MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, August 16, 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: Brian Samuelson, Bill McGeary, Eric Peterson, Gary Williams, Paul Carruth, Mary KW Langan and James Berens. Members absent: None. Also present: Dennis Laumeyer, Mike Knutson, Garrett Schmidt, Katie Foley, Lori Eix, Jason McVinua, Karen Jacobson, Leslie Honebrink, Tracy Wolter, Amanda Holmquist, Julie Loen (virtually), Dave Hafvenstein (virtually).
Additions to the Agenda: None.
Approval of Agenda: Motion by B. McGeary, second by M. KW Langan to approve the agenda. Motion carried (7-0).
Citizens Comments: Leslie Honebrink commented on the draft of the MDE Social Studies Standards.
Consent Agenda Items: Minutes for the July 12, 2021 Regular Meeting; Minutes for the August 2, 2021 Work Session Meeting; July 2021 Payroll in the amount of $401,631.81; Bills and hand checks in the amount of $619,560.89; Approval of Personnel: Allyssa Gronseth - Paraprofessional; Danielle Moseng - Paraprofessional; Angela Dokken – Paraprofessional; Karen Munoz - Food Service; Lavonne Goulet - Food Service; Courtney Benson - Food Service; Nicole Peterson - Food Service; Mackenzie Dokkebakken – C Team Volleyball Coach; Resignations: Steven Goossen – Paraprofessional, JH Football, JH Basketball, JH Baseball; Melissa Landmark – Paraprofessional; Leave Requests: Tori Petersen – Computer Lab Aide.
Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to approve consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried (7-0).
Progress Reports:
PK-5, Garrett Schmidt: Principal Schmidt and special education staff met to review schedules; The track is moving along well; The first day of varsity practices started today.
6-12, Mike Knutson: Mr. Duncan started 6th grade band lessons; The MRVED Paraprofessional Workshop is August 18 at the high school; Back to School Workshop is August 24 and 25; Benson Schools Open House is August 25 from 4:00 – 7:30 p.m.; First day of school is August 30; New teachers at Benson High School: Crystal Erickson, Joyce Walstad, Mike Felt, Carson Thorson and Aimee Thalberg; Thank you to Maintenance and Custodial Supervisor Jason McVinua and the entire maintenance and custodial staff for doing such a great job of getting our school ready for the 2021-2022 school year; Thank you to Steve Ricard and his painting crew for all of their painting in the school this summer.
Financial Report, Katie Foley: Business Office staff met with the new teaching staff and presented business office items; The auditors will be here in two weeks; Business office staff continue work on payroll and FY22 payroll; Katie is finishing negotiation items.
Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeyer: Supt. Laumeyer reported on the upcoming Back to School Workshop schedule and Open House; The School Board and Administration will be continuing the tradition of grilling and serving lunch for school staff on Wednesday, August 25; Benson Schools will have a booth at the Swift County Fair; Maintenance Supervisor Jason McVinua provided the board with a report on snow removal and other uses for the skidsteer loaders that were purchased last year.
Board Committee Reports: The Negotiations Committee report will be presented during closed session.
Old Business:
Strategic Planning: Minnesota River Valley Education District (MRVED) Director Karen Jacobson presented a draft community strategic plan survey. A discussion was held. Karen will make the recommended changes to the survey.
Motion by E. Peterson, second by G. Williams to give authority to Supt. Laumeyer to review the survey changes and approve the community strategic plan survey. Motion carried (7-0).
MRVED Flexible Learning Year (FLY): In order to begin classes before Labor Day, districts must apply and be approved by the MN Department of Education for a three-year FLY Waiver. The 2021-2022 school year will be the third year of the current FLY waiver for MRVED districts. The School Board has held three public meetings to get feedback on the Flexible Learning Year application and school calendars. No public comments have been received.
Motion by B. McGeary, second J. Berens to join other MRVED schools for a three-year FLY application to MN Department of Education. Motion carried (7-0).
Return to School Plan: Supt. Laumeyer presented the Return to School Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The plan lays out COVID-19 related procedures that include following the CDC and MDH guidelines that recommend, but not require masks. Masks are still federally required on school vehicles, including school buses.
Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to approve the 2021-2022 Return to School Plan as presented. Motion carried (7-0).
2021-2022 PK-5 Student Handbook: PK-5 Principal Garrett Schmidt reviewed the changes to the 2021-2022 PK-5 Student Handbook. This is the second reading.
Motion by P. Carruth, second by M. KW Langan to approve the 2021-2022 PK-5 Student Handbook as presented. Motion carried (7-0).
2021-2022 6-12 Student Handbook: Principal Knutson reviewed the changes to the 2021-2022 6-12 Student Handbook. In the handbook, Open Lunch will be open to grades 10-12 who are in good standing and have a permission/waiver form signed by a parent. Open Lunch will be closed for 9th grade students. In addition, students leaving for Open Lunch will need to sign out of their class before lunch. This is the second reading.
Motion by E. Peterson, second by B. McGeary to accept the grades 6-12 as presented, including the Open Lunch permission form. Motion carried (7-0).
New Business:
Property/Liability Insurance: Supt. Laumeyer presented the district property and liability insurance for the 2021-2022 school year. Wright Specialty had the low bid, though it was an increase from last year. The rise in cost primarily reflects an increase in building replacement and Cyber Security costs.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by J. Berens to accept the property/liability insurance bid of $68,436 from Wright Specialty for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried (7-0).
2021-2022 MSHSL Application for Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship – Boys Hockey:
Motion by B. McGeary, second by G. Williams to dissolve the current Boys Hockey Cooperative Sponsorship which includes Morris, Benson, Herman-Norcross, Chokio-Alberta, Wheaton and West Central Area. Motion carried (7-0).
2021-2022 MSHSL Application for Cooperative Sponsorship – Boys Hockey:
Motion by G. Williams, second by M. KW Langan to apply for a new Boys Hockey Cooperative Sponsorship with the MSHSL to include Morris, Benson, Herman-Norcross, Chokio-Alberta and Wheaton. Motion carried (7-0).
Student Transportation: Supt. Laumeyer presented Resolution 2021-05 – Regarding Student Transportation and the Extracurricular Driving Permission Form. During the discussion of open lunch, student transportation to extracurricular events came up as well. The activities where student-athletes may need to drive themselves to off campus practice include, but are not limited to boy's and girl's cross country, boy's and girl's golf, boy's and girl's hockey and possibly baseball and softball. District legal counsel recommends passing a resolution regarding student transportation and approve a parent

