MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, August 14, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. – Northside Elementary School Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Brian Samuelson. Members present: Brian Samuelson, Paul Carruth, Bill McGeary, Mary KW Langan, James Berens and Gary Williams. Members absent: Eric Peterson. Also present: Dennis Laumeyer, Brennan Kent, Jessica Harris, Katie Foley, Reed Anfinson and Colleen Oehlberg.
**Additions to the agenda**: None
**Approval of Agenda**: Motion by Paul Carruth, second by Mary KW Langan to approve agenda. Motion carried (6-0).
**Citizen comments**: None
**Consent Agenda Items:** Minutes for the July 17, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting; Minutes for the School Board Work Session on August 7, 2023; July 2023 Payroll in the amount of $887,154.04; Bills and hand checks in the amount of $674,295.94; Approval of appointments: Jake Pederson - Asst. Football Coach; Aaron Zosel - Defensive Coordinator; Matt Goossen - Head JV Football Coach; Cole Vergin - Asst. JV Football Coach; Adam Jenson - JH Football Coach; Josh Manzke - JH Football Coach; Brock Duncan - Head Tennis Coach; Coleton Anderson - JV/JH Tennis Coach; Ainsley Anderson - Head Volleyball Coach; Erick Hedman - Asst. Volleyball Coach; Grace Lee - C Squad Volleyball Coach; Brennan Hagen-Kent - 8th Grade Volleyball Coach; Tai Moe - 7th Grade Volleyball Coach; Samantha Vanheuveln - Head Cross Country Coach; Ryan Luft - Asst. Cross Country Coach; Tina Knutson - Homecoming Advisor; Jason Madden - Homecoming Advisor; Kendra Razink - BPA Advisor; Mark Grussing - BPA Co-Asst.; Jason Strand - Yearbook/Annual; Kendra Razink - Yearbook/Annual; Brock Duncan - PAC Director; Andrew Naseth - Asst. PAC Director; Jason Madden - Co-Stu. Government; Tina Knutson - Co-Stu. Government; Mallory Felt - Co-Head NHS; Carson Thorson - Co-Head NHS; Brock Duncan - Band Director & JH Band Director; Andrew Naseth - Choir Director; Jenna Smith - FFA Advisor; Tina Knutson - Co-Snow Week Advisor; Jason Madden - CO-Snow Week Advisor; Brady Dokkebakken - Weight Room Supervisor; Resignations/Terminations: Aimee Thalberg – Business Education Teacher; Brittany Flannigan – Paraprofessional; Motion by Bill McGeary, second by Gary Williams to approve consent to agenda items as presented. Motion carried (6-0).
**Progress reports:**
PK-5, Brennan Kent: Principal Kent gave a PBIS update – discussion was had on what types of behaviors are getting rewarded. Back to school Workshop - August 22nd and 23rd; Open House - August 23rd; ELL Open House - August 23rd; First day of school - August 28th; First day for Kindergarten – August 30th;
6-12, Jessica Harris: Principal, Jessica Harris stated the first day of practice for fall sports was August 14; MRVED Paraprofessional Conference at BHS - August 16th; Workshop days for teachers and staff – August 22nd and 23rd; Open House – August 23rd; First day of school – August 28th.
Financial Report, Katie Foley: Director of Finance, Katie Foley, complimented Mackenzie Dokkebakken on the excellent job she is doing ordering, sorting and distributing school supplies for both the elementary school and the high school; Katie and Principal Brennan Kent are working on Title Application; The audit is scheduled for Sept. 5th. The Business office is working on the Summer levy.
Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeyer: Superintendent Laumeyer provided a projects update; New Staff Onboarding and Orientation – Aug. 15th; Benson Schools will have a booth at the Swift County Fair - August 16 - 20th. The School Board Administration will grill and serve lunch to the staff on August 23rd at the Back to School Workshop; Supt. Laumeyer invited the school board to AI training in the PAC on August 22nd.
Board Committee reports: The board budget/negotiations committee met to conduct employee negotiations strategy.
**Old Business:**
Mascot Prohibition Bill: The board choose to apply for an exemption and submit a Mascot Exemption application to the 11 Tribal Nations. Motion by Gary Williams, second by Bill McGeary to submit a Mascot Exemption application to the 11 Tribal Nations. Motion carried (6-0).
Grades 6-12 Student Handbook: Principal Harris went over a few changes to the 2023-2024 Student Handbook. This is the second reading. Motion by Mary KW Langan, second by Jim Berens to adopt the Grades 6-12 Student Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried (6-0).
Superintendent Goals: Superintendent Laumeyer presented his goals for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion by Bill McGeary, second by Gary Williams to approve the 2023-2024 superintendent goals as presented. Motion carried (6-0).
**New Business:**
Property/Liability Insurance: The board reviewed Insurance Renewal quotes. EMC had the lowest bid of $96,680.61. Motion to approve property and liability insurance in the amount of $96,680.61 from EMC by Gary Williams, second by Paul Carruth. Motion carried (6-0).
Dissolve Current Boy's Hockey Cooperative: The current Boy's Hockey Cooperative needs to be dissolved in order to add LqPV High School. Motion by Bill McGeary, second by Gary Williams to dissolve the current Boy's Hockey Cooperative. Motion carried (6-0).
Approve Boy's Hockey Cooperative: Motion by Jim Berens, second by Paul Carruth to approve the Boy's Hockey Cooperative including LqPV High School Schools. Motion carried (6-0).

Meal Prices: The board reviewed Food Service Director, Connie Evenson's recommendations for meal prices for the 2023-2024 school year. All students receive one free breakfast and one free lunch. Recommended prices are as follows: $3.00, Adult breakfast and $5.00, Adult lunch; Milk Break prices - $80 annually, $40 a semester; Snack Break - $100 annually, $50 a semester. Motion by Mary KW Langan, second by Jim Berens to set the 2023-2024 prices as stated above: Motion carried (6-0).

Board Member Discussion: The board discussed board member Brian Samuelson's new position at the bank. To meet state statute, the board must have a public disclosure on this topic. It is recommended to appoint a different board designee. Motion by Jim Berens, second by Paul Carruth to appoint Gary Williams as the board designee. Motion carried (6-0).

**Donations:** Discovery Kids: $10,000 SWIFT; Comm Ed Shirt Sponsors: $90 Riverwood Bank; $90 Whistlestop; $90 State Bank of Danvers; $90 Dairy Queen; $90 Olson/Tolifson Construction; $90 Bright Start; $90 Darold's SuperValu; $90 Zosel's; $90 Hughes Real Estate; $100 Track Bar and Grill; $90 Nelson Farms; $90 DoMats; $90 First Security Bank; $90 Benson Firemans; $90 Co-Op Credit Union; Discovery Kids: $182.04 First Childrens Finance Grant; Baseball Concession Stand: $2,500 CVEC Matching Donation; Mental Health Program: $3,644.50 Prairie Care Child & Family Fund; Childrens Theater Tshirt Sponsor: $60 Track Bar & Grill; Childrens Theater Tshirt Sponsor: $150 Blue Stem Dental

Motion by Bill McGeary, second by Gary Williams to pass Resolution 2023-12 accepting the donations with thanks made to the district. Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: Paul Carruth, Jim Berens, Bill McGeary; Mary KW Langan; Gary Williams; Brian Samuelson. Motion carried (6-0).

**Future Meetings:** Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria

Contract Negotiations Strategy: The board went into closed session to conduct employee negotiations strategy. Motion by Bill McGeary, second by Jim Berens to go into closed session at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried (6-0).

Motion by Paul Carruth, second by Jim Berens to end the closed session at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried (6-0).

**Adjournment:** Motion by Gary Williams, second by Mary KW Langan to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried (6-0).

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Mary KW Langan, Clerk