

**Board Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 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. 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 Emma Stemper. Also present were Superintendent Craig Ihrke, Nathan Boler, Susan Link, Barb Meyer, Gretchen Juan, Jordan Gerard, Karen Schiltz, and various members from the community.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

The student school board representatives informed the board that Homecoming was a success. Fall sports are coming to an end with their regular season and winter sports will be starting soon.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Various community members addressed the board their concerns with regard to having students wearing masks during the school day and to not make this mandatory for them to wear these masks during the school day.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of September 27, 2021, regular school board meeting minutes.
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$486,667.91 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$500,000.00.
- Accept the resignation of Ellyn Roland as a PCA paraprofessional effective October 8, 2021.
- Ratify the hiring of Carrie Schoh as a full-time elementary Secretary I effective October 25, 2021, at III/9 years at \$15.94 per hour.
- Approve the increase in wages for Katie King as a Secretary I effective August 9, 2021, from III/5 years at \$14.86 per hour to III/9 years at \$15.94 per hour.
- Approve the maternity leave request of Gretchen Juan to begin at the birth of their child around November 26, 2021, through approximately February 7, 2022.
- Rescind the action taken at the September 27, 2021, board meeting to accept the liability insurance and cyber insurance through Hanover and to accept the liability insurance through CM Regent and the worker's compensation insurance through RAS.

- Accept the snow removal proposal from Schroeder Landscaping and Construction Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year as presented.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Recommendation to Mask for a Period of Time Given Certain Parameters**

Moved by Wendy Woyczik to accept the recommendation to mask for a period of time given certain parameters as follows: should one of the three buildings reach 5 individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, and the Minnesota Department of Health identifies that school as a Facility with Cases & Exposures, that building will be required to mask until removed from the MDH list. (Re-evaluated each Thursday, but would be a minimum of 14 days masking). Due to a lack of a second motion for this recommendation, the parameters as stated above failed.

### **MSBA Resolution Statement**

Member Spencer Yohe moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

#### **MSBA Resolution Statement**

Be it Resolved, that MSBA urges the Legislature to support policies that will address the shortage of regularly licensed, short-call substitute teachers by reducing barriers to licensing and hiring practices as well as increasing retention strategies, such as:

- allowing non-licensed individual with a bachelor's degree to apply and be hired by a district, with notification to PELSB, for a short-call substitute license;
- allowing local districts to hire candidates with an Associate Arts (AA) degree and notification to PELSB, for a short-call substitute license;
- allowing local districts to hire a college student who is accepted and enrolled in a teacher prep program for at least two years, with notification to PELSB, for a short-call substitute;
- supporting locally developed, research based, programs to recruit, train, and develop substitute teachers; or
- increasing education funding to provide competitive compensation packages.
- Candidates must complete all district application requirements, fees and background checks prior to beginning work as a substitute teacher.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Daniel Small. On a roll call vote, the following voted 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.

### **Setting of Special School Board Meeting to Canvass November 2, 2021, Election Results**

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Melissa Marschall to have a special school board meeting on Monday, November 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to canvass the November 2, 2021, election results. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## Winter Sports Coaching Contracts

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Melissa Marschall to ratify the following winter sports coaching contracts contingent upon participation numbers in each of the sports for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

- Wrestling:
  - Shay Mahoney, head coach, III/5 years
  - Tanner Benson, assistant coach, II/4 years
  - Travis Frank, junior high coach, I/2 years
  - Justin Conway, junior high coach, I/1 years
  
- Boys' Basketball:
  - Brad King, head coach, III/11 years
  - Jeremy Leis, assistant coach, II/16 years
  - Austin Bauer, 9<sup>th</sup> grade coach, I/2 years
  - Colton Lampert, 8<sup>th</sup> grade coach, I/3 years
  - Ryan Pitts, 7<sup>th</sup> grade co-coaching, I/0 years
  
- Girls' Basketball:
  - Scott Sorenson, head coach, III/24 years
  - Brent Schroeder, assistant coach, II/4 years
  - Sara Klug, 7<sup>th</sup> grade coach, I/4 years
  - 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade coaching positions open at this time
  
- Gymnastics:
  - Savana Kettner, head coach, III/1 years
  - Kaylee Cavanaugh, assistant coach, II/1 years

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board we participated in National Walk to School Day on October 6th. We had many students from all over town walk or bike to school. Many students met at Mrs. Link's house, and we picked up several more on the way to school. We gave bike helmets and fitness prizes to students. Everyone received treats and stickers. We had a "Celebration" Day on Friday, October 8th. We celebrated the students' hard work so far this year and their MCA scores. We also visited the fire station on this day, where the students learned about fire safety. The student council made posters and planned dress-up days for Homecoming week. The fifth graders walked in the parade with our PACE parents and children. Thank you Alissa Peterson for planning the PACE entry and all the work that goes into this. The t-shirts were delivered to every staff member and student at the elementary school just in time for the parade. Thank you to PACE for paying for these. Our 4th grader, Brody Schedivny's design was chosen. We took a field trip to the McCormick corn maze and pumpkin patch on Tuesday, October 12th. Much fun was had by all. Thank you to the McCormick family for this opportunity. This was the first time that many of our students have been to a corn maze and pumpkin patch. We hired a new elementary secretary, Carrie Schoh, and she will be joining our team on Monday, October 25th. We are still filling in for substitutes, but we are hopeful that the tide will turn with fewer COVID related absences. Brendan Thompson from Curriculum Associates (IReady math and reading) came to our school on October 14th to meet. We discussed possible configurations for Professional Development. Parent/teacher conferences were held Thursday, October 14th from 1-7, and will continue on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thank you to all of our employees, including our nursing staff, custodians,

office staff, kitchen staff, teachers and paraprofessionals who have performed extra duties to keep our school running smoothly during COVID.

Mr. Boler informed the board that Parent-Teachers conferences were held on September 27th. Parents were given the option to hold a conference in-person or via Zoom. Homecoming was held the week of October 4th-8th. We had some great events including the Powderpuff Football, Ironman Volleyball, Coronation, Pep Fest, & the parade. The students and staff really enjoyed the dress-up days. It was great to see so many students and staff excited and participating in Homecoming. Scott Moline (HVED Data Coordinator) presented to our MS staff on October 6th. This is a great starting point to looking at/using data to make informed decisions in the classroom. October 14th was an early out with PD scheduled from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The online option for students is up and fully operational. In my September report, I mentioned holding a meeting for all IEP students prior to December 1st. We continue to hold these meetings, almost on a daily basis. I want to recognize all the hard work our Special Education Teachers have put in. Open campus (lunch and WIN) has begun for our seniors. I met with all seniors this week to review rules/expectations. This will begin with the last day of the week and expand from there. As Superintendent Ihrke had reported in his weekly updates, I have been involved in the discussion/application process for our ESSER funds. Superintendent Ihrke and I met with Houston County to discuss ideas on how we could work collaboratively to help students/families in need. Access to resources/services is a challenge. I look forward to continuing these conversations to better serve our students. He is in the process of getting HS staff set up with Rubin Training. This is a program for our students to work on soft skills. This will be done during WIN time. He continues to work on teacher evaluations. I am on pace to have the first evaluation completed for all non-tenured staff by MEA break. We have held lockdown and fire drills while the weather remains nice. Congratulations to all our extra-curricular activities. Best of luck to all activities as they start playoffs. He attended (virtually) the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) training on October 4th. On October 13th, he attended a Law Conference, which was very informative. Interviews for the COVID Coordinator/Dean of Students were held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Meetings attended over the past month, including but not limited to: HVED Principals Meeting, Strategic Planning Committee, Curriculum Meeting, BCC Meeting, Crisis Committee, Insurance Committee, & Student Support Team.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that early childhood screening is scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup> and November 12<sup>th</sup>. She has submitted the Parent Aware application. The bathroom in the SAC room has been installed and has been a huge help for the staff and students. Thank you to everyone that worked so hard to make this happen! The FRIENDS Trivia date is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Ihrke congratulated and thanked all the fall coaches on their sports season. The finance committee has been discussing a reciprocity agreement between the States of Minnesota and Iowa and this is something that will be discussed further with the board at the regular school board meeting in November.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that last month we talked about the insurance quotes from Marsh McLennan Agency. They are still working on the cyber policy. The application for COVID testing application and budget was submitted. LCTS report completed. Starting the verification process for application for educational benefits. Working on audit information. Continues to work on other business office duties.

### **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

The MSBA Leadership Conference will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup> through January 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Director Yohe updated the board regarding HVED and MSHSHL. He also made a tribute to Bob Stark and stated he was one of the best and touched so many lives in a positive way and will truly be missed by his family and our community. Director Blocker informed the board that our school district received two positive incident reports from the MSHSL for our football coaches and soccer coaches, and thanked them for doing a great job.

### **CLOSED SESSION FOR SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION**

Moved by Melissa Marschall, seconded by Erin Hammell to close the meeting at 7:27 p.m. for the superintendent's evaluation. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Moved by Melissa Marschall, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to convene the regular school board meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Wendy Woyczik, seconded by Leigh King to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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Spencer Yohe, Clerk