

Board Meeting Minutes March 15, 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, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Danielle Burg requested to address the board but due to the weather was unable to attend. Correspondences from her were sent to all the board members per her request.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Melissa Marschall to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of February 16, 2021, regular board meeting minutes.
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$494,863.99 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$500,000.00.
- Accept the resignation/retirement of Pamela Schieber as a special educational paraprofessional at the end of the 2020-2021 school year with thanks for her five years of service to our school district.
- Accept the resignation of Jay Tolleson as the high school social studies teacher effective June 30, 2021, with thanks for his twenty-one years of service to our school district.
- Accept the resignation/retirement of Priscilla Jacobson as a special educational paraprofessional at the end of the 2020-2021 school year with thanks for her thirty-three years of service to our school district.
- Approve the non-licensed support staff sub hourly wage increase to \$11.00 from \$10.50 per hour effective April 1, 2021.
- Approve the licensed staff sub rate increase to \$115.00 per day and \$57.50 per half-day of subbing from \$105.00 per day and \$52.50 per half day effective April 1, 2021.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

2020-2021 Revised Budget

	2020-21	2020-21	(Increase)	2020-21	2020-21	(Increase)	2020-21
	Budget	Revised	Decrease	Budget	Revised	Decrease	Revised
	Revenues	Revenues	In Revenues	Expenditures	Expenditures	In Expenses	Fund Balance
							Inc./((Decrease)
General Fund	\$9,459,774	\$9,813,063	-\$353,289	\$9,427,237	\$9,473,958	-\$46,721	\$339,105
Food Service	\$495,838	\$495,838	\$0	\$470,055	\$441,303	\$28,752	\$54,535
Community Services	\$360,749	\$353,582	\$7,167	\$351,780	\$355,345	-\$3,565	-\$1,763
Capital Projects Fund	\$0	\$938,038	-\$938,038	\$0	\$866,000	-\$866,000	\$72,038
Debt Retirement	\$2,096,304	\$2,096,305	-\$1	\$1,454,900	\$1,454,900	\$0	\$641,405
Scholarship Fund	\$13,495	\$13,495	\$0	\$13,495	\$13,495	\$0	\$0
Activity Fund	\$40,550	\$61,440	-\$20,890	\$34,474	\$61,440	-\$26,966	\$0
Total	\$12,466,710	\$13,771,761	-\$1,305,051	\$11,751,941	\$12,666,441	-\$914,500	\$1,105,320

Moved by Melissa Marschall, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to approve the revised 2020-2021 budget as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Termination and Nonrenewal of Probationary Teacher

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

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION
AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT
SAMANTHA STEELE KRUSE, A PROBATIONARY TEACHER**

WHEREAS, Samantha Steele Kruse is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 299,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 299, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 5, that the teaching contract of Samantha Steele Kruse, a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 299, is hereby terminated at the close of the current 2020-2021 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the written notice be served to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal of her contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE OF TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL**

March 15, 2021

Ms. Samantha Steele Kruse
313 South Second Street
Caledonia, MN 55921

Dear Ms. Steele Kruse,

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 299 held on Monday, March 15, 2021, a resolution was adopted by a majority roll call vote to terminate your contract effective at the end of the current school year and not to renew your contract for the 2021-2022 school year. Said action of the board is taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 5.

You may officially request that the School Board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract.

Yours very truly,

SCHOOL BOARD OF INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 299

Spencer Yohe
School Board Clerk

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

Termination and Nonrenewal of Probationary Teacher

Member Daniel Small introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION
AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT
DANEKA ROMPORTL, A PROBATIONARY TEACHER

WHEREAS, Daneka Romportl is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 299,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 299, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 5, that the teaching contract of Daneka Romportl, a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 299, is hereby terminated at the close of the current 2020-2021 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the written notice be served to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal of her contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL

March 15, 2021

Ms. Daneka Romportl
215 South Kingston Street
Apartment 4
Caledonia, MN 55921

Dear Ms. Romportl,

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 299 held on Monday, March 15, 2021, a resolution was adopted by a majority roll call vote to terminate your contract effective at the end of the current school year and not to renew your contract for the 2021-2022 school year. Said action of the board is taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 5.

You may officially request that the School Board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract.

Yours very truly,

SCHOOL BOARD OF INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 299
Spencer Yohe
School Board Clerk

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

Spring Sport Coaching Contracts for the 2020-2021 School Year

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Daniel Small to approve the following spring coaching contracts 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 for the 2020-2021 school year:

- **Baseball:**
 - Brad Augedahl, head coach, IV/5 at \$3,609.00
 - Brandon Meiners, assistant coach, II/4 at \$2,372.00
 - Zach Hauser, junior high coach, I/12 at \$2,320.00

- **Softball:**
 - Chad Augedahl, head coach, IV/3 at \$3,609.00
 - Kari Rusert, assistant coach, II/1 at \$2,177.00
 - Jennifer Classon, junior high, I/3 at \$2,125.00

- **Boys' & Girls' Golf:**
 - Jeremy Leis, head boys' golf coach, IV/15 at \$3,805.00
 - Robbie Sobczak, head girls' golf coach, IV/0 at 3,414.00

- **Boys' & Girls' Track:**
 - Carl Fruechte, head boys' track coach, IV/21 at \$3,805.00
 - Reese Wait, head girls' track coach, IV/16 at \$3,805.00
 - Ryan Pitts, assistant boys' and girls' track, II/4 at \$2,372.00

Those voting in favor: Matt Blocker, Erin Hammell, Leigh King, Melissa Marschall, Daniel Small, and Spencer Yohe. The following voted against the same: Wendy Woyczik. Motion carried by a 6/1 vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board that Lorene Reining did a phenomenal job, as always, on our book fair. We had a drive-by birthday wishes celebration for Bill Woolley on March 9th. All of our students and staff waved and sang Happy Birthday to Bill. Everyone was happy to see him. The elementary Club Choice Fundraiser will start on March 30th through April 13th. Kindergarten Round-up was held on March 11th. We are offering targeted services to give additional help to some of our students for MCA test prep. In the past this MCA test prep offering was recommended through teacher referral. It does help to give additional preparation for our students taking the MCA's. Teachers are also doing MCA practice and strategies in their classrooms during school for all students taking it. We spoke about our 5th grade Promotion celebration at our PACE and at our admin. meeting. We will be celebrating this stepping stone for our students, and we will be doing some type of recording for the public. PACE would like to provide treats for this day. Mr. Hebeisen and Mrs. Engen will be working with me on what this will look like. We have invited St. Mary's and St. John's to our Cultural Competency training on April 1st. This will be funded through Title II, and fulfills an area of licensure for the teachers. The safety patrol has indicated that they would like to go to Beaver this year for their patrol reward. Sue Howe is working on the details, and PACE is also contributing to the effort. Our safety patrol members are relentless in upholding the safety of our children in all kinds of weather. Thank you to Sue Howe for all the time that she donates to our safety patrol. Souday E has been ordered as an intervention for our reading program. It is research-based and gets results. We have had three fire drills and have two to go. Our tornado drill will be on April 15th. Still waiting to see what our COVID situation will be on that date. An option would be to talk about how to get into the tuck position in specific locations. We will be doing some Alice drills. This may take the form of table-top discussions. Our first one will be with our teachers talking to their classes about it in a non-threatening way. We plan on continuing to stay inside for our lunch and breakfasts, as spring approaches as a matter of saving time and safety concerns. As always, my appreciation goes out to all of our students, parents, staff, colleagues, school board and community members for your unrelenting support and adaptability during this year. I think that the toughest part is behind us. Things are looking up.

Mr. Boler informed the board that as of March 8th, we have all students 6-12 attending school in-person. Overall, the students and teachers are excited to be back in the classroom. The transition has gone well but we continue to work out some of the "bottlenecks" at the beginning of school and at lunch. Students and teachers are glad to have Distance Learning behind them. With decreasing county numbers and warmer weather, I am hopeful we will be able to continue with in-person learning for the remainder of the year. As we know, things can change quickly. Home Learners are able to continue to get lunches from school. They need to contact the kitchen to make these arrangements. We continue to utilize our "Backpack" program to provide meals for students in need. I would like to give a shout out

to ALL school staff. Their hard work and effort has been amazing and greatly appreciated. Term 3 ends on March 11th. All student work is due by 3 pm. Teachers will have a records day on March 12th. Grades will be finalized over Spring Break. I have never been at a school that has had a Spring Break. I believe Spring Break is coming at just the right time this year and am personally thankful for the chance to regroup. I do not want to speak for others, but I believe others are feeling the same way. Juniors will be taking the ACT on March 30th. The Student Council & NHS is working on “Spring Fever” (replacing Snow Days), which will be held the week of April 6-9. Planning for prom and graduation are ongoing. We have been promised further guidance from the state for the past month but have yet to see anything. We will need this soon in order to plan these events. A survey went out to seniors. Approximately 50% responded. The survey yielded two very clear results: The seniors would like a ceremony where the most people can attend & would like to have a “Senior Send-off”. Caps & gowns have been delivered to students and diplomas are here. The master schedule for 2021-2022 has been finalized. The schedule itself will not change but the hours classes are offered may shift based on registration numbers. I will email you a copy of the current schedule. Along with the master schedule, we are also looking at some shifts within our Special Education Department. Registration meetings will be held with each grade level during WIN time (March 23th, 25th, & 30th). There will also be a parent meeting held March 30th at 6:00 pm. This meeting will be reported for those who are unable to attend. I would also be happy to meet with any students/parents 1:1 to answer any questions. We did receive the grant for the CNA program. A message has gone out to students to notify the school if they are interested. At present, we have 9 students who have shown interest. I have completed two evaluations for all non-tenured teachers and have started on their final evaluations. My goal is to have all evaluations completed by April 30th. Ella Hoscheit & Luther Frauenkron represented Caledonia at the Regional Spelling Bee. Both came close to moving on to the next round. Congratulations to them! Our extra-curricular activities will be coming to a close in the next month. Good luck to all activities as we enter playoffs/competitions/performances. Meetings attended over the past month, including but not limited to: SE MN Principals meeting, Technology Committee, Staff Development, Curriculum Committee, Child Study Committee, Q-Comp, ADSIS, SE MASSP Division Meeting, Restrictive Procedures, & multiple HVED meetings regarding Edgenuity/summer school. He thanked Jay Tolleson for his twenty-one years of service to our school district. He also informed the board that the media paraprofessional position that was not replaced due to the students being in distance learning has now been posted again today.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that preschool registration opens on March 22nd. We have screened forty children at early childhood screening so far and another half day of screening being held on March 26th. She is looking at hiring more staff for the SAC summer program. We continue to accept registrations for summer SAC and fall Surround Care. She is in the process of hiring someone for the Summer Reads VISTAS program. The ACT test is scheduled for March 30th for all juniors.

Superintendent Ihrke informed the board that he is excited to have everyone back in school. He thanked everyone for their patience and understanding during this process. He congratulated the students and staff that participated in the Variety Show that was held this past weekend. Everyone did a fantastic job. He wished the best of luck to all the winter sports activities as they approach the end of the regular season and playoff season. They are reviewing things that worked better during the distance learning to connect with people for staff, students, and parents such as IEP meetings. He also thanked Jay Tolleson for his years of service and dedication to our school district.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that she attended webinars on Title, P-EBT, and the Region V Winter session. The P-EBT information was submitted and thanked Cindy Colleran and Angie Morken for the hard work gathering this information. She worked with Ehler's preparing for the Moody's call. Moody's rating call was on March 3rd. They informed us that it looks like we have a potential to increase our rating. They will be giving us an update on March 18th. She is working with Rachel Stackhouse on food service items and working on issues with Nutrikids, Advantage Collections, etc. She has been working on the 2020-2021 budget and other business office duties.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Blocker updated the board regarding the two MSBA conferences he attended virtually. Director Yohe also thanked Jay Tolleson for his years of service as a teacher and a coach. He also wished the extra-curricular activities the best of luck as they continue with their winter sports season.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk