MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, April 12, 2021 – 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: Paul Carruth, Mary KW Langan, Brian Samuelson, Bill McGeary, Eric Peterson, Gary Williams and James Berens. Members absent: None. Also present: Dennis Laumeyer, Mike Knutson, Garrett Schmidt, Katie Foley, Lori Eix, Ryan Breitbach, Kendra Razink, Shelly Vergin, Reed Anfinson.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by G. Williams, second by M. KW Langan to approve the agenda. Motion carried (7-0).

Citizens Comments: None.

Consent Agenda Items: Minutes for the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting; Payroll in the amount of $762,987.65; Bills and hand checks in the amount of $805,501.06; Approval of Appointments: Colleen Oehlberg - Communications Specialist; Hunter Hewitt - Physical Education Teacher; Crystal Erickson - Special Education Teacher; Abby Ver Steeg – Elementary Education Teacher; **Spring Coaches/Advisors:** Mark Grussing - Head Baseball; Tom Foley - Asst. Baseball; Steve Goossen – JH Baseball; John Reardon - JH Baseball; Barb Schwarz - Head Softball; Jeff Guest - Asst. Softball; Maria Hanson - JH Softball; Melinda Wrobleski – JH Softball; Mackenzie Dokkebakken - JH Softball; Chad Carroll - Head Boys Track; Adam Nokleby - Asst. Boys Track; Josh Manzke - JH Boys Track; Lisa Kurtzbein - Head Girls Track; Jill McGeary - Asst. Girls Track; Roger Lindahl - Head Boys Golf; Adam Jensen - Head Girls Golf; Coleton Anderson - Head Boys Tennis; Kendra Razink – BPA Advisor; Peggy Bausman - BPA Co-Asst.; Mark Grussing - BPA Co-Asst.; Resignations: Peggy Bausman – Business Education Teacher/BPA Co-Assistant; Megan McCarty – Art Teacher.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by P. Carruth to approve consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried (7-0).

Progress Reports:

PK-5, Garrett Schmidt: Dean of Students Schmidt thanked Shelly Mikkelson for putting on a phenomenal grades 1-3 concert; MCA testing began today; Northside is down to single digit distance learners; Reading curriculum has been decided. K-5 will use Into Reading from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Abby Ver Steeg was hired for the 5th grade elementary teaching position. Thank you to Kim Ulland, Laura Hulterstrum, Jill McGeary and Roger Ebnet for their help throughout the interview process; Extended School Year (ESY) referral letters were sent out. ESY is scheduled for July 12-19, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Upcoming key dates: MCA Math – April 19, MCA Science – April 26, Field Day – May 18-20, ESY – July 12-19.

6-12, Mike Knutson: Principal Knutson reported BPA has 22 members competing at Nationals virtually on April 26-May 9; Preregistration has started for the 2021-2022 school year. We will now work on scheduling students so they have their 2021-2022 schedules and can make changes before the end of this school year; ACT testing was held at St. Marks on Tuesday, March 30. ACT make up day is Tuesday, April 13th; Broadway was held in the Performing Arts Center on April 10-11; Upcoming Events: Prom – April 24; Dance Recital - April 30-May 2; Band & Choir Concert – May 17; Scholarship Ceremony – May 24; Last Day for Seniors – May 28; Last Day of School – June 3; Graduation – June 6; COVID-19 vaccination information for 16 years and older was sent out to parents. Parents can decide if they would like their child to be vaccinated.

Financial Report, Katie Foley: Katie Foley stated that business office staff are working on the audit; Our allocation for ESSER II funds was $466,000; Katie included revenues so far on the advice of our auditors.

Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeyer: Supt. Laumeyer congratulated Peggy Bausman for 35 years of service at Benson Public Schools; Dennis provided a Covid-19 update: There has been an increase in COVID-19 cases in our county, Benson Schools continues with In-person learning; Dennis provided a Legislative update; Dennis commented on how much work went into making the winter season happen during the pandemic. Only one scheduled event was not able to be played. Dennis congratulated Activities Director Garrett Schmidt, coaches, athletes, parents and the community for their committed efforts to make this happen for our students, our school and communities.

Board Committee Reports: The Administrative and Budget Committees met and their reports will be discussed later in the meeting.

Old Business:

Construction Update: Construction Manager Ryan Breitbach provided a construction and budget update.

Mid-Year Superintendent Review: Board Chair Brian Samuelson read a summary of the superintendent mid-year review.

FY 22 Budget: Finance Director Katie Foley presented the five-year budget projection. The budget projection ensures that the district is meeting long range financial goals, budget reserve goals and SOD (statutory operating dept) goals.

New Business:

500 Policy Series: This is the first reading on Policies 514, 515, 515 FRM,516, 517, 518, 519, 520 based on changes recommended by MSBA to meet law.

Facility Use Agreement: Community Education Director Shelly Vergin presented the first reading of the updated Facility Use Agreement.

Band and Choir Individual Accounts: The Board heard a recommendation from the Budget Committee about making a refund on band and choir individual accounts as a result of the music trips not happening due to the pandemic. A discussion was held. This is the first reading.

ESSER II Funds: Finance Director Katie Foley presented information about Federal funds and expenditures. The Minnesota Department of Education recently released ESSER II expenditures. The district received about $466,000 in ESSER II funds. The Buildings and Grounds Committee met on April 8th and discussed expenditures for ESSER II funds, excess construction funds and Long Term Facilities Maintenance projects. The committee supports the use of ESSER II funds to replace the Northside windows at a cost of $420,000-$450,000. The committee also discussed options and locations for a lighted sign and electronic sign at the high school.
Motion by G. Williams, second by M. KW Langan to use ESSER II funds toward the replacement of Northside windows. Motion carried (7-0).

Donations:

Swift County Benson Hospital RN-LPN Professional Union #2053 Scholarship: $100 Local 2053 RN-LPN Unit; Craig Johnson Scholarship: $175 Jean Johnson, $50 Maxine Hofstadt, $25 Connie Lewis, $25 Elizabeth Anderson, $150 Monte Anderson, $100 Roger "Whitey" Johnson, $100 Richard Whitaker, $100 Margaret Kinney, $100 John Meslow, $100 Bettie Manning, $30 Jennifer Bunce; Ray Millett Scholarship: $1,000 Frances Millett; John Thompson Scholarship: $1,500 Jim Thompson, $1,500 AmCor Flexibles HealthCare; Open Gym Sponsorship: $50 Stony Ridge Foods.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by P. Carruth to pass a resolution to accept the donations made to the district. Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: G. Williams, M. KW Langan, B. McGeary, J. Berens, E. Peterson, P. Carruth, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Future Meetings:
Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, May 10, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria
Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, June 21, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria
Adjournment:
Motion by G. Williams, second by M. KW Langan to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Motion carried (7-0).

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Mary KW Langan, Clerk