

**Board Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2020**

The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 299, Caledonia, Minnesota, met in a regular school board meeting in the middle/high school auditorium with social distancing in mind for all visitors and via interactive technology due to the COVID-19 disease. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kelley McGraw at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The school board members present were Matt Blocker, Melissa Marschall, Kelley McGraw, Daniel Small, Wendy Woyczik, Spencer Yohe and student school board members Emma Ideker and Sam Privet. Also present were Superintendent Craig Ihrke, Nathan Boler, Susan Link, Barb Meyer, Gretchen Juan, Jordan Gerard and various visitors attended via Zoom. Absent was Director Jared Barnes.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**WARRIOR PRIDE**

The following resolution was moved by Matt Blocker, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to accept the following resolution:

*Resolution Accepting Donations*

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: “The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education.”; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: “Any citizen, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full.”; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 299, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

Donor	Item	Designated Purpose (if any)
Arlin Falck Foundation	Monetary Donation	One Act Play

Motion carried by a unanimous vote. Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

**BOARD SHOWCASE**

Our licensed school nurse, Tiffany Hill, updated the board with regard to COVID-19 guidelines, cases amongst school districts, why school districts are going distance learning, and answered any questions that anyone brought forth.

## **STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

Student school board members informed the board that the football and volleyball seasons are done due to COVID. Students are beginning registrations for college courses and started distance learning.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brett Knutson asked the board to consider continuing with sports as it relates to the social and emotional needs of students. Shannon Conniff informed the board that she would also like to see school sponsored activities continue while students are in distance learning. Jamie Ideker shared with the board her story having been tested positive with COVID and how it affected her life and that everyone needs to do their part during this pandemic as this is something that affects all students not just athletes.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Daniel Small to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of the October 19, 2020, regular school board meeting minutes and the November 12, 2020, special school board meeting minutes.
- Approval of the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$547,864.93 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$600,000.00.
- Ratify the hiring of Carin Borden as a part-time PCA/special education para beginning November 2, 2020, at \$13.18 hour.
- Approve the request from Tria Meier for an unpaid leave beginning December 16, 2020, through December 18, 2020.
- Approval of the Caledonia Principals' Association Agreement for the 2020-2022 school years with Nathan Boler and Susan Link as presented.
- Approval of Contract with Superintendent Craig Ihrke for the 2020-2023 school years as presented.
- Approval of the Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Preventions Instructions Policy #419.
- Approval of the Student Medication Policy #516
- Approval of the School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals Policy #601
- Approval of the Organization of Grade Levels Policy #607
- Approval of the Transportation of the Public School Students Policy #707

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Discussion/Action Regarding Targeted Distance Learning Options and Regarding Whether or Not to Continue with Activities/Athletics**

Discussions were held with regard to targeted distance learning options and whether or not to discontinue sports while students are in distance learning. Administration, school board members, and community members discussed their input on these topics. It was discussed to hopefully be able to allow our school district to go back to Hybrid and maybe even in-person should we see a reduction in cases prior to Christmas break.

Moved by Wendy Woyczik, seconded by Daniel Small to affirm the state guidelines already approved and to have the superintendent continue reviewing the numbers and to follow our approved state guidelines. Those voting in favor: Melissa Marschall, Kelley McGraw, Daniel Small, and Wendy Woyczik. Those opposed: Matt Blocker and Spencer Yohe. Absent: Jared Barnes. Motion carried 4/2.

### **Winter Sports Coaching Contracts**

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Daniel Small to approve the following winter sports season coaching contracts for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

- Wrestling:
  - Shay Mahoney, head coach at V/4
  - Tanner Benson, assistant coach at III/3
  - Jeff Winjum, junior high coach at I/10
  - Junior high coaching position open
- Boys' Basketball:
  - Brad King, head coach at V/10
  - Jeremy Leis, assistant coach at III/15
  - Dan Reinhart, 9<sup>th</sup> grade coach at I/20
  - Colton Lampert, 8<sup>th</sup> grade coach at I/2
  - Austin Bauer, 7<sup>th</sup> grade co-coaching at I/1
- Girls' Basketball:
  - Scott Sorenson, head coach at V/23
  - Assistant coaching position open
  - Brent Schroeder, 9<sup>th</sup> grade coach at I/3
  - Beth Morey, 8<sup>th</sup> grade coach at I/3
  - Sara Klug, 7<sup>th</sup> grade coach at I/3
- Gymnastics:
  - Savana Kettner, head coach at V/0
  - Kaylee Cavanaugh, assistant coach

The above contracts are approved contingent upon participation numbers in each of the activities and per the language in the Memorandum of Understanding for Compensation of Coaches and Co-Curricular Advisors during the 2020-2021 School Year. Also, the board members of the Activities Committee will be involved with the decision making of these payments of the co-curricular and curricular activities when payments of these contracts are evaluated by the school district. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mrs. Link informed the board that our staff has been helpful in covering for one another during COVID. We have had several staff and students who have missed due to being contacts, testing positive and/or exhibiting symptoms and waiting for results. Sam Steele Kruse has been working with the United Way to make Kindness cards and art projects to share with residents of our Caledonia Care and Rehab, Claddagh Assisted Living, and emergency workers. Emily Engan put together a YouTube video to share with our school and community for Veteran's Day. The fifth grade had a special raising of the flag with our Veterans as "Taps" was played at 9 AM on November 11th. We have ordered Screencastify and Doc cams for our staff to utilize with our students on days that they are learning from home. Tracy Flynne Bowe from our Colors Training did a fabulous presentation on coping strategies amidst the pandemic. My action plan is to support our staff in their goal setting to promote physical and mental health. Most of our days have been spent monitoring, adjusting, and covering for each other due to COVID. Thank you to our entire school who have played a part in assisting and showing grace with each other during this tumultuous time.

Mr. Boler informed the board that he is thankful for the opportunity to remain in the hybrid learning model as long as we were able. He personally thanked the students, parents, and staff for their hard work and efforts. The move to Distance Learning was a difficult one. Our Distance Learning plan was released to the students and parents on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The plan looks significantly different from last spring in order to address the concerns from Distance Learning last spring. November 9<sup>th</sup> was a Staff Development day. Teachers spent the morning portion of the day preparing for the positive of moving to Distance Learning. In the afternoon, a speaker was brought in to review colors training with the emphasis on self-care during the pandemic. A huge thank you to Teri Larson and all students/student groups who came together to make such a wonderful video to honor our Veterans. He has completed the first evaluation for all non-tenured staff. Edgenuity for our "Off-site" learners continues to go well. We are working with students and families to make improvements to this learning model. He welcomed Carin Borden to the team as our new Special Education Paraprofessional. Brent and himself have completed approximately 50% of our senior interviews. He will continue with these virtually now that we have transitioned into Distance Learning. The goal is to make sure seniors have a solid plan following graduation. If they do not have a plan, we work to provide them resources to check into. He is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the SE MN Principals and Superintendent meeting being held weekly. This is a great opportunity to share ideas and questions and hear how other schools have been handling the three different learning models. In October, he met with Scott Moline (Caledonia Director of Special Education) to review for efficiencies and inefficiencies. More follow-up will be needed. On October 21st, he was able to attend the Southeast MN Law Seminar. He is thankful for this opportunity as there were a number of items I was able to use when making the Hybrid and Distance Learning plans.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that she has postponed early childhood screening for this fall and will hold two different screening sessions in the spring. She has suspended all preschool programs for two weeks due to a positive case in the PreK four-year-old classroom. She has suspended the three-year-old preschool program for the time being. The four-year olds are continuing as usual and separating into smaller groups. They are utilizing the three-year-old room to socially distance. She has twenty-two students signed up for childcare over the distance learning period. Childcare is using the old board room for a space for the students to get their work done. Surround Care is continuing as usual.

Mrs. Meyer informed the board that she met with Houston County regarding the CRF funds. She continues to work on the food service application verifications, meal claims and meeting with Rita McCormick. She has been involved with CTE and Perkins meetings. She attended the crisis committee meeting. She is reviewing transportation requirements and our transportation contract. She continues to

work out the kinks with regard to the student activity account. The Marco copy machines are returned. The audit is close to being completed.

## **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **School Policies**

The school board reviewed the following policies:

- Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations Policy #206
- Religion Policy #609
- Field Trips Policy #610
- Home Schooling Policy #611
- Development of Parent and Family Engagement Policies for Title I Programs Policy #612.1
- Graduation Requirements Policy #613
- School District Testing Plan and Procedure Policy #614
- Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students Policy #615
- School District System Accountability Policy #616
- Assessment of Student Achievement Policy #618
- Staff Development for Standards Policy #619
- Credit for Learning Policy #620
- Mandatory Summer School Instruction Policy #623
- Online Learning Options Policy #624
- Pupil Staff Ratio Policy #651

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Director McGraw informed everyone that going forward board and committee meetings will be held via Zoom. He also informed the board that due to relocating out of the state that he will be resigning from the board as early as possibly February. Director Blocker thanked administration for their tough decisions that they had to make in regards to COVID and also stated that most comments from the community have been cordial but others have been rude and that this needs to change.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Wendy Woyczik, seconded by Daniel Small to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.  
Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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Spencer Yohe, Clerk