

Board Meeting Minutes January 19, 2021

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 pandemic. The meeting was called to order by Chair Matt Blocker at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The school board members present were Matt Blocker, Leigh King, Melissa Marschall, 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, Karen Schiltz, Gretchen Juan, Robbie Sobczak, Adam Swan, Matt Mohs with Bolton & Menk, Inc., and other members in attendance via zoom.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

BOARD SHOWCASE

Matthew Mohs with Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Matthew Mohs with Bolton & Menk, Inc. discussed with the board a grant that the City of Caledonia and Houston County are applying for that would extend Warrior Avenue to Highway 76. He informed the board that he would like the school district to write a letter of support of this project stating that the school district and the City of Caledonia are working in concert on the right of way for this project. He would need to have this before March 3rd, as the application deadline is March 3rd. He informed the board that if they have any questions to contact either himself or Adam Swan. The board discussed their concerns about more traffic in this area and the need of possibly crossing guards in this area. They also were concerned about the heavy commercial vehicles that would be using this road and possibly going by the school during busy times with students present. It was the consensus of the board that this topic will be acted upon at the regular school board meeting in February.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student school board members informed the board that 25% hybrid learning began this week for grades 7 through 12. Winter sports have also begun.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of December 21, 2020, regular school board meeting minutes and the January 4, 2021, organizational board meeting minutes.
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$559,686.66 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$400,000.00.
- Accept the resignation of Jeff Winjum as the junior high wrestling coach effective immediately with thanks for his services to our school district in this position.
- Ratify the hiring of Holly Moenck as a part-time special education para beginning January 18, 2021, at II/2 years at \$13.18 per hour.

- Ratify the hiring of Erin Burns as a part-time special education para beginning January 18, 2021, at II/2 years at \$13.18 per hour.
- Ratify the hiring of Rachel Stackhouse as a full-time Nutrition Services Director beginning February 1, 2021, at a salary amount of \$12,391.04 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.
- The following are winter sports coaching contracts that need your ratification. These contracts will be approved contingent upon participation numbers in each of the activities and per the language in the Memorandum of Understanding of compensation of coaches and co-curricular advisors for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - Travis Frank, Junior high coach I/1 year
 - John Wahlstrom, Junior high co-coach I/3 years
 - Justin Conway, Junior high co-coach I/0 years

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Discussion/Action Regarding Organizing a Diversity Club

Mr. Sobczak informed the board that he has approximately eleven students that have shown interest in participating in the Diversity Club along with two staff members that are willing to donate their time to this club. He is planning his first meeting to be held on February 1st via zoom. His goal is to make this a student centered group. Both Superintendent Ihrke and Mr. Boler informed the board and Mr. Sobczak that they are excited to see this club get organized and feel this is a great opportunity for our students.

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to support the organization of a Diversity Club and to have this organized just as the bass fishing club was started at our school district where there would not be any financial burden to the school district. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board that we have had numerous new students enroll in our school this year. Since November we have had six new elementary students join our school. Some of them joined during Distance Learning, so we are excited for them to meet their classmates in person. We had a staff meeting going over the new guidelines and protocols for COVID as we transitioned back into our in-person learning model. We continue to use safety measures, because they have been successful at stopping the spread of the virus at school. Welcome back: Teachers reconnected with their students on Monday. They had special events in their classroom celebrating being back together again. Our teachers are going to start their Fastbridge Testing as soon as the students have had time to adjust to in-person learning. Each teacher will choose which days they will administer testing in their classrooms with the goal of it being completed by the end of January. Martin Luther King Day Jr. Day was celebrated in every individual classroom. Many teachers spent more than one day commemorating it by incorporating it into their lesson plans. We are doing a Warrior Strong dress up day on Friday, January 22nd. Students and staff may dress in Warrior apparel or in black and gold. Parent/Teacher conferences will be February 4th and February 9th. They will be via Zoom or phone call. An electronic sign up sheet has

been created for parents to choose their time slots. The book fair will be in school the first week of March. Many safeguards will be in place to follow COVID mitigating measures. Discussion has begun for the 4th and 5th grade showcase. Our preliminary plan is to do it outside pending favorable weather in May, possibly on the 20th. Parents and teachers have gotten to know each other better and build relationships via Zoom. Teachers know where their students are struggling specifically through working one on one with them. Strategies can be shared with parents. Children can share their pets, and show what they are proud of. Students can see our staff in their home settings on occasion. The elementary is beyond excited to have our students back in person. Thank you for your patience, assistance and encouragement. It has been a lesson in perseverance, and I could not be prouder of our students, teachers, staff, parents, grandparents, and everyone else who has contributed in any way during Distance Learning.

Mr. Boler informed the board that December 22nd marked the end of Term 2 and Semester 1. December 21st and 22nd were used as “make-up” days for all students. This was extremely beneficial for students as it provided extra 1:1 time with teachers. Material pick-up was held on January 5th & 6th to provide students with the necessary materials to start term 3. All grades are finalized at Caledonia (including Edgenuity) but we are waiting to finalize report cards until we receive all college grades and MNVA grades. This is why report cards have not yet been sent home. We currently have 20 students utilizing Edgenuity during 2nd semester. Plans are in place to begin our 25% hybrid on Monday, January 18th. This is a step in the right direction but I am hopeful we can move to a less restrictive model in the near future. Senior interviews have resumed. We began doing them via Zoom last week. We are scheduling parent meetings for a variety of reasons. Our goal is to create a plan to help all students be successful. Planning for the 2021-22 school year has begun. I am hopeful I will have a draft completed by the meeting on Tuesday. There will be some “shifts” due to class size but staffing should remain the same. Brent Schroeder has an intern working with him this semester along with one student teacher working with HS science. The HS student council sponsored a “Toy Drive” before break. The response was overwhelming and I want to thank everyone who donated. I also want to thank all local businesses/individuals who mailed the toys/donated postage. As some may have seen on Facebook, our 9th grade Civics class completed a “Social Change” project in the month of December. There were some great projects created that focused both locally and abroad. Activities resumed on January 4th. From what I have seen, our extracurricular students (and coaches/advisors) have been doing a great job with the safety protocols. Our MS Spelling Bee is scheduled for January 20th. January has been busy with the tasks of finalizing semester 1 and getting started with semester 2. Distance Learning has added some challenges but we are off to a good start. I have attended numerous meetings over the past month, including but not limited to: SE MN Principals meeting, Technology Committee, Staff Development, & Child Study Committee. I am registered for the MASSP Winter Conference held virtually January 25th through January 28th.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that Hand in Hand Preschool and Early Childhood Family Education classes are back to in person classes and things are going very well in these programs. The SAC and Surround Care programs will be going back to their regular schedules now that school is back to being in person. We are no longer required to provide child care for our tier 1 families, but they can choose to continue to use SAC before and after school if they would like to. Snowmobile classes are being set up. She is looking into dates for defensive driving. Driver’s ed is going well and keeping Ms. Hansen very busy. ACT Online Test Prep course will be starting soon. The students are able to take the course at their own pace. Fourteen students have registered. Winter Fastbridge assessments will be taking place at the elementary soon. She is updating student information for MCA/MTAS testing. She has submitted the roster of junior students for the ACT test in March. She has been participating in a lot of DAC webinars on updates/changes for testing in the spring of 2021.

Superintendent Ihrke shared with the board the 4 Phase Re-entry plan for grades 7-12.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that the CRF reporting and reimbursement has been completed by the December 30 deadline. She has been working on food service monthly claims, interviews for the new director, and submitted audit info for food service to MDE. She has submitted the bond payments. She is working on the local collaborative time study reporting, 1099 reporting with the new NEC requirements and getting W-9 forms. The GEER, ESSER reports have been submitted. She is working out PowerSchool components, upgrades and billing. Continues to work on other business duties as needed.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

School Policies

The school board reviewed the following policies:

- Student Activity Accounting Policy #713
- Fund Balances Policy #714
- Vending Machines Policy #720
- Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Resources #721
- Public Data Requests Policy #722
- District Vehicle Use Guidelines and Procedures Policy #725
- ISD #299 Post Issuance Debt Compliance Policy #730
- Equal Access to School Facilities Policy #801
- Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Material Policy #802
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Policy #805
- COVID-19 Face Covering Policy #808
- Unnamed Aerial Vehicle (Drone) Policy #809
- Facility/Equipment Alteration Guidelines Policy #810
- Live Animals in the Classroom or on School Property Policy #811
- Naming School Buildings or Facilities Policy #818

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Yohe updated the board regarding the MSBA Leadership Conference that he attended virtually.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Melissa Marschall to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk