

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, September 13, 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, Gary Williams, Paul Carruth, Mary KW Langan and James Berens. Members absent: Eric Peterson. Also present: Dennis Laumeier, Mike Knutson, Garrett Schmidt, Katie Foley, Lori Eix, Reed Anfinson, Eric Ose, Aimee Thalberg, Crystal Erickson, Joyce Walstad, Mike Felt, Abby Ver Steeg.

Additions to the Agenda: Addition to 6.4 Approval of Personnel.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by M. KW Langan, second by B. McGeary to approve the agenda. Motion carried (6-0).

Introduce New Teachers: Supt. Laumeier introduced the following new teachers: Joyce Walstad – Special Education; Aimee Thalberg – Business Education; Crystal Erickson – Special Education; Mike Felt – Physical Education; Abby Ver Steeg – Elementary Education.

Citizens Comments: None.

Consent Agenda Items: Minutes for the August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting; August 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$698,775.48; Bills and hand checks in the amount of \$737,036.37; Approval of Personnel: Mallory Felt – Social Worker and District Assessment Coordinator, 0.7 FTE; Christopher Ebnet – Instructional Assistant; Shelby Arnold – Instructional Assistant; Kristi Hengtgen – Special Education Teacher Long Term Substitute; Krista Kurkosky – Paraprofessional; Nayeli Mejia Umana – Paraprofessional; Talissa Higdon – Paraprofessional; Brian Turner – Custodian; **Winter Coaches:** Head Boys Hockey - Jeremiah Day; Head Girls Hockey - Coleton Anderson; Head Boys Basketball – Mike Felt; Asst. Boys Basketball - Brady Dokkebakken; C Squad Boys Basketball – Adam Jensen; JH Basketball - Josh Manzke; Head Girls Basketball - Adam Foslien; Asst. Girls Basketball - Jeff Guest; C Squad Girls Basketball - Scott Lee; JH Girls Basketball - John Reardon; Head Wrestling - Scott Thompson; Asst. Wrestling - Jason Rothers; Head Gymnastics - Kathy Ahrndt; Asst. Gymnastics - Julie Carroll; JH Gymnastics - Kristina Oble; Speech - Beth Halvorson; FFA - Jeanne Anderson; Snow Week Co Advisors - Tina Knutson and Stacy Kurkosky; Resignations: Tiffany Kobbermann – Instructional Assistant; Shane Grussing – Paraprofessional; Vanessa Gonzales – Paraprofessional; Jodi Strand – Paraprofessional; Grant Ascherman – JH Wrestling; Leave Requests: Eric Ose – Heartland Girls Ranch Teacher; Student Activities annual Reporting July 1, 2021 – September 9, 2021.

Motion by B. McGeary, second by G. Williams to approve consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried (6-0).

Transfer of Funds: Director of Finance Katie Foley presented Resolution 2021-11 Fund Transfer requesting the transfer of \$19,920.83 from Fund 06 Construction Fund to Fund 07 Debt Service in accordance with the bond documents.

Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to approve Resolution 2021-11 Fund Transfer in the amount of \$19,920.83 from Fund 06 Construction Fund to Fund 07 Debt Service in accordance with the bond documents.

Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: B. McGeary, J. Berens, P. Carruth, G. Williams, M. KW Langan, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (6-0).

Progress Reports:

PK-5, Garrett Schmidt: Principal Schmidt reported that routines are being adjusted as we begin the school year with new spaces and new staff members; AC units are working well and appreciated; Northside is now fully staffed and paraprofessional positions have been filled; Kindergarten classrooms are big. This is a microcosm of students being held back last year due to COVID-19; The track is planned to be lined on September 24th.

6-12, Mike Knutson: Thank you to the school board members for attending the workshop day and feeding school staff; Chromebooks are distributed to all students needing devices; Open Lunch Forms: Students have been good about getting the forms in and a Google Form is sent daily to students with one question for the sign out; September 13-17 – BHS Homecoming Week; September 17 – Nature Day at Ambush Park for 5th and 6th grade students; September 23 – ASVAB test for all Juniors; October 13 – PSAT for eligible students; October 20 – MRVED Common In-Service Day – Jon Gordon will be speaking.

Financial Report, Katie Foley: Business Office staff are busy completing new staff paperwork; Final pay application for the high school and gymnastics has been completed; Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) approved using ESSER II and ESSER III funds for windows and air units at Northside Elementary School; The audit went well. The auditors will be coming back in the next couple of weeks. The auditors will be testing the Summer Food Service program during the school year; MDE continues to work on the Title I application process; The \$20 meal application incentive process is going well.

Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeier: It was a great start to the school year. Thank you to all staff for kicking off a terrific new school year; Van Drivers: In addition to the school buses, the district sends out four vans each morning. We are fortunate to have dedicated drivers. It is challenging finding drivers and subs for all of these routes; Discovery Kids: Classrooms are full. We have caring and committed staff, but are finding challenges filling roles; The district is looking at different ways to recruit staff for these positions.

Board Committee Reports: None.

Old Business:

2021-2023 Master Agreement: The BEA has ratified the tentative Teacher Contract with a total package, two year increase of 6.8%.

Motion by B. McGeary, second by M. KW Langan to approve the 2021-2023 Master Agreement with a total package, two year increase of 6.8%. Motion carried (6-0).

Strategic Planning: At the August meeting the board discussed the draft community, staff and student survey to gather feedback from the public. Minnesota River Valley Education District (MRVED) Director Karen Jacobson has made the requested revisions. Karen and Supt. Laumeier have reviewed the survey and a pilot survey has been completed by a few people to make sure questions are understandable, flow and do not replicate. Dennis will send the pilot survey to board members to complete and discuss the draft survey at the October board meeting.

New Business:

500 Policy Series: This is the first reading on Policies 523, 524, 524FRM, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 529FRM, 530, 530FRM, 531, 532, 535, 535FRM based on changes recommended by MSBA to meet law.

Fund Transfer Finance Code 317: The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is allowing districts a one time opportunity for FY20 and FY21 to transfer funds from selected restricted funds to general unassigned fund. This is an opportunity for the district to have more flexibility in how the funds are spent. Finance Director Katie Foley and Supt. Laumeier presented a resolution regarding a fund transfer in the amount of \$371,634.77 from fund 01-441-014 to 017 (Basic Skills) to fund 01-422-000 (Unassigned).

Motion by P. Carruth, second by J. Berens to pass the Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Transfer Resolution No. 2021-07 in the amount of \$371,634.77 from fund 01-441-014 to 017 (Basic Skills) to fund 01-422-000 (Unassigned). Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: P. Carruth, J. Berens, B. McGeary, M. KW Langan, G. Williams, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (6-0).

Fund Transfer Finance Code 309: Finance Director Katie Foley and Supt. Laumeyer presented a resolution regarding a fund transfer in the amount of \$27,028 from fund 01-459-001 (Basic Skills Extended Time) to fund 01-422-000 (Unassigned). Motion by M. KW Langan, second by B. McGeary to pass the Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Transfer Resolution No. 2021-08 in the amount of \$27,028 from fund 01-459-001 (Basic Skills Extended Time) to fund 01-422-000 (Unassigned). Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: J. Berens, B. McGeary, M. KW Langan, G. Williams, P. Carruth, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (6-0).

Fund Transfer Finance Code 388: Finance Director Katie Foley and Supt. Laumeyer presented a resolution regarding a fund transfer in the amount of \$60,152.11 from fund 01-438-000 (Gifted and Talented) to fund 01-422-000 (Unassigned). Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to pass the Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Transfer Resolution No. 2021-09 in the amount of \$60,152.11 from fund 01-438-000 (Gifted and Talented) to fund 01-422-000 (Unassigned). Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: B. McGeary, M. KW Langan, G. Williams, P. Carruth, J. Berens, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (6-0).

Fund Transfer Finance Code 303: Finance Director Katie Foley and Supt. Laumeyer presented a resolution regarding a fund transfer in the amount of \$44,482.54 from fund 01-434-000 (Area Learning Center - ALC) to fund 01-422-000 (Unassigned). Motion by B. McGeary, second by J. Berens to pass the Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Transfer Resolution No. 2021-10 in the amount of \$44,482.54 from fund 01-434-000 (Area Learning Center - ALC) to fund 01-422-000 (Unassigned). Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: M. KW Langan, G. Williams, P. Carruth, J. Berens, B. McGeary, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (6-0).

SWWC Board of Directors: Board Chair Brian Samuelson has expressed an interest in being a candidate for a seat on the SWWC Cooperative Board of Directors. According to the SWWC by-laws, nomination papers on behalf of a candidate for a member of the board of directors should be made by petition signed by a majority of the member school board. A resolution will be passed to each board member for consideration of signing. Should a majority of the board sign the resolution, then it is considered passed and the completed resolution nomination form is sent to the SWWC Cooperative.

Donations: Discovery Kids: \$187.36 Anonymous; Benson Athletics: \$25 Lilla (Forbord) Talge – In Memory of Kris Gulsvig; Agnes & Esther Vogel Scholarship: \$1,500 Eileen Sytsma; Craig Johnson Scholarship: \$50 Karen & Mike Ylinen; Performing Arts Center Fund: \$20 Leslie Honebrink; Weightroom: \$250 Mark Frank Insurance; \$500 Lange Associates; \$300 Northside Automotive; \$150 State Bank of Danvers; \$1,500 Glacial Plains; \$1,000 Co-Op Credit Union Motion by B. McGeary, second by G. Williams to pass Resolution 2021-06 to accept the donations made to the district. Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: G. Williams, P. Carruth, J. Berens, B. McGeary, M. KW Langan, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (6-0).

Future Meetings:

Special School Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 7:30 a.m., BHS Conference Room

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

Negotiations Strategy: The board discussed the process for a new superintendent contract. The Administrative Committee will meet with the superintendent and bring a contract proposal to the board.

Adjournment:

Motion by B. McGeary, second by G. Williams to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Motion carried (6-0).

Mary KW Langan, Clerk