MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777, Benson, Minnesota
Monday, November 09, 2020 - 5:30 p.m. – Northside Elementary School Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chair Brian Samuelson. Members present: Paul Carruth, Mary KW Langan, Eric Peterson, Brian Samuelson, Gary Williams. James Berens and Bill McGeary joined the meeting via Zoom. Members absent: None.
Also present: Dennis Laumeyer, Mike Knutson, Garrett Schmidt, Katie Foley, Lori Eix, Ryan Breitbach, Brian Koehn, Reed Anfinson, Brennan Kent, Maggie Grothe, Melanie Wirth, Lexi Thompson, Gabby Miller, Amber Rosemeier, Maranda Wieber and others.
Additions to the Agenda: None.
Approval of Agenda: Motion by E. Peterson, second by M. KW Langan to approve the agenda. Motion carried (7-0).
Citizens Comments: None.
Consent Agenda Items: Minutes for the October 12, 2020 Regular Meeting with the following changes under Annual Approval of Coaches/Advisors Procedure: The board directed the Activities Committee to meet with Activities Director Garrett Schmidt to bring a recommendation for timeline to bring coach and advisor hires to the board for approval. Motion carried (5-1); October 20, 2020 Payroll in the amount of $703,383.21; Bills and hand checks in the amount of $2,235,553.19; Approval of Appointments: Laurie Hanson – Paraprofessional; Elisa Gonzalez – Paraprofessional.
Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to approve consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried (7-0).
FY20 Audit Presentation: Brian Koehn, CPA presented the FY20 preliminary audit results.
Motion by M. KW Langan, second by E. Peterson to accept the FY20 Audit for Benson Public Schools as presented. Motion carried (7-0).
Progress Reports:
PK-5, Garrett Schmidt: Dean of Students Schmidt commented that staff are providing more one on one learning with students on the Friday early out days. Small groups of students are working with Paraprofessionals. A part time Special Education teacher is now full time to meet the needs of special education students. An additional paraprofessional was hired; The new cafeteria was used for indoor recess for the first time. The space is a great addition for students.
6-12, Mike Knutson: November 6, 2020 was end of quarter one; Principal Knutson is working with staff on the E-Learning day framework to be used rather than snow days. Staff have completed surveys regarding E-Learning days; Mr. Ricard has created a video for the Veteran's Day program which will be on our school website and Facebook page for the community to watch. Thank you to Steve Ricard, Peggy Bausman, Don Brehmer, Kenny Hanson and Zoe Doscher for their efforts in creating the Veteran's Day program; Chromebook Bags are expected the second week in November. Legacy Printing in Benson will be embroidering the "B" logo on the bags. Student Chromebooks delivery is expected the third week in November. Teacher Chromebooks have been distributed. Mr. Ricard used his Chromebook to record the Veteran's Day speaker and introduction; Friday, November 13th is picture retake day for the high school.
Financial Report, Katie Foley: Katie is working on the Truth in Taxation presentation; Work has been started on FY21 and FY22 budgets; Covid-19 Funds must be used by December 31, 2020.
Superintendent Report, Dennis Laumeyer: Supt. Laumeyer clarified that E-Learning is not the same as Distance Leaning. E-Learning days would be used to replace snow days. Parents and students would be notified of an E-Learning day two hours prior. Administration are working on an E-Learning plan and will present the plan at the December 7th board meeting; Supt. Laumeyer provided a current Covid-19 update; Thank you to Mary Langan, Gary Williams, Eric Peterson, Bill McGeary and Kelly Michaelson for stepping up to serve on the Benson School Board. A special school board meeting will be held on November 13, 2020 to canvass the election results.
Board Committee Reports: None.
Old Business:
Construction Update: Construction Manager Ryan Breitbach provided a construction and budget update.
500 Policy Series: A second reading on Policies 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 506 Form, 507, 508, 509 based on changes recommended by MSBA to meet law was tabled to the December board meeting for more information on policy 506.
Motion by J. Berens, second by E. Peterson to table the 500 Policies to the December board meeting. Motion carried (7-0).
B-KMS Cooperative Activities: Benson School Board Activities Committee and KMS Activities Committee continued discussions on a Cooperative Activity Fair Share Fee. Coop activities are girls/boys tennis, girls/boys cross country, gymnastics and girls/boys track. Currently Benson has all of the facilities for the cooperative and pays all of the money to maintain the facilities. Benson taxpayers pay this amount. Benson and KMS share the operation costs of coaches, transportation and materials for each sport. KMS pays to transport their athletes to Benson for practices and games. The Benson School Board asked KMS to pay $34,500 annually toward facilities. This amount calculates to 30% KMS and 70% Benson cost. Benson took on more costs because the facilities are in Benson and the community can use the facilities, the school can use the facilities and Benson students get to stay in Benson. KMS proposed to increase their contribution to $15,000 for 20-21 and 21-22 sports seasons. Both Districts express a desire to continue the cooperative agreements. Further discussion was held.
Motion by G. Williams, second by B. McGeary to accept no less than a $25,000 contribution from KMS each year for the 20-21 and 21-22 season. This proposal expires on November 30, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. The board will hold a special meeting on November 30, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried (6-1).
Donations:
$30,000 Robert Sonsteng Foundation – Activities Facility
$8,500 State of Minnesota – Discovery Kids
Grand Piano Donations: $300 Bill Luzum; $1,500 Trinity Lutheran Church; $200 Barbara DeBoer; $200 Dianne Doscher; $50 Candy Sowers; $100 Monday Club; $100 Dave Krusemark; $100 Robert Buckner; $20 James & Carol Pahl; $25 Michelle Mikkelson; $100 Roger & Kara Ebnet; $100 Lee & Kristi Bjerk; $100 Janice Baukol; $100 Judy Ruess Eystad; $1,000 Zniewski Funeral Home; $500 Lisa Peterson; $100 Jan Kittelson; $100 Lynn Orvik.
Motion by G. Williams, second by P. Carruth to pass a resolution to accept the donations made to the district. Roll call vote with the following voting in favor: J. Berens, B. McGeary, G. Williams, M. KW Langan, P. Carruth, E. Peterson, B. Samuelson and none against. Motion carried (7-0).

Future Meetings:
Special School Board Meeting – Friday, November 13, 2020, 12:00 p.m., Benson High School Conference Room
Special School Board Meeting – Monday, November 30, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria
School Board Work Session – Monday, December 7, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria
Truth in Taxation Hearing – Monday, December 7, 2020, 6:00 p.m., Northside Elementary Cafeteria
Adjournment:
Motion by J. Berens, second by P. Carruth to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried (7-0).
World's Best Workforce Public Hearing:
The board held a public hearing on the goals results for the 2019-2020 World's Best Workforce (WBWF) goals.

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Mary KW Langan, Clerk