

Board Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023

The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 299, Caledonia, Minnesota, met in a regular school board meeting in the elementary building room #162. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Peterson at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The school board members present were Derek Adamson, Tim Gunn, Melissa Marschall, Mike Peterson, Daniel Small, and Spencer Yohe and student school representative Jack Babinski. Also present were Craig Ihrke, Susan Link, Nathan Boler, Karen Schiltz, Kaitlin Longhauser, Rachel Stock, and Deb Marcotte. Absent was Director Leigh King and Gretchen Juan.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Derek Adamson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

BOARD SHOWCASE

HVED Presentation

Deb Marcotte, Executive Director from Hiawatha Valley Ed District, gave the board an overview of the services HVED provides to our school district and the various programming they offer to our students in our school district.

School Board Recognition Month

February is School Board Recognition Month. The board members of Caledonia Area Public School District were thanked for the hours they devote to provide leadership for our school district.

Elementary and MSHS Counselors' Presentation

This topic was tabled until the regular school board meeting in March.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student school board representative Babinski updated the board on various activities that have been happening in the middle/high school building along with co-curricular and curricular activities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Mike Peterson to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of the January 17, 2023, and January 26, 2023, school board meeting minutes.
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$638,382.90 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$550,000.00.
- Accept the resignation of Jamey Kloss as a full-time facilities specialist effective January 31, 2023, with thanks for his five and one-half years of service and dedication to our school district.
- Accept the resignation/retirement of Bonnie Schmitz as the middle/high school nutrition lead at the end of the 2022-2023 school year with thanks for her past sixteen years of service and dedication to our school district.

- Accept the resignation of Brandon Meiners as the assistant baseball coach effective immediately with thanks for his years of service and dedication to our school district in this position.
- Ratify the hiring of Peggy Smith as a full-time facilities technician at I/15 years at \$17.95 per hour beginning January 20, 2023.
- Ratify the hiring of Katelyn Nundahl as a special education paraprofessional at II/3 years at \$15.28 per hour beginning February 13, 2023.
- Ratify the hiring of Harlee Gavin as a full-time CAPS Care teacher at III/4 years at \$16.24 per hour beginning March 7, 2023.
- Ratify the hiring of Maggie Ideker as a part-time CAPS Care aide at I/2 years at \$14.37 per hour beginning February 22, 2023.
- Ratify the hiring of RoseannaLee Starr Watts as a part-time special ed para at II/6 years at \$16.01 per hour beginning February 21, 2023.
- Approval of the Mission, Vision, and Values for Caledonia Area Public School District as presented.

Those voting in favor: Derek Adamson, Tim Gunn, Melissa Marschall, Mike Peterson, and Daniel Small. Director Spencer Yohe abstained. Director Leigh King was absent. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Spring Sport Coaching Contracts for the 2022-2023 School Year

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Derek Adamson to approve the following 2022-2023 spring coaching contracts contingent upon participation numbers in each of the sports:

- **Baseball:**
 - Shawn Bauer, head coach, III/0
 - Mason Staggemeyer, assistant coach, II/0
 - Zach Hauser, junior high coach, I/14
- **Softball:**
 - Chad Augedahl, head coach, III/5
 - Kari Rusert, assistant coach, II/3
 - Katie Block, junior high, I/1
- **Boys' & Girls' Golf:**
 - Head boys' golf coach position vacant at this time
 - Robbie Sobczak, head girls' golf coach, III/2
- **Boys' & Girls' Track:**
 - Reese Wait, head boys' track coach, III/18
 - Mitchell Bechtel, head girls' track coach, III/1
 - Rachel Welch, Assistant boys' and girls' track coach, II/1

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board that February brought many exciting events to break up the long winter stretch. She attended the MESPA conference. The majority of the focus was on reading. It was a busy conference that packed in much useful information. To briefly summarize the conference focused on supporting self-care for all employees, restorative circles, research to practice: the science of reading by Emily Hanford, aligning curriculum to the science of reading, LETRS training, and getting the most out of your staff meetings. Author Jenny Baertsch came to our school and presented to our K-2 and 3-5 students in the media center. She talked about the inspiration for her book *Junkyard Tough*. The presenter related well to our students and our students shared their love for reading with her. The book fair was a great success. Last year brought record-breaking sales and Lorene Reining stated that “this year’s book fair surpassed last year’s sales considerably.” Thank you Lorene Reining, Kerry Schaller and to all of our parents, teachers, and students who supported the book fair. PACE, our parent organization, hosted the Family Fun Night on Friday, February 3rd. It was well-attended with festivities for everyone of all ages. Speaker Terrence Tally visited our elementary school in the afternoon of Feb. 8th. Terrence’s high-energy presentation held the students’ interest as he spoke about the four areas of being a superhero, including facing your fears, being respectful and showing trust. We had excellent attendance at our parent teacher conferences on February 2nd and 9th. It’s always great to share how our students are doing. She attended the Student-teacher recruiting event at WSU on Feb. 9th. Many prospective student-teachers stopped and inquired about our school as well as several who interviewed for potential openings. One of the student-teachers even accepted the invitation to spend a day at our school last Monday. We hired two new paras at the elementary school. Movie in Spring Grove: Midyear break for students. K-2 *Gnomeo and Juliet*; 3-5 *Homeward Bound*. For some students this was the first time that they have been at a movie theater. Students showed great interest and respect. Thank you to John Wahlstrom for organizing this event and to the student council for their help as well. She was able to attend the webinar “Substance Misuse, trauma and the brain: considerations for permanency planning.” Substance abuse has adverse effects on our families, and this creates challenges for our elementary students as well if there is substance abuse in the home. Our counselors and principals met with Judge Sturino, social services, and other Houston County employees to collaborate on concerns for attendance and how to best support our students’ truancies. School Calendar: Teachers would like to change the elementary conference dates before the board approves the 2023-2024 school calendar. PACE will be doing a calendar fund-raiser. We also talked about the yearbook, logger dog, and other reading rewards. Thank you to PACE for all they do. Meetings attended since our last board meeting include but are not limited to Administrative meetings, Teacher leadership meeting, PACE meeting, Staff Development Committee, Transportation meetings, Q Comp meeting, Student Support Team, as well as evaluation results team meetings, and Special Education IEP’s.

Mr. Boler informed the board that Term 2 and Semester 1 are official. Report cards were sent home with students during the final week of January. Our MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) team is meeting weekly to explore student data with the focus of improving instruction with the ultimate goal of increased student achievement. He attended the MASSP (Minnesota Association of Secondary Principals). This was a fantastic opportunity for new learning and to connect with other school leaders. The MS/HS had professional development from 1-7 pm on February 2nd. He made the schedule/learning opportunities using a number of ideas he brought back from the MASSP conference. MS/HS Conferences were held on February 9th. Conferences in the spring do not see a high volume of parents. The MS/HS conference had the opportunity to have speaker Terrance Tally speak with our students. He had a very powerful message which really seemed to resonate with students. His main focus was “having each other's back”. A draft 2023-2024 schedule has been created. As mentioned in previous board reports, this process has been slowed this year. Our goal is to finalize a schedule in the

next month. He has completed a number of evaluations in that past month as he is hoping to complete evaluations prior to “testing season”. In a previous board report, he mentioned a potential trip to Costa Rica in June. He determined the turnaround time is too quick so this trip will not be offered in 2023. More work will be done to explore future trips. Some of the meetings he has attended include but are not limited to: administration meetings, SE MN principal meetings, IEP meetings, Caledonia Monthly Sped meeting, PBIS, staff development, CJI (Children's Justice Initiative), technology committee meetings, and Q-Comp.

Mrs. Juan was absent. In her report she shared with the board, she informed the board that Fall 2023 preschool registration will be open on March 27th. They have an ECFE open gym planned for March 15th. She is working with the teacher for next year to develop the curriculum and plan events to get started in the Fall. She is looking to hire staff for summer SAC. The community education advisory council met on February 8th. Since the community ed catalog was mailed out, they have added spring trips, gymnastics camp, ECFE open gym and a beginners painting class. ACT test is scheduled for April 4th and we have 53 juniors taking the test this year. The CAPS care had a surprise licensing visit on January 30th and it went pretty well overall with just a few citations. We have hired a toddler teacher and an aide. The infant room will be full starting in April. There are three more toddlers starting in the next couple of weeks putting the toddler numbers at eleven.

Superintendent Ihrke updated the board that he has submitted the ADSIS application. The purpose of ADSIS is to provide additional or alternative instruction to assist students who need additional academic or behavioral support to succeed in general education. He attended the Region 1 Minnesota School Administrators Association Winter meeting. He continues to work on the flexible learning year application and the solar grant. A Redefining Ready Cohort meeting will be held on March 2nd. He congratulated the wrestling team for qualifying for State this past weekend. He thanked all the board members for all their efforts serving on the board.

Barb Meyer informed the board that she attended a meeting with HVED on finances. Attended CACFP trainings. There will be a paper audit February 27th and one onsite visit March 8th. She has attended monthly meetings with Rachel Stackhouse on food service. They are looking at switching to Mosaic for front and back of house services they offer. She has updated the teacher negotiations spreadsheet. Attended SSC meeting on future of health insurance premiums. It is time to start looking at bidding for transportation. She updated on info on Sam.gov to be able to receive Federal payments. TEA (Telecom Access Equity Aid) reporting submitted. She attended the Health and Safety meeting. She has attended various other meetings with departments and works on other business office duties (invoicing, claiming, billing, reconciling, etc.)

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

School Policies

The board reviewed the following policies:

- Operation of School Board – Governing Rules Policy #203
- School Board Procedures; Rules of Order Policy #203.1
- Order of the Regular School Board Meeting Policy #203.2
- School Board Meeting Agenda Policy #203.5
- Consent Agendas Policy #203.6
- School Board Meeting Minutes Policy #204
- Open Meetings and Closed Meetings Policy #205
- Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations Policy #206

Bullying Prohibition Policy #514 and Electronic Devices Discussion

The board discussed the Bullying Prohibition Policy #514 and students having electronic devices during the school day. The board would like to have information from other school districts that have transitioned to a no cell phone use policy during the school day. It was the consensus of the board that the Crisis Committee will review the Bullying Prohibition Policy during the next committee meeting.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Directors Adamson shared with the board information in regards to the improvements and additions he would like to see as it relates to the current MSHS weight room. It was the consensus of the board that this information should be brought to the Facilities Committee. Director Marschall updated the board regarding the Community Ed Advisory Committee meeting she attended. Director Yohe updated the board regarding the HVED meeting he attended, congratulated the wrestling team for qualifying for state, and wished good luck to the boys and girls basketball teams during their playoff games. Director Small updated the board regarding the teacher negotiations meeting he attended.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mike Peterson, seconded by Daniel Small to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk