employee elections; REAP application for 2025 Pay FY2026 has been completed and estimated amount for the REAP Grant is \$30,394; Career and Tech portion of the levy for FY2026 has been entered in the MDE system and noted the amount for the three CTE areas is \$204,078; and working on year-end adjustments and FY2026 budget.

Principal Westberg reported on Portrait of a Graduate and report cards as a whole for all students in elementary and high school noting that the elementary report card for students in grades K-6 for 2024-2025 includes reading and math readiness, attendance rate and career exploration experience and the 2024-2025 high school report card includes data from students in grades 9-12 (approximately 151 students) on attendance rate, GPA's of 2.8 and higher, dual credits earned, number of college credits earned, ACT test scores, co-curricular activities and work place experience; will be attending the Sourcewell Leadership Retreat along with the AVID and MTSS teams June 16th through the 18th; all MDE reports have been completed; and all paraprofessionals who completed year one of LETRS training are now fully trained under the READ Act and those who did not participate in LETRS will have an 8-hour training session led by Mrs. Rasmussen who is being trained this summer through Sourcewell.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on updates from MREA, MSBA, MASA and working on Title Grants on MDE in the MEGS system for SY25-26; Custodial Department beginning summer projects; MSBA Policy updates noting there were no new updates this month; added a meal planning software in food service and noted that one employee will be going part-time; received a thank you from BPA students who attended the BPA Nationals; will be needing to fill a transportation supervisor/director position; had an administrative team meeting with Eileen Weber from Sourcewell; attended a FED Superintendent Advisory meeting on May 14th and noted that discussion continues on finding efficiencies with special education services and the ALC program; attended a Wadena County Joint Task Force meeting; all summer programs started on June 2nd; and secured SLP services for the 2025-2026 school year with Kathleen Rausch from Rausch Pediatric Speech Therapy LLC.

Under Discussion Items, Jodi Zesbaugh and Jen Chapman presented, via Zoom, information on our bond sale to acquire gap funding to carry the solar project until we get the federal funding rebates and also discussed information regarding how LTFM (Long Term Facilities Maintenance) levy authority could be expanded to be used for school roofs.

Olson moved, Arthur seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: May 12th regular school board minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for June; monthly bills at \$881,178.94; Call for milk bids; MSBA, MREA, MASA, MESPA, AND LCSC Annual dues for FY2025-2026; resignation of Emily Huotari as elementary teacher; assignment of Arrysa Kessler as elementary teacher for SY2025-2026; resignation of Food Service Assistant Johanna Fowler and thanked her for her 10 years of service to Sebeka School; resignation of Paraprofessional Cya James; assignment of Food Service Assistant Cya James; resignation of Frank Komppa as Transportation Director; resignation of Assistant Varsity/JV Volleyball Coach Alicia Strayer; assignment of Paraprofessional Tracy Kyro for SY2025-2026; resignation of Jr. High Cross Country Coach Katie Smith; and end of year enrollment at 432 students K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Olson seconded to approve the second reading of the final budget revisions for fiscal year 2025 showing revenues at \$8,153,547 and expenditures at 8,343,787 for a deficit of \$190,240. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Huttunen seconded to approve a resolution accepting the following donations: **Fishing Team League Sponsorship:** \$300 from G&T Sanitation; \$300 from WCTA and a monetary donation of \$25 from Ted's Hardware and \$100 from Anderson Homes; **Targeted Services Summer School:** \$275 from Knob Hill Sportsman's Club to fund the Itasca field trip and 60 water bottles from TruStar Federal Credit Union; and \$500 from Gateway Lions of Menahga for the Accelerated Reader Program. The following members voted in favor: Arthur, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Olson; against: none; absent Erickson and Nelson; therefore; the resolution was duly adopted.

Arthur moved, Olson seconded to approve the first reading of the 2025-2026 initial budget showing revenues at \$8,067,270 and expenditures at \$8,228,159 with a deficit of \$160,889. Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved, Kangas seconded to approve the recertification of Superintendent Kerkvliet as the designated official for the external user access for IoWA. Motion carried unanimously.

Arthur moved, Olson seconded to approve the intent to negotiate with the EMS-ESP group for contract years 2025-2027. Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved, Arthur seconded to approve the lunch account write-offs in the amount of \$183.31. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Arthur seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District