

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 21, 2025**

A regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.)

OPEN FORUM – Tom Peterson made statements regarding parking on County Road 46 behind the middle/high school.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK Melissa Stoen, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten,
Crystal Studer, Dean Meshke, Brady Hullopeter

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, High School Principal, High School
Associate Principal, Elementary Principal, & Members of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jon Sunde

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Crystal Studer to approve the agenda as presented, although the agenda is amended to show that Melissa Stoen attending the meeting in person so roll call votes are not needed for agenda voting items. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Installation of New School Board Members

Installation of newly elected board members Brady Hullopeter, Melissa Stoen, and Jonathan Sunde with the “Acceptance and Oath of Office” being recited.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

I hereby accept the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 756 for a term beginning the first Monday in January 2025 and expiring the first Monday in January 2029.

OATH OF OFFICE

I swear/affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this state, and that I will discharge faithfully the duties of the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 756 to the best of my judgment and ability.

B. Designation/Rotation of School Board Officers

Motion by Dean Meshke and seconded by Crystal Studer to approve the current officers as follows: Rodney Krell, Chair; Kelly Braaten, Vice Chair; Melissa Stoen, Clerk; and Jon Sunde, Treasurer. Motion carried with a roll call vote. (6 Aye: Stoen, Krell, Braaten, Studer, Meshke, Hullopeter/0 Nay)

C. School Board Assignments

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the below changes/additions to the committee assignments. Motion carried with a roll call vote. (6 Aye: Stoen, Krell, Braaten, Studer, Meshke, Hullopeter/0 Nay)

Steele County Collaborative – Alt: Stoen

Ag/Industrial Trade – Krell, Hullopeter

Communication – Alt: Hullopeter

Finance – Alt: Hullopeter

Technology – Hullopeter, Alt: Sunde

Meet & Confer – Hullopeter

Negotiations – Braaten, Studer, Sunde

Greenhouse – Hullopeter

D. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer’s Report, Resignations/Terminations, Maternity/Paternity/Medical Leaves, and Donations

Motion by Crystal Studer and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve items in the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Employment

Motion by Melissa Stoen and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve Madelin Bruessel as the Assistant Track Coach. Placement will be at Step 0 of the extracurricular schedule. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Melissa Stoen and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the temporary custodial work as outlined in the agenda. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

F. Volunteer Coaches

None at this time.

G. Designation of Local Depositories, Staff, Newspaper, & School Attorney

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve the following institutions as official depositories: MBT Bank, Blooming Prairie; Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund, New York; US Bank, St. Paul; and Wells Fargo, Minneapolis. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Crystal Studer and seconded by Melissa Stoen to approve the following persons authorized to make electronic or paper transactions from any institution for the district: Christopher Staloch, Aimee Lake, Kari Forystek, and Nicole Bartness. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Crystal Studer to approve the Steele County Times as the official school newspaper. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Melissa Stoen and seconded by Dean Meshke to approve Hoversten, Johnson, Beckmann & Hovey, LLP, Austin, MN as the district's designated school attorney. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

H. Promulgation of Seniority Lists for the Teaching Staff

Motion by Melissa Stoen and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the promulgation of seniority lists for the teaching staff. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

I. Foster Care Transportation Agreement

Motion by Crystal Studer and seconded by Brady Hulloper to approve the Foster Care Transportation Agreement. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

J. Pay Equity Report

Motion by Melissa Stoen and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the Pay Equity Report. Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

K. Additional Building Project Contract Approvals

None at this time.

L. Acceptance of Bids

None at this time.

M. Rejection of Bids

None at this time.

N. Equipment Purchases

Motion by Melissa Stoen and seconded by Crystal Studer to approve the 4-year lease with Apple. Motion carried with a roll call vote. (6 Aye: Stoen, Krell, Braaten, Studer, Meshke, Hulloper/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Building Project Financial Report

There is still a positive fund balance that we will look to spend on roofing at the elementary.

B. Committee Reports

A committee report was given for the following committees: Education Foundation and Steele County Collaborative.

C. Enrollment Data

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year per JMC as of January 14, 2025 was 330 at the elementary school (grades K-4) and 518 at the intermediate/high school (grades 5-12) with approximately 12 PSEO students.

D. Dates to Note

Jan 16	School Board Work Session at 6:00 a.m.
Jan 20	Teacher Inservice/No School
Jan 21	School Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
Jan 24	End of 2 nd Quarter/Early Release/Teacher Inservice

Jan 27	Start of 3 rd Quarter
Feb 13	School Board Work Session at 6:00 a.m.
Feb 17	Presidents Day/No School
Feb 18	School Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

- Thank you to our paras. It is paraprofessional week this week and we have a great support staff.
- Celebrate Mr. Worke with his 400th career win.
- Long term teaching sub for HS English will be from April to the end of the school year.
- Staffing for next year-Special Ed & Speech Pathologist positions.
- Admin team working on staff evaluations.
- ADSIS application K-8 is being worked on and due February 7th.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dean Meshke and seconded by Melissa Stoen to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.
Motion carried. (6 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:00 a.m. in the High School Board Room.

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Meeting will be Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center. (Open Forum begins at 5:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Stoen
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota