

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, November 8, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. – Northside Elementary School Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Brian Samuelson. Members present: Brian Samuelson, Gary Williams, Paul Carruth, Mary KW Langan, Eric Peterson and James Berens. Members absent: Bill McGeary. Also present: Dennis Laumeier, Mike Knutson, Garrett Schmidt, Katie Foley, Lori Eix, Reed Anfinson, Mallory Felt.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to approve the agenda. Motion carried (6-0).

Citizens Comments: None.

Consent Agenda Items: Minutes for the October 11, 2021 Regular Meeting; October 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$806,569.14; Bills and hand checks in the amount of \$240,549.62; Approval of Appointments: Jeanne Martz - Food Service; Kristin Wagner – Heartland Girls Ranch Teacher

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

Progress Reports:

PK-5, Garrett Schmidt: The First Trimester is at the end of November; Targeted Services have started for grades 1-3 and grades 4-5 will start in January; Twelve students in grades 3-5 attended the SMSU Young Writers Conference on October 27; New Lockers will be installed at Northside over winter break; Principal Schmidt provided an activities update.

6-12, Mike Knutson: MN Gopher Football Coach PJ Fleck will be the featured speaker at the MRVED Spring Conference on April 14, 2022 which will be held at Benson High School in the PAC; November 9 – NHS Induction Ceremony in the PAC; Jon Gordon spoke via virtual connection in the PAC on October 20 to MRVED schools; Hannah Helms and Elise Duncan competed at the State Individual Tennis Tournament representing BKMS on October 28; Carson Thorson and Aimee Thalberg are in the process of revamping our Benson Schools website; November 11 – Veterans Day Program in the PAC; November 19 – Early Dismissal for Trimester/Workshop; November 23 – BHS Teacher evening workshop; November 24-26 – Thanksgiving Break; November 29 – End of Trimester; December 6 – 6-12 grade band concerts; December 13 – 7-12 grade choir concert; December 23 – January 3 – Winter Break; January 14 – End of Semester 1 – Early Dismissal; January 17 – No School for Students – MRVED Melt workshop at LQPV High School.

Financial Report, Katie Foley: Katie and Mackenzie have the opportunity to attend a virtual Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) conference; Katie is finishing up applications for Title, ESSER III and several other funds; Colleen Oehlberg will attend payroll training this week; Business office staff are working on calendar year end items; Katie is starting budget revisions for 2021-2022; The audit is reported to the State Auditor by December 31, 2021.

Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeier: Supt. Laumeier provided a Covid-19 update; Strategic Plan Survey: We're in the process of organizing an advertising campaign to get as many people as possible to complete the survey. Advertising will be through email, newspaper, mail, website, Facebook and utilizing a survey link and QR code for flyers and the newspaper; BHS Signs: Permits have been approved by the planning commission. We're working with MNDOT on the location of the cabinet light sign by highway 9. Electrical is scheduled to be installed this Tuesday and then the concrete base will be poured before the ground freezes; NS Lockers: Lockers were ordered in March. They are scheduled to arrive soon and installation is scheduled over winter break, starting on December 27th; Dennis introduced School Social Worker Mallory Felt.

Board Committee Reports: The administrative committee report will be presented under new business agenda items 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4.

Old Business:

Northside Window Bids: Earlier this year the school board approved expending ESSER II funds to replace windows at Northside Elementary. The base bid includes replacing all windows at Northside (other than the new construction windows), plus the remaining three windows at Benson High School (two science rooms and the art room). The alternate bid is to replace all four old entrance doors at Northside. The additional funds for the project will come from ESSER III and Long Term Facility Maintenance (LTFM) funds. Bids came in lower than estimated. Senior Project Manager Ahmed AbuAied recommends accepting the low base bid and low alternate bid from Val Pro Windows, LLC in the amount of \$537,418. Motion by M. KW Langan, second by P. Carruth to accept the low base bid and low alternate bid from Val Pro Windows, LLC in the amount of \$537,418. Motion carried (6-0).

New Business:

600 Policy Series: This is the first reading on Policies 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609 based on changes recommended by MSBA to meet law.

2021-2023 Principal Contract: The administrative committee is recommending a 2.5% and 2.25% salary increase for FY22 and FY23. This is a total package increase of 7.9%.

Motion by G. Williams, second by M. KW Langan to approve the 2021-2023 Principal Contract at a total package increase of 7.9%. Motion carried (6-0).

2021-2023 Director of Finance Contract: The administrative committee is recommending a 5% and 5% salary increase for FY22 and FY23 and a 403(b) match increase to \$1,500 in FY22 and \$2,100 in FY23. This is a total package increase of 10.6%.

Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to approve the 2021-2023 Director of Finance Contract at a total package increase of 10.6%. Motion carried (5-1 with J. Berens voting no).

Superintendent Contract: The administrative committee is recommending a 3% salary increase for FY22, FY23 and FY24. This is a total three-year package increase of 8.7%.

Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to approve the Superintendent Contract at a total three-year package increase of 8.7%. Motion carried (6-0).

Donations: Northside Library: \$5,000 Grant from Galen Hanson Foundation; Concessions Fund: \$300 Zielsdorf Auction & Real Estate Service; Wrestling Equipment: \$4,000 Patrick's Pub; NS Rec Area Improvement: \$5,000 Benson Area Community Foundation; Dr Dish – Basketball Program: \$5,000 Benson Area Community Foundation; Performing Arts Council: \$20,000 Benson Area Community Foundation.

Motion by P. Carruth, second by M. KW Langan to pass Resolution 2021-15 to accept the donations made to the district. Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: J. Berens, P. Carruth, E. Peterson, M. KW Langan, G. Williams, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (6-0).

Future Meetings:

School Board Work Session – Monday, December 6, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria

Truth in Taxation Hearing – Monday, December 6, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria

Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, December 13, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria

Organizational School Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria

Adjournment:

Motion by J. Berens, second by P. Carruth to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. Motion carried (6-0).