

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Independent School District No. 820  
Sebeka, MN 56477  
Tuesday, October 14, 2025

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Nate Erickson, Rod Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson and JoAnn Olson (virtually). Absent members Jeannie Arthur and Kayla Frame. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; Business Manager Holly Paulson; Student Council Representative Henry Erickson and Review Messenger Reporter Dave Hanson.

NOTE: All motions will be by roll call vote due to JoAnn Olson attending virtually.

Erickson moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions: 9.7 Consider a 7:00 p.m. start for the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and 9.8 Consider approval of Support for Sebeka FFA Participation at the National Convention. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Student Council Representative Henry Erickson reported on activities held during Fall Festival week and they are now planning Halloween activities.

Superintendent Kerkvliet noted that the Negotiations Committee has completed negotiations with all employee groups for the 2025-2027 school years.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on the following: received the 3rd quarter Unemployment billing from summer unemployment benefits; the FY2025 audit has not been completed yet and noted that the auditors will present at the November board meeting; submitted the last invoice for the Solar to Schools Grant in the amount of \$18,054.55 and when funds are received they will be sent to Solar Connections; reviewed the current Levy Limitation Certification 2025-Payable 2026; and working on getting all the settled pay rates entered into payroll and computing retro pay for FY2026.

Jon Lillquist's DOS/AD report included the following: Fall Sports playoff dates: Cross Country Section Meet will be held on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> in Bagley; Football playoffs begin on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> with possible dates of October 25 and November 1<sup>st</sup> and Volleyball playoffs begin on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> with other possible dates of October 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; and noted that the cellphone policy seems to be working well with violations at thirteen and overall detentions for cellphones and behaviors are down from seventeen last year at this time to six this year.

Principal Westberg reported on the following: sent out the Elementary and High School Parent newsletter via the SMore app at the beginning of October; will be using Capti ReadBasix as a new screener for grades 4-12 as part of the READ Act noting that REadBASix will help identify reading difficulties and characteristics of dyslexia in students and then will be able to provide better interventions; will begin the training process for ELA 4-12, Special Education, Title I teachers and the principal on November 10<sup>th</sup>; students who have met the benchmark in aReading or the Reading MCA's will not need to do the ReadBasix test and testing will be after the January Fastbridge testing; the annual parent engagement Title I meeting was held on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>; and will be able to keep the Sebeka Backpack program going thanks to the donations from community members, NHS volunteers, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and thanked Kim Rife for the organization of this program.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the following: Solar Project installation has been completed and inspections have passed and did an interview with the Department of Commerce as a grant requirement; noted that he has been invited to present to other school district leaders at the Department of Commerce's School Energy Summit and had a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 9<sup>th</sup>; attended the Fall Conference and Region 5 meeting in Duluth where MREA's Interim Executive Director Fred Nolan gave legislative updates and Tiffany Gustin from MSBA reviewed the Paid Family Medical Leave Act that goes into effect January 1st and noted that we will be utilizing National Insurance Services to comply with this mandate rather than the state PFML plan; MDE has approved our LTFM plan including the roof authority expansion noting that we will complete a bond sale this spring and has scheduled the roof sections to be worked on for the next three summers; under Custodial updates it was noted that our facilities director has been addressing issues related to the State Fire Marshall's requests to make sure we are in compliance with safety guidance, Brother's Fire and Security will be taking care of some needed fire sprinkler maintenance, and the tall antenna tower on the west side of the school has been removed as it was no longer needed; Food Service department - will be taking applications for a full time food service assistant; Transportation Department - scrapped a bus and received \$1,200 for it and also needed to replace a garage door; attended meetings at Freshwater and Sourcewell and noted that the next meeting for Wadena County Joint Task Force is scheduled for November 18th; all Out of Field Permissions have been completed; The Sebeka Foundation has acquired the funds to partner with the Initiative Foundations and will be working on an advertising campaign to help with support for our school district; Thad applied for and received a grant from the Cybersecurity Grant Program in the amount of \$5,375 for support to cover our insurance costs for Cybersecurity and is also looking for a grant to upgrade our security door locks; and Health and Safety Director

Jeff Preuss found that during our construction the removal of the fuel tank had not been reported to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency so have been working on completing necessary paperwork so the district is in compliance with the agency.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Kerkvliet reviewed the updated Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Resources summary report (formerly WBWF) to include the updated literacy plans and strategic plan elements and reviewed Q-Comp goals.

Huttunen moved, Erickson seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: the September 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes; the Treasurer and Investment report for October; monthly bills at \$1,006,184.12; employee contracts for Facilities Manager EMS-ESP for SY2025-2027; resignation from Food Service Assistant Cya James; assignment of Thad Schulz as E-Sports Coach; and October Enrollment at 433 students K-12. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Kangas moved, Nelson seconded to approve the resolution accepting the following donations: two backpacks with school supplies from Bluegrass Church; \$300 from Our Saviors Lutheran church to the Angel Fund; \$700 from Nimrod Boosters and \$300 from Nimrod 69 Inc. to FFA for cleanup from Nimrod Jubilee Days; \$300 from Joann White to the Angel Fund; \$100 from Bill & Gail Lewis to the Angel Fund for school supplies; \$100 from Bill & Gail Lewis to the Angel Fund to help with second lunches for students; and \$500 from Tom & Kyle Schulz to SkillsUSA. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the resolution was duly passed.

Erickson moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Prohibiting Discrimination report noting that this report is completed for the state showing that the school district is in compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination and that we have policies on file in-house and submitted to the state ensuring we are in compliance with federal law pertaining to these compliance issues. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Huttunen moved, Kangas seconded to approve the first reading of the EMS-ESP Seniority list for 2025-2026 as presented. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Erickson moved, Kangas seconded to approve the MSHSL grant resolution noting that the MSHSL was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts and assist schools in recognizing, promoting and funding extracurricular participation by high school students in athletic and fine arts program. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the resolution was duly passed.

Erickson moved, Kangas seconded to approve the eLearning plan for school year 2025-2026 noting that plan includes using the five elearning days first in case of inclement weather to avoid having to make adjustments to the school calendar at the end of the year. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Kangas moved, Erickson seconded to approve to start the November 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Erickson moved, Kangas seconded to approve the Sebeka FFA participation at the National Convention as per School District policy 9.7 District Reimbursement to Students Representing Sebeka Public Schools for Competitive Extra-Curricular, Co-curricular and Academic State and National School Events. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Huttunen moved, Erickson seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m. The following members voted in favor: Erickson, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson (virtually); absent: Arthur and Frame; therefore, the motion was duly passed.