

Board Meeting Minutes February 16, 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, Erin Hammell, Leigh King, Melissa Marschall, Daniel Small, Wendy Woyczik, and Spencer Yohe. Also present were Superintendent Craig Ihrke, Nathan Boler, Susan Link, Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Gretchen Juan, Casey Klug, and Jordan Gerard. Absent were student school board representatives Emma Ideker and Sam Privet.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AND ADMINISTERING OATH OF OFFICE

Moved by Melissa Marschall, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to appoint Erin Hammell as the interim school board member effective February 16, 2021, and administer Oath of Office. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

BOARD SHOWCASE

School Board Recognition Week

February 22nd through February 26th is School Board Recognition Week. We thank each of you for spending countless hours away from your families and jobs and for the hard work you continue to demonstrate for our school district so that our students can prepare for a bright future!

PUBLIC COMMENT

Casey Klug, City of Caledonia Public Works/Zoning Director, discussed with the board any questions they had with regard to the extension of North Warrior Avenue project.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of January 19, 2021, regular board meeting minutes, February 1, 2020, special school board meeting minutes and February 8, 2021, special school board meeting minutes.
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$521,947.70 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$800,000.00.
- Accept the resignation/retirement of Glenda Solberg as the middle/high school facilities technician effective June 1, 2021, with thanks for her 17 ½ years of service to our school district.
- Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding Between Caledonia Chapter of the River Valley Education Association and Caledonia Area Public Schools with regard to the

compensation of supervisors of the athletic events during the winter sports season of the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution Expressing Support for the Extension of North Warrior Avenue Extension Project

Member Melissa Marschall introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution Expressing Support for Extension of North Warrior Avenue Extension Project

Whereas the North Warrior Avenue Extension Project would extend North Warrior Avenue from the north entrance of the Caledonia Area Middle/High School complex to Trunk Highway 76

Be it resolved by Independent School District No. 299 of Caledonia, Minnesota as follows:

1. Independent School District No. 299 supports the North Warrior Avenue Extension project.
2. Independent School District No. 299 currently owns 60-ft of land between the north entrance of the Caledonia Area Middle School/High School Complex and Trunk Highway 76. This land is intended to be a future right-of-way for a road connecting to Trunk Highway 76. The school district and city are working on transferring the 60-foot strip of land to the City for the road and anticipate no issues.
3. Independent School District No. 299 agrees that this is a mutually beneficial project.

Adopted by Independent School District No. 299 this 16th day of February 2021.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Daniel Small. The following vote in favor: Matt Blocker, Erin Hammell, Leigh King, Melissa Marschall, Daniel Small, Wendy Woyczik, and Spencer Yohe. The following voted against: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

2021-2022 School Calendar

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Melissa Marschall to approve the 2021-2022 school calendar as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board that we have had two classes that had to quarantine since we started back in January, one Kindergarten class and one 4th grade class. The teachers who have been quarantined at home have been zooming their classes which is the preferred method of delivery for both teachers and substitutes. Parent teacher conferences were Thursday, February 4th and Tuesday, February 9th. Parents are great at attending the elementary conferences. They still appreciate having them via Zoom. This certainly may be a great option as we look ahead to next year. The school PACE group is working on the Yearbook. The student council members have been meeting with me and coming up with ideas that they would like to implement in our elementary school. Some of the ideas are to have a warm breakfast choice, such as scrambled eggs. We have talked to Rachel Stackhouse, and she was receptive in making some changes to our menu. Student council also will choose a lunch to be

added to the menu on particular days. Our elementary is starting our Warrior WOW recognition in the *Caledonia Argus* again after a hiatus of some years. This is sponsored by Merchants Bank, so we are grateful for their sponsorship. Professional Development Day was Thursday February, 11th. Our dedicated elementary teachers did a data dig into our multiple assessments including Fastbridge and IReady reading and math to determine where each student in our school is at academically in regards to reading and math. We have shown considerable improvement in our math and reading scores, but we are excited to continue on a trajectory of growth for all of our students. This will be ongoing, so it will be exciting to see the changes. As we look forward to March or early April, we would like to have a job embedded PD day for the elementary school where we can have Trista Stamness come in and facilitate the next steps for professional development. Bus Driver Appreciation Day is Thursday, February 25th, if inclement weather, it will be Friday, February 26th. We encourage students who ride a bus to make cards at home or school for their bus drivers. PACE will be delivering the treats afterschool to the bus drivers when they come to pick up students after school. We have added all of our staff to the Schoology site, so that all staff employed by our district are able to access staff development documents and make requests. We have started the initial application process for reading corps for next year. There may be a cost involved. HVED has been working on targeted services and early intervention options for summer school. Edgenuity could be a possibility at the elementary, but she would like to collaborate with the teachers to get input before any decisions are made.

Mr. Boler informed the board that he has been able to implement the “phased” reentry to school plan. As you are likely aware, we are currently in phase 2.5. He personally likes this plan as it allows students access to the building everyday but allows students to remain working from home if they are being successful. This week, we had approximately 125 middle school students (this includes 100% of 6th grade) and approximately 65 high school students attend school in-person. The kitchen continues to offer meals to students to take home for days they do not plan to be in school. Some meals have been delivered to families in quarantine. We continue to utilize our “Backpack” program to provide meals for students in need. Brent Schroeder is in charge of this as the students remain confidential, even to myself. All Term 2 and Semester 1 grades have been finalized. Report cards were sent home during the first week of February. He continues to meet with both students and parents on a daily basis as we try to meet all needs of our students. Planning for the 2021-22 school year continues. He anticipates changes but is getting closer to a finalized schedule. He is working on the potential of having a CNA or LPN path for students to take in high school. This would be a great opportunity for anyone thinking about going into the healthcare field. All activities are back up and running. We had to take a short pause to our wrestling and girls basketball programs. The MS Spelling Bee took place January 20th. Congratulations to Liv Myhre (winner) and Ella Hoscheit (2nd). They will both be moving on to the Regional Spelling Bee. He has been busy completing teacher and staff evaluations. He is nearing the end of the second evaluations for all non-tenured staff. The MS/HS had staff development on February 4th (½ day) and February 11th. February 4th focused on communication. February 11th focused on planning the remainder of the current school year and planning for the 2021-2020 school year. He attended the MASSP Winter Conference virtually this year. There were some great sessions but is hopeful these will return to in-person next year. He has attended numerous meetings over the past month, including but not limited to: SE MN Principals meeting, Technology Committee, Staff Development, Child Study Committee & Diversity Club.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that spring early childhood screening is scheduled for March 5th, 12th and 26th. All time slots are full and screening will be held in the preschool classrooms at the elementary school. Fall 2021 preschool registration will be held on March 22nd. We will not be having an open house but teachers will be available over zoom. She has submitted the Summer Reads program application. The ACT test is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30th for all juniors. We will be finding out

soon if MCA testing will be available to do remotely as MDE has not made that decision yet. She has submitted all of the accommodations for MCA testing.

Superintendent Ihrke informed the board that he received information today that there is a superintendent's phone call tomorrow with the state regarding learning model guidance for high school students and is looking forward to see what they will inform the superintendents. He updated the board regarding the Houston County COVID numbers.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that she is working on the P-EBT process, Perkins, and TEA (Telecommunication Equity Aid). She has been meeting with Dependable Solutions on budget items. She has been working with Rachel Stackhouse on food service items. She is preparing for Moody's rating call. She informed the board that the school district will need to start looking into a new phone system, as the current phone system is obsolete, not supported any longer by CenturyLink, and is starting to have some issues. The compensatory revenue is down \$3,379.52 from the previous year. She is working on the revised budget and other office duties.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

School Policies

The school board reviewed the following policies:

- COVID-19 Face Covering Policy #808
- Communication Education Policy #901
- Visitors to School District Building and Sites Policy #903
- Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons Policy #904
- Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons Policy #905
- Community Notification of Predatory Offenders Policy #906
- Rewards Policy #907
- District Graphic Identity and Logo Use Policy #910

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Yohe updated the board regarding two of the MSBA Leadership sessions that he participated in. Director Blocker and Superintendent Ihrke thanked the board members for their time, work and effort they continue to do for our students, parents and community.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Erin Hammell, seconded by Daniel Small to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk