

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Independent School District No. 820

Sebeka, MN 56477

Regular meeting May 11, 2026

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

NOTE: All motions will be by roll call vote due to Jeannie Arthur attending virtually.

Kangas moved, Frame seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions: 7.5.4 Approve elementary instructors for SY2026-2027 Kaisa Alderson and Hope Shepersky and 7.5.5 Approve resignation from math teacher Nicolle Ament. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson and Olson; against: none; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Randy Vandermay was present to provide information regarding Trap Shooting and asked the School Board to consider paying for registration fees and meal costs for the State Trap Shoot competition in Alexandria. He reported that there would be 26 shooters at \$50 entry fee for each which would amount to \$1300 and an additional \$500 for meal costs. The School Board stated they will approve this request for registration and meal costs for the Trap Shoot State Conference meet under new business items on the agenda.

Jodie Zesbaugh from Ehlers presented information regarding a pre-sale report for the \$1,050,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds and Capital Notes noting that the proposed issue would finance roofing projects and capital equipment (school buses and other transportation vehicles). She also noted that the Facilities Maintenance Bonds portion of the issue would be paid from property tax levies received as part of the Long-Term Maintenance program and the school district would be required to make a debt service levy each year to finance payment for the capital notes portion.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on the following: open enrollment for Health, Dental and Vision with renewals starting July 1st; working on the FY2026 final budget revision and initial FY2027 budget; attended the annual MASBO Spring Conference in Duluth and will be attending year end meetings for payroll and finance.

Mr. Lillquist's AD report included Spring sports playoff dates for Softball starting on May 18th; Baseball starting on May 26th; Track starts with sub-sections on May 21st and Golf sections on June 1st; attended a Bound meeting on May 6th; and noted that the following coaching positions are open: C-team Volleyball, Head Girls Basketball and Assistant Girls Basketball.

Principal Westberg reported on postcards being sent out to families within a 30-mile radius who are ages 11-17 regarding our 820online school and noting that the website to enroll is now live; updated on the Local Literacy Plan due on June 15th with two new sections added; Summer School for seniors who need their final credits and will be offering Jr. High summer school to students who have failed a class; reviewed end-of-year fun of K-6 field trips, elementary field day, Day of Caring, Color Run, elementary award day on Thursday, May 21st and high school and senior awards on Friday, May 22nd; and noted that Sourcewell received a grant for OSHA-10 certifications and we were able to purchase 15 Agriculture 10-hour certifications; 15 Construction 10-hour certifications and 10 Healthcare 10-hour certifications and will get reimbursed through Sourcewell and noted that this is a piece of our Trojan Pathways.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported that Jenny Hoppe from the Sebeka Foundation received a donation of quality baseball and softball gear for the summer recreation program; updates regarding MREA, MSBA, MASA, and MDE; received the Certificate of Liability Insurance paperwork from Herzog Roofing; core samples were taken from roof sections H & K to check for asbestos and noted no asbestos was found and starting to see more energy savings from the solar panels; a transportation study through CESO was completed and will work with transportation director to implement things to be more efficient; Food Service department had a review done by the Minnesota Department of Education with no major issues with findings; attended the "Students of Character" awards ceremonies noting that Hana Eitel and Jayden Soule received the awards, and also attended the "Teachers of Excellence" and "Pillar of Excellence" awards which were received by Emily Crabb and Jacob Haag and Dee Dykhoff; continue to attend the monthly Freshwater meetings and inquiring about MA billing to make sure we are receiving the appropriate funding support and noted that they are still searching for a new executive director; completed the required "Statement of Assurances" report for Perkins funding and the Wadena County Public Health agreement; working with Ehlers on our bond and capital note sale; received a thank you from Vicki and Jeff Lake family for the garden center gift certificate in honor of her mother who passed away; and reviewed Health and Safety minutes from the April 15th meeting.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Kerkvliet noted that the teacher MOU is approved by EMS and up for board consideration, the website is live and a postcard mailing will be sent out to families with children entering 7th-12th grades within a 30-mile radius of the school; informed the board that Holly has been working on a budget revision for this year and is also working on an initial budget for the 2026-2027 school year with a goal of stabilizing and increasing our enrollment through flexibility with our

820online school and operating referendum; and reviewed the Q-Comp program and how the program works to improve instruction and student achievement.

It was noted that Board member Olson left at 6:40 p.m.

Nelson moved, Erickson seconded to approve the following consent agenda items with the exception of 7.5.5 Resignation of Nicolle Ament: the April 8th and 20th regular meeting minutes; Treasurer and Investment report for May; monthly bills in the amount of \$864,760.33; resignation of Media Specialist Donna Yliniemi and thanked her for her years of service to Sebeka School students and staff; assignment of Donna Yliniemi as a part-time licensed school library media specialist supervisor for the 2026-2027 school year; assignments of Q-Comp teams and roles; assignments of Kaisa Alderson and Hope Shepersky as 5th grade elementary instructors for the 2026-2027 school year;; and May enrollment at 417 students K-12. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Erickson moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the resignation of Nikki Ament, with regret, as Math teacher, JH VB coach and Q-Comp roles effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year and to also thank her for her years of service to Sebeka School. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Erickson moved, Frame seconded to approve the second reading of MSBA policy 625 Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Erickson moved, Kangas seconded to approve the resolution accepting the following donations: \$300 from G&T Sanitation for the Fishing League; \$300 from Patsy Hoppe for Summer Rec T-Ball; \$600 from West Central to BPA for Nationals; \$125 from PTA for supplies to the Elementary Field Day program; \$60 from PTA for supplies to the Nursing program; \$700 from Nolte Hidden Angus Ranch sale to FFA; \$500 from Community First Bank for the Sebeka Summer School program; \$500 from TruStar Federal Credit Union for the Sebeka Summer School program; \$1,400 from West Central for the Sebeka Summer School program; and \$1,000 from Gateway Lions Club for the Sebeka Summer School program. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Frame moved, Kangas seconded to approve the graduating class of 2026 as presented contingent upon all requirements completed at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Huttunen moved, Erickson seconded to approve the first reading of the final budget revisions for fiscal year 2026 showing revenues at \$7,897,978 and expenditures at \$8,145,714 for a deficit of \$247,736. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Kangas moved, Nelson seconded to approve to pay \$1,800 in registration fees and meal costs for students for the Trap Shoot State Championship Conference meet which will be held in June. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Huttunen moved, Frame seconded to approve the "820online" MOU for teachers regarding compensation for online course development and instruction. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

Erickson moved, Kangas seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:15 p.m. The following members voted in favor: Arthur (virtually), Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson; against: none; absent Olson; therefore, the motion was duly passed.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District