

**SIBLEY EAST PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2310  
ARLINGTON-GAYLORD-GREEN ISLE  
ARLINGTON CAMPUS-MEDIA CENTER  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M.**

A call to order with a Salute to the Flag started the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Brian Brandt, Sara Ziegler, Avery Grochow, Ashley Latzke, Laura Reid. and Rachel Lueth.

A motion by member Grochow, second by member Lueth to approve the agenda with three revisions/additions. The revisions/additions were the exact dollar amount (\$4,231,486.31) for the levy certification, new business item #3 - Pool Closing Plan Direction, and new business item #4 - Non renewal of a coach. The motion was approved. Vote: 6-0

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

Larry Sorenson, Arlington resident, addressed the board with concerns regarding the decision to close and fill the pool. He requested the board delay the closing and cancel the contracts currently in place to fill it. He also requested the board hold a referendum to allow the voters to make the decision. He indicated there is a community group that is working on a petition to be presented to the school board requesting a referendum.

Bud Bruhzell, Arlington Resident, addressed the board regarding the decision to close and fill the pool. He expressed that the board had disregarded the desires of school district residents to keep the pool open and that it isn't too late to reverse the decision, keep it open and upgrade it.

John Pederson, school district resident, stated he was aware the district was negotiating with the paraprofessional group. He is aware money might be tight, but hoped the board would continue to look at how they can provide a higher rate of pay to the paraprofessionals due to the important work they do with district students.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Recommend approval of November 18, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes.  
**Resignations:** Whitley Rose, elementary school paraprofessional, Michael Forsythe, head boys soccer coach, Cristin Forsythe, assistant boys soccer coach. **Hires:** Tiondra Heinecke, elementary school paraprofessional, Carrie Pioske, long-term, substitute for Korine Oie. **Leave of Absence:** Amy Lorenz, One Year Without Pay Leave request. **Volunteer Coaches:** Matthew Pfarr, youth wrestling, Michael Matthews, baseball **Fundraiser Requests:** Prom Committee - Kwik Trip Ultimate Car Wash Cards, Prom Committee - Unhinged Pizza Tip Night, Sibley East Parent Community Organization - Read-A-Thon.

A motion was made by member Reid, seconded by member Latzke to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved. Vote: 6-0

**BOARD REPORTS:**

An update was provided by the finance committee on the building bond refinancing, potential operating referendum community survey costs, negotiations, and preliminary 25-26 budget planning.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Director of Community Education, Jennifer Strack, was unable to attend the meeting. Copies of her notes were provided to each of the board members. They were instructed to direct any questions they might have to her.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Member Ziegler moved, second by member Latzke to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar as presented. The motion was approved. Vote 6-0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Member Reid moved, second by member Grochow, to approve the December 2024 bills totaling \$1,452,933.04. The motion was approved. Vote: 6-0

Member Lueth moved, second by member Ziegler, to approve the 2024 Payable 2025 Levy Certification Maximum of \$4,231,486.31. The motion was approved. Vote: 6-0

Member Brandt moved, second by member Grochow to continue with the necessary steps to close and fill the pool. The motion was approved. Vote: 5-1

Member Brandt moved, second by member Reid to non renew the coaching contract of Mervale "Chip" Wolverton, head girls volleyball coach. The motion was not approved. Vote: 3-3

**DONATIONS:** \$500.00 Arlington Fire Relief Association to elementary student needs, \$50.00 SLS, Inc. to Courage Retreat, \$200.00 Teuby Continued to FFA, \$50.00 American Legion Auxiliary Manthey Asmus Unit 433 to Library, \$320.00 VFW Post 6031, to Raptor Program, \$3,118.16 Gaylord Sertoma Sponsorship to elementary sound system, new balls and frisbees, board games valued at \$125.00 Shawna Conser to Sibley East Elementary. A motion was made by member Latzke, second by member Lueth to accept the donation with gratitude. The motion was approved. Vote: 6-0

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:** Copies of December board reports from elementary principal, Mrs. Feterl and secondary principal, Mr. Wagner were provided to board members. Superintendent, Mr. Seifert provided a December board update on negotiations, NSO, on-line classes, trend data, and enrollment.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

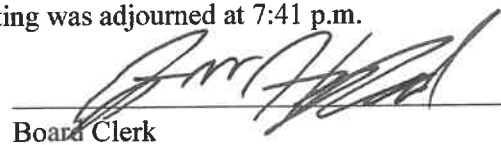
Anthony Nerud, school district attorney, was recognized for 40 years of dedicated service to the A-GI and Sibley East School Districts. Mr. Nerud, will be retiring at the end of December.

Board Members Brian Brandt and Avery Grochow were recognized for their years of service to the district as their terms are ending. Mr. Brandt served on the school board for sixteen years and Mr. Grochow served for eight years.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** The next Regular School Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2025 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center at the Arlington Campus.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by member Brandt and seconded by member Grochow to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. Vote: 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

  
Board Chair

  
Board Clerk

A full copy of the minutes can be obtained at the Sibley East Public Schools Business Office located at: 202 3rd Avenue N.W., Arlington, MN 55307