

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, April 20, 2020 - 5:30 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair Brian Samuelson. Members present: Jim Berens, Bill McGeary, Mary KW Langan, Eric Peterson, Brian Samuelson, Paul Carruth, and Gary Williams. Members absent: None.

Also present: Dennis Laumeyer, Mike Knutson, Brad Johnson, Katie Foley, Lori Eix, Ryan Breitbach, Garrett Schmidt, Brennan Kent, Kathy Ahrndt, Kim Saterbak.

Teleconference Meetings: Chair B. Samuelson stated that board approval is required to hold virtual school board meetings due to the federal, state, county and city emergency declarations.

Motion by P. Carruth, second by B. McGeary to teleconference and hold virtual board meetings. Roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor: G. Williams, J. Berens, M. KW Langan, E. Petersen, B. McGeary, P. Carruth, B. Samuelson and none voting against. Motion carried (7-0).

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by P. Carruth, second by M. KW Langan to approve the agenda. Roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor: P. Carruth, B. McGeary, E. Peterson, M. KW Langan, J. Berens, G. Williams, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Citizens Comments: Chair B. Samuelson read an email from Kerry Wilcox. Kerry thanked the school board for their efforts in making the new activity center a reality. The gymnastics program is excited for this opportunity to train in a new building. Your work as school board members often goes unnoticed and is often criticized, but after witnessing firsthand the amount of work and dedication you put forth for our district's students, I hope you know that there are people like myself who do appreciate you. This board has now become a part of BKMS gymnastics history.

Consent Agenda Items: Minutes for the March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting; April 6, 2020 Work Session Meeting; March 20 2020 Payroll in the amount of \$717,537.70; Bills and Handchecks in the amount of \$2,326,253.51; Approval of resignations: Mackenzie Dokkebakken – 9th grade Volleyball, Jason Wolter – 9/10th Grade Assistant Football. Approval of retirement: Rosemary Petersen – Paraprofessional.

Motion by B. McGeary, second by E. Peterson to approve consent agenda items as presented. Roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor: J. Berens, M. KW Langan, E. Peterson, B. McGeary, P. Carruth, G. Williams, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Progress Reports:

PK-5, Brad Johnson: Brad thanked Rosy Petersen for 30 years of service as a Paraprofessional; Construction crews have abated the hallways at Northside and are working on the cafeteria; Thank you goes out to the staff these past three weeks of Distance Learning. For the most part, Distance Learning is going well. A parent survey was sent out with approximately 160 families responding. Very positive responses and most were doing well. A staff survey was also sent out. Staff are working with students and families at different times of the day. An estimate of 3-4% of students haven't started Distance Learning. Administration and staff continue to contact families to help get students caught up.

6-12, Mike Knutson: Distance Learning is going well; We're looking at graduation options for May 17th; Counselor Jason Strand and Principal Knutson are working on the 6-12 grade schedule for 2020-2021; ACT is postponed to June 2, 2020; Zoom staff meetings and professional trainings are taking place; The Technology Committee will meet again via Zoom at the end of April to continue to work on a long term technology plan for the district; Due to construction quickly progressing, teachers have packed up their classrooms and materials; Thank you to our maintenance and custodial crews, meal packing and distribution staff, Dennis and administrative staff and the school board for the work that has been done during this unique time.

Financial Report, Katie Foley: Katie continues to work on the FY21 budget; Our current school auditors are stepping away from auditing school districts. A Request for Proposal was sent out to school audit firms.

Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeyer: The Governor's Executive Order has schools closed until April 30th. Schools open for teachers on May 1 and May 4 to prepare for students to return on May 5th. This is currently what is in effect; Dance, summer activities, Pioneerland Band Festival, band trip to Colorado and band parades are up in the air at this time; We celebrate and support our staff. 150 students have received emergency childcare, 25,000 meals served in the past 19 days, Distance Learning overall has been positive; Discovery Kids is at 50% capacity due to Covid-19, Staffing has been adjusted, 1 licensed teacher on site, Discovery Kids received a \$12,500 Peace Time Emergency Grant to help out; The Minnesota legislature has been in session and must end by May 18th; Construction is moving along. At this time crews are several weeks ahead of schedule; Maintenance and custodial crews are working hard and we thank them for keeping ahead of the construction crews; Katie and Dennis are revising the budget to be conservative.

Board Committee Reports: No committee reports.

Old Business:

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

Construction Projects: Superintendent Laumeyer presented items that have been identified as projects to complete.

Estimates are that about \$850,000 will be realized from interest earnings on the construction bonds. A discussion was held. Motion by G. Williams, second by J. Berens to approve finishing the high school science room, preschool playground base, a backup fuel supply tank and a new district phone/paging/bell system. Roll call vote was taken. Voting in Favor: M. KW Langan, E. Peterson, B. McGeary, P. Carruth, G. Williams, J. Berens, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Superintendent Mid Year Evaluation: Chair B. Samuelson read a summary of the mid-year superintendent evaluation.

New Business:

400 Policy Series: This is the first reading on Policies 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410 based on changes recommended by MSBA to meet law.

Canvass Election Results: Motion by B. McGeary, second by M. KW Langan to certify canvassing the April 14, 2020 Bond Referendum Special Election results of 671 yes votes and 191 no votes. Roll call vote was taken. Voting in Favor: E. Peterson, B. McGeary, P. Carruth, G. Williams, J. Berens, M. KW Langan, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

FFE Budget: The FFE (Furniture, Fixtures and Electronics) budget is \$250,000. The furniture order is \$203,000. The remainder of the budget would be used toward technology in conjunction with other funds. Most spaces will reuse existing furniture in offices and classrooms.

Motion by G. Williams, second by M. KW Langan to approve a \$203,000 furniture budget. Roll call vote was taken. Voting in Favor: G. Williams, J. Berens, M. KW Langan, E. Peterson, B. McGeary, P. Carruth, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

District Technology Committee: Principals Johnson and Knutson gave a progress report on the District Technology Committee meetings. The next technology committee virtual meeting will be held next week.

Gymnastics Bids: Bids were opened on April 16th for the gymnastics/activity facility. Bids came in higher than estimated. Bids are good for 60 days. A discussion was held.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by J. Berens to have the board gymnastics committee work with the construction manager and architects and bring a recommendation to the board on May 11th. Roll call vote was taken. Voting in Favor: B. McGeary, E. Peterson, M. KW Langan, J. Berens, G. Williams, P. Carruth, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Donations:

Northside Auxiliary Account: \$40 Laura Larson
Discovery Kids Used Toys: \$32.50 Miscellaneous
Patrick Weber Memorial Scholarship: \$400 Beatrice Weber
Open Gym Sponsor: \$50 Swift County Benson Hospital
Discovery Kids Grant: \$25,000 Robert Sonsteng Foundation 2020 Grant
Kelly (Svor) Fuhrman Musical Scholarship: \$500 Svor Family Farms
Motion by E. Peterson, second by J. Berens to accept the donations made to the district. Roll call vote was taken. Voting in Favor: G. Williams, J. Berens, M. KW Langan, E. Peterson, B. McGeary, P. Carruth, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Future Meetings:

Regular School Board Meeting - Monday, May 11, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Location TBD
Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, June 8, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Location TBD

Adjournment:

Motion by P. Carruth, second by J. Berens to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Roll call vote was taken. Voting in Favor: E. Peterson, B. McGeary, P. Carruth, G. Williams, J. Berens, M. KW Langan, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Mary KW Langan, Clerk