MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, September 14, 2020 - 5:30 p.m. – Northside Elementary School Cafeteria & Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. by Chair Brian Samuelson. Members present: Paul Carruth, Mary KW Langan, Bill McGeary, Eric Peterson, Brian Samuelson, Gary Williams. James Berens joined the meeting via zoom at 5:48 p.m. Members absent: None.
Also present: Dennis Laumeyer, Mike Knutson, Garrett Schmidt, Katie Foley, Lori Eix, Ryan Breitbach, Brennan Kent, Jason McVinua, Karl Manska.
Additions to the Agenda: None.
Approval of Agenda: Motion by B. McGeary, second by P. Carruth to approve the agenda. Motion carried (6-0).
Citizens Comments: None.
Consent Agenda Items: Minutes for the August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting; August 20, 2020 Payroll in the amount of $212,727.18; August 20, 2020 Payoff Payroll in the amount of $422,053.29; Bills and hand checks in the amount of $5,082,993.91; Approval of Appointments/Reassignments: Brittany Flannigan – Paraprofessional; Megan McCarty – Art Teacher; Vanessa Trinkle – Custodian; Sarah Antolick – Long Term Substitute ECSE; Approval of Resignations: Shanda Edmunds – Paraprofessional; Tammy Miller – Food Service; Approval of Retirements: Rhonda Schwendemann – Instructional Assistant; Student Activity Accounts: Approval of Braves Card football fundraiser.
Motion by G. Williams, second by E. Peterson to approve consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried (7-0).
Progress Reports:
PK-5, Garrett Schmidt: Dean of Students Schmidt commented on Benson Schools wonderful staff and how they have been resilient during these uncertain times; Garrett provided an update on Distance Learning.
6-12, Mike Knutson: Principal Knutson remarked on how flexible and accommodating the staff have been; Mike gave an update on In-Person Learning, Students are spread out six feet or more, Lunch is going smoother, Staff are cleaning, spraying down classrooms and wiping things down; Mike provided an update on devices, Originally the Chromebooks were supposed to arrive late August/early September, Now the estimated timeline to receive Chromebooks is the end of November.
Financial Report, Katie Foley: Business Office staff are getting ready for the audit and single audit.
Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeyer: Supt. Laumeyer provided an update on school re-opening, Students and staff are doing a great job, It's great to have students back in school and students are happy to be back; Cleaning staff have done an amazing job; School Nursing staff are working extra hours to keep up with COVID related requirements.
Board Committee Reports: None.
Old Business:
Construction Update: Construction Manager Ryan Breitbach provided a construction and budget update.
Snow Removal Proposal: Maintenance staff proposed the option for the school district to consider purchasing snow removal equipment and having in-house maintenance staff do the snow removal. The board has three options for snow removal: 1) Contract snow removal, 2) Rent snow removal equipment or 3) Purchase snow removal equipment. A discussion was held.
Motion by G. Williams, second by B. McGeary to approve purchasing two skidsteer loaders, a bucket and broom attachment not to exceed $100,000. Motion carried (7-0).
400 Policy Series: This is the second reading on Policies 418, 418FRM, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 427 based on changes recommended by MSBA to meet law.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by G. Williams to adopt policies 418, 418FRM, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 427 based on changes recommended by MSBA to meet law. Motion carried (7-0).
Superintendent Evaluation Summary: Chair Brian Samuelson read a summary of the year end superintendent evaluation.
2020-2021 Goals: Supt. Laumeyer presented the 2020-2021 Board and Superintendent Goals.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by M. KW Langan to approve the Board and Superintendent Goals 2020-2021. Motion carried (7-0).
New Business:
Designation of Identified Official: The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires that school districts annually designate an Identified Official with Authority to comply with the MNIT Enterprise Identity and Access Management Standard which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually.
Motion by M. KW Langan, second by P. Carruth to authorize Superintendent Dennis Laumeyer to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Benson Schools, ISD #777. Motion carried (7-0).
Levy Certification: Director of Finance Katie Foley presented the preliminary payable 2021 Levy Certification.
Motion by B. McGeary, second by G. Williams to approve the maximum pay 2021 levy as presented. Motion carried (7-0).
MSHSL Membership Fee: Supt. Laumeyer presented the MSHSL increase in membership fees for the 2020-2021 school year. The options are to pay the fee or not pay the fee and not be a member of the MSHSL. The board would like Dennis and Activities Director Garrett Schmidt to reach out to other school districts to see what their plans are regarding the increase in fees.
Donations:
$8,500 State of Minnesota / Discovery Kids Covid Grant
$100 Class of 1964 Scholarship (Diane Jansen)
$12,000 CNH Industrial-Benson DK Grant
$12,000 Robert Sonsteng Foundation
$8,500 DHS-Peter Stahley / Discovery Kids Covid Crant
$2,500 Americans Farmers Grow Communities Donation from Bayer Fund on behalf of Swift County Farmer Alicia Schliep.
Grand Piano Donations: $100 Katie Reardon; $200 Bruce Holgate; $200 Vonnie Connelly; $20 Ron Hanson; $100 Maxine Hofstedt; $100 Gary Williams; $200 Maanum Family – Estate of Con and Lyla Maanum (Merilyn Maanum Trustee); $50 Crystal Bakke; $100 Donna Weber
Motion by M. KW Langan, second by P. Carruth to accept the donations made to the district. Motion carried (7-0).
Future Meetings:
Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, October 12, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Location – Northside Elementary Cafeteria
Regular School Board Meeting – Monday, November 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Location – Northside Elementary Cafeteria
Adjournment:
Motion by B. McGeary, second by P. Carruth to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried (7-0).

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Mary KW Langan, Clerk