

Board Meeting Minutes November 21, 2022

Prior to the regular school board meeting, an informational public meeting was held beginning at 5:30 p.m. in room #162 of the elementary building. The purpose of this meeting was to inform, discuss, and ask questions the public may have as it relates to the school district continuing their discussions with the renewal of the flexible learning year program/early start beginning the 2023-2024 school year.

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 Matt Blocker at 6:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The school board members present were Matt Blocker, Erin Hammell, Leigh King, Melissa Marschall, Wendy Woyczik, Spencer Yohe and student school representatives Jack Babinski and Emma Stemper. Also present were Craig Ihrke, Gretchen Juan, Susan Link, Nathan Boler, Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Kaitlin Longhauser, Tim Gunn, Mike Peterson, and Rachel Stock. Absent Director Daniel Small.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student school board representatives Stemper and 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 Spencer Yohe, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of October 17, 2022, regular school board meeting minutes and the November 14, 2022, special school board meeting minutes.
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$818,514.44.
- Accept the resignation of Christine Antony as a special education paraprofessional effective October 7, 2022.
- Ratify the hiring of Alexander Studenski as a special education paraprofessional effective October 24, 2022, at II/3 at \$15.28 per hour.
- Ratify the hiring of Kelly Jerviss as a special education paraprofessional effective October 26, 2022, at II/3 at \$15.28 per hour.
- Ratify the hiring of James Scanlan as a special education paraprofessional effective October 26, 2022, at II/5 at \$15.75 per hour.
- Ratify the hiring of Mary Lou Schulze as a part-time special education paraprofessional effective November 21, 2022, at II/12 at \$17.59 per hour.

- Approve the following wrestling coaching contract changes for the 2022-2023 school year: Travis Frank and Justin Conway will co-coach one junior high coaching position and Nick Hoff and Michael Otomo will co-coach the other junior high coaching position.
- Ratify the hiring of Kelly Jerviss as the 7th grade girls' basketball coach beginning the 2022-2023 school year at I/O years at \$2,008.00.
- Accept the maternity leave request from Rebecka Sessions to begin around January 10, 2023, at the birth of her child through March 13, 2023, given there are no complications.
- Approval of the Caledonia Principals' Association Agreement for the 2022-2024 school years with Nathan Boler and Susan Link as presented.
- Approve the hiring of a long-term licensed teacher substitute for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Snow Removal Proposals for the 2022-2023 School Year

Moved by Erin Hammell, seconded by Leigh King to accept the snow removal proposal from Rogich Brothers Concrete LLC for the 2022-2023 school year as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Discussion/Action Regarding the Summer Ag Program

It was the consensus of the board that the discussion/action of the summer ag program will be tabled until the December regular school board meeting so that the board can make an informed decision after Mr. Larson presents to the board a budget of what he would like to do for this program.

Discussion/Action Regarding MSHS Art Club

Move by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to approve the MSHS Art Club pending Mr. Boler being able to find an advisor for this program. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link thanked all our Veterans. The Veterans Day Program was well attended by parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and community members. Mrs. Engan, Mr. Hebeisen, Mr. Svendsen, with Mrs. Myhre's (accompanist on keyboard) put on a memorable and dignified program. Our Christmas concert will be on December 8th at 6:30 p.m. Letters will be sent home to inform parents about the details. We continue to be grateful to have Mr. Svendsen as Mrs. Myhre's substitute. As much as we miss Mrs. Myhre, we know that without Mr. Svendsen, we would not have a music teacher for our students. Our 2nd through 5th grade students attended the dress rehearsal for the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. We appreciated the opportunity to be invited and our students learned much about what goes into the production of a drama. Mrs. Parkhurst Meyer did a Q and A with our students, which made it that more interesting. Our Afterschool Academy is going strong. This offers our students the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the school day with more individualized instruction. We will be adding a social skills component to provide children with the tools to interact with each other in a positive, respectful manner. The Warrior WOW (Word of the Week) has been integrated into our school "Warrior Way" philosophy by focusing on one word per week. Thus far some of the words have been generosity, responsibility, respect, teamwork, curiosity, friendship, compassion, apology, etc. Our students, teachers, and staff strive to be the best versions of themselves by modeling

and upholding these attributes. She was able to attend our MESPA meeting in La Crescent on November 2nd. The elementary principals from south-eastern Minnesota gathered to share ideas and address various topics. The topic for this meeting surrounded shortage of substitutes and safety in our schools. It is always great to collaborate with others who are facing similar concerns. Meetings attended since our last board meeting include but are not limited to administrative meetings, MDE Principal Listening Sessions, Q Comp Committee, Staff Development Committee, Facilities Committee, Technology Committee, Student Support Team, as well as evaluation results team meetings, and Special Education IEP's. It was American Education Week last week. Every person in our school deserves recognition for the dedication and hard work that they do on behalf of our students. We are so fortunate to have employees of considerable merit.

