Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
Regular meeting Monday, August 10, 2026

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jeannie Arthur, Kayla Frame, Rod Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson and JoAnn Olson. Absent Nate Erickson. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; K-12 Principal Amie Westberg and Business Manager Holly Paulson; staff members Melissa Koch and Nikki Ament; and Review Messenger Reporter Chad Koenen.

Kangas moved, Frame seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 7.5.4 Consider Fall Coaching positions; 7.5.5 Consider Approving Paired Transportation; 9.6 Consider approval of recommendation from Pairing Committee to post for a UNC Warriors Girls Wrestling Head Coach; 9.7 Consider approval of recommendation from Pairing Committee to Create a UNC Warriors Paired Robotics Team and Post for a Robotics Team Coach; and 9.8 Consider Approval of Recommendation from the Pairing Committee that each School Sets Aside $15,000 for Future Track Maintenance. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Council President Sofia Pulju was present to introduce herself to the school board and to let them know that she is the Student Body President and would be attending board meetings to report on events being planned by the Student Council.

The Pairing Committee met on Wednesday, August 5th in Sebeka. Discussion was held on updates/additions and/or changes to the agreements that are in place. It was noted that the agreements are in place for a five-year period and are current through the 2028-2029 school year. Fall and Winter coaching assignments were reviewed noting that the wrestling program has seen an increase in the growth of girls participating and recommended for the school boards to post and hire a UNC Warriors Girls Wrestling head coach and will look at adjustments for the wrestling cheerleading program; Speech had a successful year and will continue with the same coaches; discussion took place regarding the MSHSL 6th grade participation issues in Golf from last season, the relationship between UNC Warrior Golf and Blueberry Pines facilities and the success of the program; recommended to have school boards continue to set aside $15,000 for the track fund for future resurfacing needs; noted that Coach Heltunen is continuing to build the program and Mr. Lillquist clarified that Cross Country has been contributing funds for needs, using the mini bus for transportation and reducing the number of meets to control costs and to be able to participate in a couple of larger meets that are further away; school calendars are similar; recommended to create a UNC Warriors Paired Robotics Team and post for a Robotics Team Coach; recommended to continue cost savings utilizing the North/South directions to determine which school provides transportation and Activities Director recommendations.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported that all auditor requested documents have been completed and submitted to Brady Martz for the FY2026 audit; submitted FY26 Workers Compensation Audit information; submitted the LTFM 10-year plan (Long Term Facilities Maintenance) to MDE; submitted the Health and Safety for FY26, FY27, and FY28 to MDE for the Levy Certification; completed the annual PERA Leave report and the Exclusion Report; completed shared activities with Menahga; completed the MDE Health Insurance Survey for FY2025and is starting to prepare for the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

Jon Lillquist's Activities Director report included the following: Fall Coaching Assignments: Volleyball: Head Coach Becca Pulju; JV Coach Emily Crabb; C-Team Coach Miranda Jansson; and Jr. High Coach Nikki Ament and Arrysa Kessler; Football: Head Coach Tanner Burgau; Assistant Coaches Thor Johnson and Tom Smith; Jr. High Coaches Jeff Lake and Chris Arthur and volunteer coach Casey Clark; Cross Country: Co-Head Coaches Nick Jasmer and Ed Heltunen and Jr. High Coach Nicole Oyster; Football Cheerleading Advisor Sarah Kuschel.

Principal Westberg reported on the Fall Inservice agenda noting that all teachers can use the week of August 24th through the 28th or September 4th for their floating day; new teachers will meet on Wednesday, August 26th and all teachers will start on Monday, August 31st; noted that Mrs. Rasmussen, Mrs. Seieroe, Mrs. Tumberg and Mr. Haag all attended the AVID summer conference on August 3rd through the 5th in San Diego with expenses paid through Sourcewell; and will be reviewing needs for paraprofessionals and will make recommendations for the school year to Superintendent Kerkvliet.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the solar project noting that the tax rebates have been filed with the IRS and are expecting $180,545 in rebates; attended the MASA/MDE Back to School Conference; noted that the MREA Conference will be held November 15th-17th; custodial summer projects are being completed; Food Service Director DeAnn Evans has been preparing for the new school year and a part time food service assistant has been hired; Transportation Supervisor Anni Olson has started to work on updating the bus routes; reviewed MSBA Technical and Substantive policies; noted that Sebeka was selected to participate in the state's annual IDEA monitoring process which evaluates compliance with several federal performance indicators related to special education timelines and requirements through MDE and was notified that MDE verified the submitted records and determined that Sebeka met all applicable IDEA requirements and as a result there were no areas of noncompliance identified, no corrective action is required and MDE commended the administration and special education staff for their commitment to providing compliant services to students with disabilities and their families; attended a Pemberton School Law conference; received a thank you from Heidi Huotari for the memorial plant received in memory of her father; has been taking bids on the Public Surplus site on school items that have been in storage that we no longer need; noted that adult meal pricing for SY26-27 will be $2.55 for breakfast and $5.30 for lunch and individual mild purchases and extra milk purchase will be .45 cents; and has completed all "Out of Field" paperwork for any PELSB license issues.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Kerkvliet reviewed information on the operating levy referendum noting that he has been meeting with Rapp Strategies regarding information for the school newsletter and school website and has made connections with the Sebeka PTA and the Sebeka Foundation noting that material is being prepared and once completed he would like to meet with these organizations. He also reviewed a summary of his goals from last year and his new goals which include Budget Stabilization and Sustainability, Implementation of an Emergency Crisis Plan, Superintendent Leadership and Professional Growth and Strategic Communication and Community Leadership and reviewed beginning of the year details for the 2026-2027 school.

Arthur moved, Frame seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: minutes of the 07/13/2026 regular meeting; Treasurer and Investment report for August; monthly bills at ($610,451.95); assignment of Eric Komppa as evening custodian; EMS-ESP Memorandum of Understanding for Head Custodian position; rescind Nikki Ament's resignation; Fall Coaching Assignments: **Volleyball:** Head Coach Becca Pulju; JV Coach Emily Crabb; C-Team Coach Miranda Jansson; and Jr. High Coach Nikki Ament and Arrysa Kessler; **Football:** Head Coach Tanner Burgau; Assistant Coaches Thor Johnson and Tom Smith; Jr. High Coaches Jeff Lake and Chris Arthur and volunteer coach Casey Clark; **Cross Country:** Co-Head Coaches Nick Jasmer and Ed Heltunen and Jr. High Coach Nicole Oyster; **Football Cheerleading Advisor**: Sarah Kuschel; and continue cost savings utilizing the North/South Directions to determine which school provides transportation and Activities Director recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the MSBA Policy Technical updates as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Arthur seconded to approve the MSBA Policy Substantive updates presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved, Olson seconded **to** approve the second reading of the elementary and secondary handbooks which include the updated No Cell Phone policy for the school year 2026-2027 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson moved, Frame seconded to approve the Truth in Taxation hearing date for Monday, December 14, 2026 in the District Office at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Arthur seconded to approve the first reading of the MSBA Technical Policy updates for policies 425, 624, and 806 as presented for statutory references, grammatical improvements, and similar matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Kangas moved, Frame seconded to approve the first reading of the MSBA Substantive policy updates as presented and noting that these changes have been made through legislation. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Olson seconded to approve a resolution noting that the school board election will be held during the general election on Tuesday, November 3rd where four members will be elected to the school board. The School Board noted that the following people filed for the school board: Shannon Dykhoff, Megan Olson-Lehner, Gabe Koll and incumbents Nate Erickson and Kayla Frame. Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved, Olson seconded to approve the recommendation from the Pairing Committee to post the position of a UNC Warriors Girls Head Wrestling Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Arthur moved, Kangas seconded to approve the recommendation of the Pairing Committee to create a UNC Warriors Paired Robotics Team and to post for a Robotics Team Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the recommendation that each school set aside $15,000 for the Track Fund for future resurfacing needs. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Kangas seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:15p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District