

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, January 4, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. – Northside Elementary Cafeteria

The organizational meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Brian Samuelson.

Members present: Paul Carruth, Mary KW Langan, Bill McGeary, Brian Samuelson, James Berens, Eric Peterson and Gary Williams (virtual). Members absent: None

Also present: Dennis Laumeyer, Mike Knutson, Garrett Schmidt, Katie Foley, Lori Eix, Julie Loen, Amanda Carruth.

Ceremonial Oath of Office: Brian Samuelson led the four newly elected members in the Oath of Office: Mary KW Langan, Bill McGeary, Gary Williams, Eric Peterson.

Organization of School Board:

Elect Chairperson: Motion by G. Williams to nominate Brian Samuelson for Chairperson. There were no other nominations.

Appointed by Acting Chair.

Elect Vice-Chair: Motion by B. McGeary to nominate Gary Williams for Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Appointed by Chair.

Elect Clerk: Motion by B. McGeary to nominate Mary KW Langan for Clerk. There were no other nominations. Appointed by Chair.

Elect Treasurer: Motion by M. KW Langan to nominate Bill McGeary for Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Appointed by Chair.

Meeting Date, Time and Location: Motion by B. McGeary, second by M. KW Langan to adopt the school board meeting schedule as presented for 2021. Motion carried (7-0).

Official Publication: Motion by P. Carruth, second by E. Peterson to designate Swift County Monitor-News as the official newspaper. Motion carried (7-0).

Depository: Motion by G. Williams, second by B. McGeary that all Minnesota Depositories, First Security, Bank of the West, PMA Financial, TD Ameritrade and Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund, or successors, be designated the Depositories. Motion carried (7-0).

Authorizations: Motion by M. KW Langan, seconded by P. Carruth to authorize the Director of Finance to make electronic funds transfers and the Superintendent and Director of Finance to apply for Federal, State and other grants and programs. Motion carried (7-0).

School Physician: Motion by B. McGeary, second by J. Berens to name Swift County-Benson Health Services as the official school physicians on call. Motion carried (7-0).

School Attorney: Motion by G. Williams, second by B. McGeary to authorize the Superintendent and Board Chairperson to select an attorney as needed at their discretion. Motion carried (7-0).

School Board Salaries: Motion by G. Williams, second by B. McGeary to set the 2021 School Board compensation at the same rate as in 2020: \$1,700/year; Chairperson \$1,200/year; Clerk \$1,000/year; Treasurer \$0/year. Motion carried (7-0).

School Board Committees: The School Board Chair will appoint the School Board Committees.

School Board Member Right to Employment: Motion by B. McGeary, second by P. Carruth to approve Gary Williams to continue employment by the school district, with compensation not to exceed \$8,000. Motion carried (6-0). Gary Williams abstained.

Motion by B. McGeary, second by J. Berens to approve Eric Peterson to continue employment by the school district, with compensation not to exceed \$8,000. Motion carried (6-0). Eric Peterson abstained.

MSHSL Return to Sport Policy: Activities Director Garrett Schmidt presented the MSHSL (Minnesota State High School League) Return to Sport Policy. The MSHSL has released a return to play policy for athletes that test positive for COVID-19 during the season. The MSHSL strongly recommends this policy.

Motion by E. Peterson, second by B. McGeary to approve the MSHSL Return to Sport Policy for an athlete who tests positive for COVID-19. A doctor and parent must sign off for the athlete to return to competition after ten days and a parent needs to sign off for return to competition after 17 days. Motion carried (7-0).

Future Meetings:

Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, January 11, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria

Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, February 8, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria

Adjournment:

Motion by B. McGeary, second by E. Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. Motion carried (7-0).

Mary KW Langan, Clerk