waiver form for extracurricular student transportation. This waiver would cover students that transport themselves to a practice. The school will still provide transportation to out of town games, events and practices. Students would still be required to ride the school provided transportation to events, unless a parent signs them out and transports the student.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by E. Peterson to pass Resolution 2021-05 – Regarding Student Transportation and the Extracurricular Driving Permission Form. Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: G. Williams, M. KW Langan, P. Carruth, J. Berens, E. Peterson, B. McGeary, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Donations:

Paul Kittelson Scholarship: $500 Jan Kittelson; Northside Rec Area Grant: $7,468 Benson Area Community Fund; Smart Room Grant: $1,500 Benson Area Community Fund; Angel Fund: $50 Holly Kolander; Weightroom: $500 Midwest Machinery; $500 Antolick Construction; $1,000 Dr. Anthony Hilleren, DDS; $1,000 Tom's Service; $1,000 Ascheman Oil; $1,000 Benson Hockey Association; $2,000 Benson Civic Center; $2,000 CNH; $1,500 Custom Roto Mold; $500 Olson/Zielsdorf Auction & Real Estate.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by G. Williams to pass Resolution 2021-04 to accept the donations made to the district. Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: P. Carruth, J. Berens, E. Peterson, B. McGeary, G. Williams, M. KW Langan, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Future Meetings:

Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria
Negotiations Strategy: The board will go into closed session for purposes of conducting employee negotiations strategy.
Motion by M. KW Langan, second by B. McGeary to go into closed session at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried (7-0).
Motion by J. Berens, second by M. KW Langan to end the closed session at 8:13 p.m. Motion carried (7-0).

Adjournment:

Motion by B. McGeary, second by G. Williams to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried (7-0).

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Mary KW Langan, Clerk