

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2022**

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 and via interactive technology. 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, Karen Schiltz, Gretchen Juan, and various members from the community in person and via interactive technology.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**WARRIOR PRIDE**

The following resolution was moved by Melissa Marschall, seconded by Erin Hammell:

*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)
Merchants Bank	Monetary Donation	Elementary and Middle/High School Buildings
Mayo Clinic	Monetary Donation	Elementary and Middle/High School Buildings

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

**STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

The student school board representatives informed the board that snow days was held along with a flexible learning day last week. First semester is going well. Knowledge Bowl received 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> places during the competition and congratulated them. Other curricular activities are going well.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Katherine Meyers addressed the board her 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 along with doing away with any COVID restriction in our school district.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approval of December 20, 2021, regular board meeting minutes and the January 10, 2021, organizational board meeting minutes.
- Approval of the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$553,522.51 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$1,100.00.00.
- Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Caledonia Chapter of the River Valley Education Association and Independent School District No. 299 with regard to adding an assistant musical director position at Level II of Appendix D and a Business Professionals of America Program advisor at Level VI of Appendix D.
- Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Caledonia Chapter of the River Valley Education Association and Independent School District No. 299 with regard to licensed teaching staff to be compensated for doubling up classes/supervising their own class and the class of another teacher during the COVID-19 pandemic for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
- Accept the resignation of Caitlin Speece as a special education paraprofessional effective January 28, 2022, with thanks for her service and dedication to our school district this year.
- Ratify the hiring of Sydney McCabe as a part-time special education paraprofessional at II/3 at \$13.63 per hour.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approval of the Phone Vendor**

Moved by Melissa Marschall, seconded by Erin Hammell to approve the phone vendor quote from Consolidated Communications. Those voting in favor: Matt Blocker, Erin Hammell, Melissa Marschall, Daniel Small, Wendy Woyczik, and Spencer Yohe. Those opposed: Leigh King. Motion carried.

### **COVID-19 Recommendation #1**

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to approve the following COVID-19 recommendation:

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)  
**Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.**

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to school.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If people are unable, or refuse to wear a mask they will need to isolate for the entire 10 days.

*If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.*

Household Contacts:

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If people are unable, or refuse to wear a mask they will need to quarantine for the entire 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.

*If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home*

- Caledonia Area Public Schools is eliminating non-family household contact tracing. We will inform people that there has been a positive case in school and family members will determine what course of action they take.
- It is critical that families keep students home when they are ill.

Those voting in favor: Daniel Small and Wendy Woyczik. Those opposed Matt Blocker, Erin Hammell, Leigh King, Melissa Marschall, and Spencer Yohe. Motion failed.

### COVID-19 Recommendation #2

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to approve the following COVID-19 recommendation:

#### **If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)**

##### **Everyone, regardless of vaccination status**

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to school.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If people are unable, or refuse to wear a mask they will need to isolate for the entire 10 days.

*If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.*

#### **Household Contacts of people testing positive for Covid-19:**

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If people are unable, or refuse to wear a mask they will need to quarantine for the entire 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.
- If parents determine that the student has isolated from a positive household member, they would not be deemed a household contact.

*If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home*

- Caledonia Area Public Schools is eliminating non-family household contact tracing. We will inform people that there has been a positive case in school and family members will determine what course of action they take.
- It is critical that families keep students home when they are ill.

Those voting in favor: Matt Blocker, Erin Hammell, Melissa Marschall, and Daniel Small, and Wendy Woyczik. Those opposed: Leigh King and Spencer Yohe. Motion carried.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mrs. Link informed the board that report cards and/or Assessment data forms have been finalized and sent out home with elementary students to give to their parents. We have continued to deliver quality instruction to our students and we are seeing growth on our assessments. Elementary parent teacher conferences will be held from 1-7 PM on Thursday, February 10th and from 4-7 PM on Tuesday, February, 15th. Our number of students who are quarantining due to COVID has increased this month, but the number of our staff members at the elementary school who have to quarantine has decreased as of this writing. The “at home learning” for quarantined students has created more work for our teachers, but we are grateful to be in person. Edgenuity students are still in session for the first semester until January 19th, and they will be beginning the second semester on January 24th. We are looking to purchase more IRLA books through American Reading Company which offers our students a variety of new titles at their reading levels. Books in the hands of our students foster lifelong readers, so we hope to get as many as we can find funding for. PACE is working on the yearbook. Thank you to Alissa Peterson for her help on the yearbook throughout the year. PACE is also starting a project to collect gently worn, used or new sneakers. These will be donated to an organization who will distribute them to families in need. More information will be coming out on Schoology with details. The elementary book fair will be held Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. We had an all school assembly commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day presented by our 5th graders. Thank you to Mrs. Engan for putting this together and to Mr. Hebeisen for his technical support. We are working on getting Professional Development follow-up sessions scheduled during our teachers’ prep times for Sunday, IRLA, and IReady reading and math, but sub availability is limited. Hopefully, this can happen one day in February, March and April, respectively. Thank you to our teachers and staff for covering for each other and for all of the extra duties that have come about this year due to COVID. Thank you to our parents for keeping us informed about illness in your homes and caring for your children. Thank you to our school nurses who go above and beyond their call of duty. Thank you to our students who work so hard and for their resilience. It is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Boler informed the board December 22nd brought the end of term two and semester one. Caledonia grades have been finalized. Honor roll and class rank will not be completed until grades are recorded for classes being taken outside Caledonia. (Online, PSEO, etc.) This will be finalized by the

end of the month. The first week back from break has been busy with the start of the new semester. There is a lot of behind the scene work to start the semester including credit checks and class/schedule changes. The MS/HS still has an opening for a paraprofessional. I am hoping to fill this right away but at present have not had any applicants. Our school wide ALICE Drill was completed on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Homework Help has been on Tuesday and Thursday from 3-4:30 pm. We have been averaging about 8-10 students per day. "Virtual" help sessions are held on Mondays from 4-5:30 pm, and we are starting to see more students take advantage of the virtual help session. I am in the process of scheduling the next MS/HS Parent Advisory meeting. I am looking at the week of January 31st. More information to come. Preparations for the 2022-23 continue as we continue to build the master schedule and adjust course offerings (including college in the schools & PSEO). We are continuing to move forward with the possibility of offering the trip to Washington D.C. Information will be going out to students 6-8 in the coming weeks. Meetings/trainings attended over the past month, including but not limited to: HVED Principals Meeting & Student Support Team.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that preschool registration will be held on possibly March 8<sup>th</sup>. Surround Care and SAC programs are going well. The winter/spring catalogue will be mailed out Monday. She updated the board regarding testing.

Superintendent Ihrke updated the board regarding the AASA Superintendent conference he attended. He updated the board regarding the new school camera system and that Access Security will be installing the new cameras. He updated the board regarding the child care center that the school district is working on and that this will be a great benefit to our community.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that the audit information was sent to all the necessary organizations including the federal audit. She continues to update FIN 160 and 161 applications and budgeting expenses. Report of Indebtedness to Houston County. Bond Payments due February 1<sup>st</sup>. Local Collaborative Time Study reporting. Working on 1099 and sales tax reporting. Meetings on daycare and what is needed for this. Working out issues with insurance changes. Reduction of over \$50,000 in compensatory revenue. All attempts were made to get families to complete applications, but some families moved out of the district or did not submit applications. Continues to work on other business office duties.

### **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **2022-2023 Working School Calendar**

A 2022-2023 working school calendar was shared with the board and informed that this calendar will be adopted at the regular school board meeting in February.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Directors Matt Blocker, Melissa Marschall and Spencer Yohe updated the board members regarding the MSBA conference they attended. Director Blocker thanked Robbie Sobczak, Alex Lange and the students for their great job they did in the social exchange project.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Erin Hammell, seconded by Melissa Marschall to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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Spencer Yohe, Clerk