MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Independent School District No. 820
Sebeka, MN 56477
Monday, September 14, 2026

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance: Jeannie Arthur, Nate Erickson, Kayla Frame, Rod Huttunen, Cheri Kangas, Eric Nelson and JoAnn Olson. Also present were Superintendent Dave Kerkvliet; Principal Amie Westberg; Business Manager Holly Paulson (virtually); staff member Meghan Adams and Review Messenger Reporter Chad Koenen.

Arthur moved, Huttunen seconded to approve the agenda with the following additions: 7.5.8 Resignation of Nicole Oyster as NHS advisor and 7.5.9 Assignment of Kiersten Tumberg and Meghan Adams as Co-Advisors for NHS. Motion carried unanimously.

The Climate and Culture Committee (Eric Nelson, Kayla Frame and JoAnn Olson) met with Superintendent Kerkvliet and Principal Westberg to review and discuss climate and culture in the school regarding conversation and an open line of communication with staff for goals and expectations throughout the school year and focus on our school's strategic plan.

Business Manager Holly Paulson reported on an audit status update noting that they are in the final steps of the audit and are waiting for a Special Ed Aid Report release to see if we need to make another JE for Sped Revenue; been setting up payroll for FY2027; assignments for fall sports and school year activities have been completed; met with the new employees during in-service time to go over pay and benefits; met with Terry Anderson, our AFLAC rep from Alexandria to review benefits and noting that they have a product that is interesting for an alternate health insurance benefit through Health Access Solutions and gave him some information to calculate some costs to possibly revisit during our HITA process in the new calendar year; and will be meeting with our Rep from National Insurance Services for a plan review for Group Term Life, Long-term Disability and MN Paid Leave.

Jon Lillquist's Activities Director report included the following fall activity numbers: Football Cheerleading - 6 participants; Football - grades 9-12 have 23 participants and 6th-8th have 14 participants; Volleyball -ABC teams have 20 participants; Cross Country - Girls 7-12 has 12 participants (Menahga - 7 and Sebeka - 5) and 5th-6th have 10 participants (Menahga - 2 and Sebeka - 8) and Boys 7-12 has 13 participants (Menahga - 12 and Sebeka - 1) and 5th -6th have 6 participants (Menahga - 5 and Sebeka - 1); Registration has been completed using Bound and has been used to purchase season passes and tickets and also used in concessions; Goldie arrives on September 22nd and will start working on September 23rd; and attended a MSHSL meeting on September 14th; PRC AD meeting on September 16th; PRC Sportsmanship meeting with student leaders at Wadena on September 18th; and Astera Health on training services on September 18th.

Principal Westberg reported that the first day of school went really well with high school students participating in their first Trojan Challenge followed by the all-school assembly; made a welcome video for students on our 820online school and noted that it seems to be going well and noted that at the beginning of the school year, 18 students in grades 7-12 have enrolled; two groups of our PLC teams are participating in Phase 2 of the READ Act and are going through the STRIVE program and the group 2 LETRS will be using the year to discuss techniques they have learned the past two years and what is going well in their classes when using those strategies.

Superintendent Kerkvliet reported on the solar project and noted that he had checked with Solar Connections and our system is operating very well; will be attending the MREA conference on November 16th & 17th; noted that the annual MSBA Leadership Conference will be held January 13th - 15th; had a one-on-one virtual meeting with Executive Director Matt Hillman from MASA to provide specific information in regard to Sebeka School to help with input of the MASA legislative agenda; attended a session on "The Assertive Communication Series on Handling Defensiveness and Pushback" through MASPA; custodians did a good job preparing the building for the school year and have now shifted to school year routines; thanked the Food Service staff for preparing a breakfast for the staff on Wednesday of workshop week and also noted that the dishwasher has still not been fixed; ordered three buses for the transportation department; had an administrative team meeting with the district strategy partner Andrea Rusk; attended a Freshwater Superintendents/Principals meeting with Mrs. Westberg and received updates on CPI training, CTE/Carl Perkins, Adult Basic Education, Chemical Dependency Counseling, Paraprofessional topics and training opportunities, MA billing, Social work supervision and special education; pool committee has raised $23,000 so far in an effort to re-open the pool next season; have been selling items through the Public Surplus program; will be receiving our school comfort dog "Goldie" through a Wadena County grant program; received a $1,000 donation from Jay and Deb Kerkvliet to recognize the longevity of 30 years of service to Sebeka School and will be using the money to update our marching band banner and signed a Joint Powers agreement with Wadena County Family Services Collaborative.

Under Discussion Items, Superintendent Kerkvliet discussed the operating levy referendum noting that our referendum website has been launched, social media has been posted, flyers will be distributed at an open house, and will be organizing meetings with community support groups such as the Sebeka Foundation, PTA and last year's 5th grade spokespeople.

Kangas moved, Erickson seconded to approve the following consent agenda items: August 10th regular meeting minutes; Treasurer & Investment report for September; monthly bills at $787,516.31; lane change request for Kiersten Tumberg from BA+0 to BA+10; resignation from Travis Ostby as Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Advisor; assignment of Nicolle Ament as Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Advisor; assignment of Jessica Nelson as a paraprofessional; assignment of Olga Moses as long-term substitute paraprofessional; resignation of Jon Lillquist as Summer Rec Director and thanked him for his years of dedicated service to the Summer Rec program; lane change request for Hope Fuller from BA+0 to BA+20; resignation from Nicole Oyster as NHS advisor; assignment of Kiersten Tumberg and Meghan Adams as Co-Advisors for NHS; and student enrollment K-12 at 407 and eighteen 7th -12 grade students on 820online. Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved Frame seconded to approve the second reading of MSBA technical updates such as statutory references, grammatical improvements, and similar matters for policy numbers 425 (Staff Development), 624 (Online Instruction), and 806 (Crisis Management Policy). Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved, Frame seconded to approve the second reading of MSBA substantive updates for policy numbers 208 (Development, Adoption & Implementation of policies), 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination), 423 (Employee/Student Relationships), 507.5 (School Resource Officers), 509 (Enrollment of Non-Resident Students), 521 (Student Disability Non-discrimination), 524 (Internet Acceptable use), 613 (Graduation Requirements), 621 (Literacy & READ Act), 709 (Student Transportation), 721 (Uniform Grant Guidance Regarding Federal Revenue Sources) and 727 (Public Data Requests) noting that these changes have been made through legislation and also approved an amount of $25,000 for Superintendent procurement authority for policy 721. Motion carried unanimously.

Frame moved, Olson seconded to approve this resolution accepting the following donations: $50 from the Class of 1966 to the Angel Fund, school supplies from the Keddy family, $50 from JoAnn White for student needs, and $1,000 from Jay and Deborah Kerkvliet in honor of Superintendent Kerkvliet's completion of 30+ years of dedication to Sebeka School with the money being used to purchase a new marching band banner. The following members voted in favor: Arthur, Erickson, Frame, Huttunen, Kangas, Nelson, Olson; against: none; therefore, the resolution was duly adopted.

Frame moved, Kangas seconded to approve the proposed 2026-Payable-2027 Tax levy by maximizing the levy with final approval done at the December 14th Truth in Taxation meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Arthur moved, Nelson seconded to approve the following Superintendent goals as presented: Goal 1 - Budget Stabilization & Sustainability; Goal 2 - Emergency Crisis Plan Implementation; Goal 3 - Leadership, Professional Growth, and Positive Organizational Culture; and Goal 4 - Strategic Communication, Community Engagement and Culture Building. Motion carried unanimously.

Huttunen moved, Frame seconded to approve the purchase of three new buses for the transportation department. Motion carried unanimously.

Erickson moved, Frame seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

JoAnn Olson
Clerk of Sebeka School District