

Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 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, and Spencer Yohe. Also present were Superintendent Craig Ihrke, Nathan Boler, Susan Link, Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Gretchen Juan, Jordan Gerard, and other visitors via zoom. 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Melissa Marschall, seconded by Daniel Small to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of April 19, 2021, regular school board meeting minutes.
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$581,837.26 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$600,000.00.
- Accept the resignation of Carin Borden as a part-time middle/high school special education para effective April 30, 2021, with thanks for her five months of service to our school district.
- Accept the resignation of Jamie Ideker as Junior Class Advisor effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year with thanks for her five years of service to our school district in this position.
- Ratify the hiring of Teala Amberg as a full-time special education teacher beginning the 2021-2022 school year at MA/7 years at \$58,045.00 (this is based on the 2019-2021 teacher master agreement salary).
- Ratify the hiring of Matt Ginther as a junior high baseball coach for the 2020-2021 school year at I/0 years at \$1,930.00.
- Ratify the hiring of Benjamin Glass as a full-time facilities technician beginning May 26, 2021 at I/13 years at \$15.15 per hour.
- Approve the Interact Club to plant some perennials and erect 6-10 bird houses in an area west of the MSHS soccer fields near the walking trail at no cost to the school district.

- Authorize the bidding of bread, dairy and petroleum products for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board that on August 16th, we will be doing CPI training with our staff with a focus on de-escalation strategies. We are hopeful that next fall we will find ourselves back to normal, so our staff may meet as a group. Trista Stammness will be coming on August 17th, our workshop day, to do a deep dive into our data and determine next steps to help teams with consistent leveling. The actual title of the workshop is “Building Strategies for learning/Close reading and leveling practices. ELA is the next group that is up for curriculum purchases. At the MSHS level they were going to meet in their PLC’s to look at various textbook companies and curriculum. They have not had much time in their PLC’s to review, so they are hoping for time during the day or a day or two in the summer to do this. ELA would like an interactive grammar book. Mostly the ELA team needs the time to look at the curriculum. In addition, they would like a universal writing network to be used throughout the school such as the Six plus one traits of writing. Checking in on the math curriculum at the MSHS level: They are good with the curriculum that they are using. The SPED team is appreciative of the addition of *Number Worlds* this year. Our Middle School Special Education teachers would like the Special Ed version of *Sonday* to continue at the Middle School level. Our curriculum team looked at how cursive could be taught at the elementary level. We are looking at Zaner Bloser as a possible resource for cursive writing. It was suggested at our Curriculum Team meeting that specific keyboarding skills be integrated at each grade level. We would like to work more specifically with these skills in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Our students, teachers and paras are to be commended on achieving impressive results on our MCA tests as well as our IReady math and IReady reading diagnostic tests. It was an arduous year, but we have worked hard to increase our reading and math skills. On May 12th, another staff member and I were able to participate in a webinar on Zones of Regulation with the originator and presenter, Leah Kuypers. The Zones training gives us the tools to use to help our students to learn how to self-regulate their emotions and responses in socially adaptive ways in order to achieve behavioral and academic goals. We use this at the elementary level to co-regulate with our students. All of the teacher observations have been completed for the year. We have scheduled the final fire drill and ALICE evacuation drill. Summer school dates at the elementary school will run from July 12th-23rd. Kindergarten Academy will run from July 19th-23rd. Parents are encouraged to send their children on any or all of the dates that work for them. This is our last board meeting before the end of the school year, so I would like to give my sincere thanks to everyone. We could not have made it through the year without helping each other along the way. Thank you to our board members, entire staff (teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, school nurses, custodians, bus drivers, cooks, coaches, office staff) PACE, (elementary parent group) volunteers, students, parents and community members. It truly takes a village to educate and support our children!!

Mr. Boler informed the board that this has undoubtedly been the most challenging year of his career. With the recent announcement by Gov. Walz, I am optimistic for next year! I would like to give a shout out to ALL school staff. Their hard work and effort has been amazing and greatly appreciated. MCA Reading testing started April 27th. By the time of our board meeting, all MCA testing will be completed other than make-up tests which must be completed by Friday, May 21st. We continue to plan for a more “traditional” graduation ceremony. The announcement by Gov. Walz has allowed us to open our graduation ceremony to more guests. A survey went out to seniors asking them to register the number of guests they would like to have attend the graduation ceremony. My goal is to allow as many

guests to attend as possible. Graduation has been changed to 6 pm. The reason for this change is to allow for the Senior Send-off to occur at approximately 7:15-7:30ish. June 7-17th will be our summer school dates for the high school students. MS summer school (math and reading) has been offered to all middle school students. At present, our interest level is quite low. I am hoping to contact individual parents whose children would benefit from summer school. Fire and tornado drills have been completed for the year. We have one ALICE drill yet to complete. We have hired Vanessa Hawkins as our sub for the MSHS office secretary position. This has been a huge help. 5th grade orientation will be held on May 14th. Seniors awards night will be held on May 24th. May 25th will be the seniors last day. Any seniors who have not yet met the graduation requirements will be required to attend school until those requirements are met. Seniors will also turn in their devices. May 26th will be device turn-in day for all other students. May 27th will be graduation practice and the Senior picnic. Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is complete. All student schedules have been created but some changes will need to be made. The goal is to have student schedules in their hands before school lets out for the summer. Meetings attended over the past month, including but not limited to: SE MN Principals meeting, Technology Committee, Staff Development, BCC Leadership, Q-Comp, ADSIS, SE MASSP Division Meeting, & multiple HVED meetings.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that we are still accepting preschool registrations. The four-year-old morning class is full and both three-year-old classes are almost full. A SAC staff training was held last week Wednesday as we prepare for summer programming. With the city pool opening being delayed until July, they are working on some other activities for the month of June. T-ball/Peewee's will start on June 14th. They are working on track camp for students this summer as well. Driver's education is going to have a busy summer, and we are currently looking for other instructors in the area who may be able to help out. Testing is wrapping up this week with a few makeup days. Besides some device issues, testing went very well.

Superintendent Ihrke reminded everyone of the staff appreciation grill out on Thursday, May 20th. He has been approached by a staff member that may request a possible leave of absence. Planning for the fall workshop is in the finalizing stages. Teacher negotiations continue with two more meetings scheduled in May with a goal of being done by June. He has signed our district up for a cohort of learners composed of administrators, counselors and teachers aimed at providing a framework to ensure students are college and career ready upon graduation. We will have summer office hours beginning in June where the offices will be closed on Fridays and staff will be working four ten hour days. He thanked board, administration, teachers, school staff members, students, and parents for their continued great efforts over the last fifteen months and is hoping that next year will be much more close to what we have considered normal in a school setting.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that she continues to work with the P-EBT updates. Updated all the food applications to get us through the school year and this summer. It appears we will be running on the SFSP for all of 2021-22. Public school is providing meals to St. Mary's and St. John's for the remainder of this year. Corrective action plan submitted to MDE. Participated in maintenance interviews. She is working on negotiation costing. Working on 2021-22 budget. Legislative session unknown at the time of this report. If they go past the May 17th deadline we will have to discuss how to proceed with budgeting. The finance committee will need to meet to discuss. The water/sewer rates are increasing for mid-May to appear on July 1st billing. Works on other business office duties.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

Scheduling a School Board Retreat in June or July

The board discussed scheduling two school board retreats over the months of June and July possibly on a Saturday. A doodle link will be sent out to the board to get some possible dates.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Staff Appreciation Grill Out

A staff appreciation grill out will be held on Thursday, May 20th.

Kindergarten Enrollment Numbers of the 2021-2022 School Year

Board members were informed that kindergarten enrollment numbers are projected to at least be 54. Due to the increased enrollment numbers in the kindergarten classroom for the 2021-2022 school year, administration discussed with the board the possibility of having three sections of kindergarten for the upcoming school year.

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Erin Hammell to add a third section of kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year due to the increased enrollment numbers. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Part-time K-5 Remediation Teacher for the 2021-2022 School Year

Administration shared with the board the idea of having a part-time K-5 remediation teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Amanda King to hire a part-time, K-5 remediation teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Yohe updated the board regarding the HVED meetings. Directors Small and Blocker updated the board regarding the teacher negotiations committee meetings that have been held.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Melissa Marschall to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk