

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, June 12, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. – Northside Elementary School Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Brian Samuelson. Members present: Brian Samuelson, Mary KW Langan, Bill McGeary, Jim Berens, Eric Peterson, Paul Carruth. Members absent: Gary Williams. Also present: Dennis Laumeyer, Jessica Harris, Brennan Kent, Katie Foley, Reed Anfinson, and Colleen Oehlberg.

Additions to the Agenda: Under Approval of Personnel – 5.4.1

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

Citizens Comments: None

Consent Agenda Items: Minutes for the May 8, 2023, Regular School Board Meeting; Payroll in the amount of \$852,079.31; Bills in the amount of \$229,435.12; Appointments: Andrew Naseth – Music/Choir Teacher; Alex Amundson – HR/Payroll; Stacey Anders: Elementary Teacher; Kristi Hengtgen – Early Childhood Special Education Teacher; 2023-2024 MSHSL (MN State High School League) membership renewal; 2023-2024 MREA (MN Rural Education Association) membership renewal; 2023- 2024 MSBA (MN School Board Association) membership renewal; Approval of Superintendent Dennis Laumeyer to be designated the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for the 2023-2024 school year; Student Activities -FY23 thru May.

Motion by J. Berens, second by P. Carruth to approve consent agenda items with the exception of approval of appointments, which will be discussed under Approval of Personnel - 5.4.1 Motion carried (6-0).

Approval of Personnel: The Board asked questions about the applicant's background and experience. Motion by M. KW Langan, second by J. Berens to approve appointment of personnel. Motion carried (6-0).

Progress Reports:

PK-5, Brennan Kent: Principal Kent provided a recap of the 2022-2023 school year; PBIS program update; Summer Programs at Northside: June 12-30.

6-12, Mike Knutson: Principal Jessica Harris stated all teaching positions are currently filled for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year; The 2023-2024 student handbook is being reviewed and updated. Principal Knutson, through correspondence, thanked Dennis laumeyer, the staff and the board members for all of their hard work and support during his time as 6-12 Principal.

Financial Report, Katie Foley: Director of Finance, Katie Foley, stated the business office has seen an increase in unemployment requests; The business office has finished health insurance open enrollment and are preparing for the new fiscal year.

Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeyer: Supt. Laumeyer provided a Legislative update – 74 chapters of new law were signed into law, which include major E-12 budget and policy bills; Supt. Laumeyer thanked Jason and Hoss for keeping our school grounds looking good.

Board Learning: Supt. Laumeyer shared the e-learning survey results – very positive feedback, parents would like to continue with e-learning.

Board Committee Reports: The Budget Committee met and discussed the operating levy renewal.

Old Business:

FY24 Preliminary Budget: Director of Finance, Katie Foley, Presented the FY24 Preliminary Budget. Motion by B. McGeary, second by P. Carruth to approve the FY 24 Budget as presented. Motion carried (6-0).

Mascot Bill: Discussion was held about the American Indian Mascot Prohibition Bill. MDE has yet to release information and guidance on this new bill. This item will be on the July agenda

New Business:

LTFM (Long Term Facilities Maintenance): MN School Districts are required to annually approve a 10 year LTFM application plan to receive LTFM funds. Discussion took place of some of the projected maintenance projects. The board will take action on the LTFNM plan at the July board meeting.

Public Comment on Operating Levy Renewal by School Board: The board paused the meeting at 6:05 pm for public comment. No public comments were given.

Operating Levy Renewal Board Authority: The legislature passed a law giving school boards the authority to renew an expiring operating levy. The law states that a school board can only renew an operating levy for the same amount and the same number of years. Motion by B. McGeary, second by J. Berens to use board authority to renew the operating levy for the terms of the expiring operating levy. Voting in favor: P. Carruth, J. Berens, E. Peterson, B. McGeary, M. LW Langan and Brian Samuelson. Voting against: none. Motion carried (6-0).

Milk Bids: Supt. Laumeyer presented the milk bid summary from Food Service Director, Connie Evenson. Two escalating bids were received. The board awarded the low milk bid to Stony Creek Dairy, with a bid of \$47,594.06, for the 23-24 school year. Motion by B. McGeary, second by M. LW Langan to accept the Stony Creek milk bid as presented. Motion carried (6-0).

Northside Elementary School Handbook: Brennan Kent presented the first reading of the 2023-2024 NS student handbook.

Donations: Benson High School General: \$35 Danvers Fire Department; Daniel Hughes Scholarship: \$1000 Jeena Hughes; Performing Arts Center: \$250 Loen Electric; Thomas Patrick Weber Scholarship: \$150 Curtis & Rebekah Zivicki; Tom Petersen Scholarship: \$1500 Rose Anne Petersen; Megan Graham Scholarship: \$500 Rose Anne Petersen; General Union Nursing Scholarship: \$500 AFSCME Council 65 Local 2053; Jerry Ellingson Scholarship: \$100 Marilyn Anderson; Benson FFA: \$230 Ridley USA Inc; Benson FFA: \$250 Christensen Farms; Discovery Kids: \$15,863.32 First Children's; Benson

Golf: \$100 Medicine Shoppe; Benson Boys Basketball: \$100 Medicine Shoppe; Community Ed Morning Baseball/Softball: \$2,000 MN Twins Community Fund; Performing Arts Center: \$200 Dooley's Petroleum.

Motion by J. Berens, second by P. Carruth, to pass Resolution 2023-08 to accept the donations with thanks made to the district. Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: G. Williams, M. KW Langan, B. McGeary, J. Berens, and B. Samuelson. Motion carried (5-0).

Year End Superintendent Review: The board went into closed session at 7:12 pm for purposes of completion the year-end Superintendent Review. Motion by M. LW Langan, second by P. Carruth to go into closed session to complete the year-end Superintendent elevation. Motion carried (6-0).

Motion by B. McGeary, second by E. Peterson to end the closed session at 7:52 pm to complete the year-end Superintendent review. Motion carried (6-0).

Future Meetings:

Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, July 17, 2023, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria

Adjournment:

Motion by M. KW Langan, second by J. Berens, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried (6-0).

Mary KW Langan, Clerk