Mr. Boler informed the board that Term 1 is complete along with all grades being recorded. This includes MNVA which were received this week. We only receive final grades for PSEO courses which will not arrive until mid-January. As of November 1st, Beyond The Bell has returned to the MS/HS. This is an opportunity for students to receive extra homework help along with extension activities. He has joined a Sustaining Innovative Leadership Cohort which includes a number of SE Minnesota Principals along with members from MDE and other organizations. He attended his first meeting on October 20th. On November 2nd, he attended our Redefining Ready Cohort meeting with the rest of the Caledonia Redefining Ready team. We seem to be off to a good start but have additional work to do. On November 3rd, the Middle School held an PBIS assembly for all students in grades 6-8. This was an opportunity to reinforce expectations along with the introduction of our Warrior Way tickets. Schmitz Bus service and Chief Zehnder were invited to come speak to high school students on November 9th. The main topics were about driving safety, especially in school zones and when buses are stopped/stop arms extended. He attended the Bluff Country Collaborative meeting in Rushford on November 9th. The BCC continues to offer additional opportunities for students to learn more about CTE related job fields along with providing more tours and hands-on learning opportunities. The MS/HS held their Veterans Day program on November 11th. This was an excellent program. A special thank you to Teri Larson for her efforts to put this program together. He attended our Parent Advisory Council meeting on November 14th. We are working on some ideas to spearhead this school year. The MSHS has filled the open paraprofessional position. At this point we are fully staffed at the MSHS with the exception of a night-time custodian. While we are fully staffed, a lack of substitutes continues to be a major concern. We continue to be creative as we work to fill in openings however I am concerned with the sustainability of this long term. The MS/HS was able to complete three fire drills this fall. This will leave two more to complete in the spring. He is continuing to work on evaluations for certified staff. At present, he has observed all non-tenured staff at least one time. Planning for the 2023-2024 school year continues. His goal is to have a draft schedule put together for the December board meeting. He is still hoping to start an Art club. At this time, he does not have an advisor but will continue to work to find one. Some of the meetings he has attended include but are not limited to: administration meetings, SE MN principal meetings, IEP meetings, Children's Justice Initiative, Caledonia Monthly Sped meeting, PBIS, staff development, technology committee meetings, and Q-Comp.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that they have screened twenty-one children at early childhood screening held on November 10th and November 11th. They are looking to hire an ECFE teacher as soon as possible. The 3K teacher will go on maternity leave in January and we have the coverage worked out with our current staff so we do not need to hire a long term sub for this position. The defensive driving course was held on November 14th and November 15 with twenty-five participants. The class was very successful and we received good feedback from participants about the new instructor. FIRST Tech Club and Lego League is having Jeff Springer from Dairyland Cooperative come in and talk with their participants about innovation and efficient electrification on December 5th.

Superintendent Ihrke thanked everyone for doing a wonderful Veteran's Day program in each of the buildings. The musical was fantastic. He attended the Refining Ready Cohort meeting. The school district is still trying to fill the evening custodial position at the MSHS, and we are currently looking into hiring someone through a temporary service company. He updated the board regarding the HVED meeting he attended and the Rotary meeting.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board she is working on finalizing the audit and the transportation report. She has completed the special ed/UFARS report. The H & S website is updated. She continues to work on the verification process for food service. She continues to meet with Ms. Stackhouse and informed the board that our meal policy will need to be reviewed with the MDE updates. She met with Ms. Juan on community ed items. She is working on the compulsory report and other business duties.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

The board members were informed that the MSBA Annual Leadership Conference will be held on January 12th through January 13th.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Yohe updated the board regarding the MSBA Legislative meeting he attended. Director Blocker complimented the students and staff for a great job on the Veteran's Day Program, the All School Musical, and the MSHS band concert.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Erin Hammell, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk