

Board Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2021

The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 299, Caledonia, Minnesota, met in a regular school board meeting in Room #106 of the elementary building 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, Spencer Yohe, and student school board representatives Emma Ideker and Sam Privat. Also present were Superintendent Craig Ihrke, Nathan Boler, Susan Link, Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Gretchen Juan, Jordan Gerard, and other visitors via zoom.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Spencer Yohe to approve the agenda as amended to include a consent agenda action item for hiring another junior high baseball coach due to the increased numbers in participation. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

WARRIOR PRIDE

The following resolution was moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Spencer Yohe:

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)
Family of Ardyce Esch	Monetary Donation	Sports Department

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

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student school board representatives informed the board that winter sports are now completed and spring sports have begun. Graduation is fast approaching. The Spring Fever events were held last week and all the students enjoyed this event. Prom will be held May 1st.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of March 15, 2021, regular school board meeting minutes
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$448,617.22 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$850,000.00.
- Accept the resignation/retirement of David Meyer as the middle school social studies teacher effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, with thanks for his twenty-three years of service to our school district.
- Ratify the hiring of Tyler Scharlau as a part-time special education para beginning March 25, 2021, at II/4 years at \$13.67 per hour.
- Ratify the hiring of Angela TenKley as the middle/high school media para beginning April 14, 2021 at II/4 years at \$13.67 per hour.
- Ratify the hiring of Alex Lange, pending obtaining proper Minnesota licensure, as a full-time high school social studies teacher beginning the 2021-2022 school year at BA/1 year at \$42,628.00 (this is based on the 2019-2021 teacher master agreement salary).
- Ratify the hiring of Mitchel Bechtel, pending obtaining proper Minnesota licensure, as a full-time middle school social studies teacher beginning the 2021-2022 school year at BA/1 year at \$42,628.00 (this is based on the 2019-2021 teacher master agreement salary).
- Approve the hiring of an additional junior high baseball coach for the 2020-2021 school year due to the increased participation numbers.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Discussion/Action Regarding the Retirement Request from Ross Martin

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Melissa Marschall to approved the resignation/retirement request of Ross Martin at the end of first semester of the 2021-2022 school year so that he can continue his duties first semester and be able to host the Three Rivers Festival and have the opportunity for a final winter concert with the students prior to retirement. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board that we are preparing for the end of the year events. We are having a 5th grade promotion that will be limited to two guests for each graduate. We will practice social distancing to the extent possible. Family members will sit together. It will be on the last day of the school year, and parents may bring their children home with them after the ceremony if they desire. PACE will be providing the awards in early May for the students who did the most reading and math this year. The current 4th graders will be designing the T-shirts for grades K-5 next year. They will be worn on "Kindness Thursdays." We will get orders (sizes) this spring to have them ready for the first days of school next year. The elementary students attended the High School Student Council spring carnival last Thursday. Thank you to Mrs. Larson and the Student Council for inviting us. The

elementary will be having a “Field Day” outside with activities in May. If there is inclement weather, we will have a back-up day. Classes will stay together and social distancing guidelines will be followed to the extent possible. Our safety patrol reward day will be on May 20th weather permitting at Beaver State Park. Thank you to Sue Howe for arranging this and PACE for providing the funding. Soudy E materials were distributed at our last staff meeting. This is a phonics based program that will help our students become more proficient in reading, spelling, and writing. Every teacher has explained the safety of ALICE in every classroom, including music, art, and phy-ed. The entire school will be doing an evacuation drill in May as well as a lockdown. We have two more fire drills to complete. Trista Stamness will be doing a Reading Professional Development Day on Tuesday, August 17th. This is our second day of workshop. We are currently exploring options for Summer School. We would like to have a combination of in person and virtual opportunities for our students. Thank you to Priscilla Jacobson for her dedication of 33 years of service at Caledonia Area Elementary School. She can do it all, and make it look so effortless. Her experience and professionalism will be greatly missed. Thank you to Pam Schieber for her 5 years of service at our elementary school. She has been a wonderful asset to our school, and we look forward to her seeing her again as a substitute next year.

Mr. Boler informed the board that he is thankful for the ability to remain in person over the last month. We continue to follow our protocols we have in place. It is important for us not to let our guard down, especially with what we are seeing in Michigan. A special thank you to Dave Meyer for his years of service to the district, and we wish Dave a happy retirement. The feedback regarding spring break was overall very positive by both staff and students. 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 has ended and all grades have been finalized. The juniors took the ACT on March 30th. This went very well. Thank you to Gretchen for all her hard work on this. MCA testing will be starting at the MS/HS on April 27th. April 12-16 was “Spring Fever” week. The students are enjoying the dress up days and the activities. I am looking forward to the outdoor carnival on Thursday. A special thank you to the HS Student Council and MN Honor Society for all their hard work. They have done a phenomenal job making this a fun week while still being mindful of COVID protocol. Prom plans continue to come together. The school will be sponsoring the grand march and the dance to follow. The dance will end at 11:00 p.m. in accordance with the eating and drinking regulations. Graduation plans continue to be made. At present, we are planning on a graduation in the gym which would follow the 50% occupancy guidelines. I am looking to change graduation to 6:00 pm. The reason for this change is to allow for the Senior Send-off to occur at approximately 7:15-7:30ish. I held registration meetings by grade level to review details and layout options for students. I also held a parent meeting via Zoom on March 30th. There were 85 participants which I was VERY pleased with. My hope is to continue to get parents involved in the registrations process. Registration is currently taking place and student schedules are starting to be made. June 7th through June 17th will be our summer school dates for the high school students. Initial sign-up letters went out this week. This will be held in person as required by the state. On April 7th we held our PBIS rewards during WIN for the MS students. This is a time when we get to celebrate the positive behavior of our students. I have been busy conducting interviews over the past month. Tyler Scharlau is a new paraprofessional and is doing a great job. Angie TenKley was hired as our Media Center para and her first day was April 14th. We have also held interviews on two different dates for the HS social studies position and the MS social studies position. I am thrilled with our new hires. They are going to be great additions to our team. We continue to hold ALICE drills, fire drills, and tornado drills to remain in compliance with the state. Congratulations to great seasons for all our extra-curricular activities. A special congratulations to Brandon Ross and the boys’ basketball team. Meetings attended over the past month, including but not limited to: SE MN Principals meeting, Technology Committee, Staff Development, Facilities Committee, BCC Leadership, Q-Comp, ADSIS, SE MASSP Division Meeting, Restrictive Procedures, & multiple HVED meetings regarding Edgenuity/summer school.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that Hand in Hand Preschool classes are filling up for the fall. She is receiving a lot of registrations for the summer SAC program. She has her annual SAC staff training scheduled for May 12th. Surround Care is also filling up for next fall. Firearm Safety class is scheduled for this spring. Driver's education continues to fill up also. The ACT testing is completed and everything went smoothly. The 4th and 5th grade MCA reading tests are done. MCA testing will continue every week for the next five weeks.

Superintendent Ihrke commended all the staff, students, and parents for doing a great job this past school year during the COVID pandemic. He congratulated Brandon Ross and the boys' basketball team for their successful winter sports seasons. He thanked all the retiring staff for all their years of dedication to our school district and wished them the best! He informed the board that the ESSER/GEER relief funding the school district will be receiving came at a perfect time, and due to this funding the school district may not need to go to the voters this fall to ask for additional referendum money. He did inform the board that this will need to be discussed down the road over the next year or two.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that she attended webinars from Region V. She has participated with meetings regarding food service, school year planning, and attended a Moody's rating call. She continues to work on legislative surveys, nonpublic aid, P-EBT/SFSP applications, Perkins, LCS reporting, ESSER/GEER/SERVS, new coding for Basic Skills, Safe Schools and other business office duties.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Graduation Ceremony Planning

The high school graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, May 28th and Directors Matt Blocker, Leigh King, and Spencer Yohe will assist in handing out diplomas at the graduation ceremony.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Yohe updated the board regarding the MSHSL meeting and informed them that school districts may need to offer boys' volleyball and girls' wrestling in the future. Director Blocker thanked Dave Meyer and Ross Martin for their years of service to the school district and wished them well in their retirement. He informed the board that he would like to schedule a school board retreat in June. A doodle link will be sent out so that this can be scheduled.

FACILITY WALK THROUGH OF THE ELEMENTARY BUILDING

Board members and administrations did a facility walk through of the elementary building.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Leigh King to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk