

Board Meeting Minutes March 14, 2022

The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 299, Caledonia, Minnesota, met in a regular school board meeting in the elementary building room #106 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, Nancy Runningen, Stacey Meyer, Tricia Babinski, Mark and Melissa Augedahl and various members via interactive technology.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Daniel Small 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 boys' basketball is still playing and girls' basketball season has ended. Five wrestler's made it to state to compete. The snow days was a success. Junior students have been meeting with Mr. Schroeder. Chief Officer Kurt Zehnder met with students regarding safe habits. University of Duluth also met with students interested in attending their college.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Stacey Meyer updated the board regarding the upcoming musical and thanked the school district for their support in the theatre program as it very important to many students in our school district. Mark Augedahl addressed the board regarding identity issues amongst children.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of the January 18, 2022, Regular School Board Minutes
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$1,189,060.14 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$1,100,000.00.
- Accept the retirement/resignation of Jean Klinski effective May 26, 2022, with thanks for her past twenty-three years of service and dedication to our school district.
- Accept the resignation of Austin Stalsberg effective May 26, 2022, with thanks for his past two years of service and dedication to our school district.
- Ratify the hiring of Caitlin Speece as a part-time special education paraprofessional beginning January 31, 2022, at II/3 at \$13.63 per hour.
- Ratify the hiring of Owen Blocker as a part-time facilities specialist beginning February 22, 2022, at I/4 at \$13.17 per hour.

- Ratify the hiring of Tricia Babinski as the school musical assistant beginning the 2021-2022 school year at II/0 at \$1,715.00.
- Approve the stipend amount of \$1,000.00 to be paid to Heidi Myhre as the school musical accompanist for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Approve the maternity leave request from Monica Larsen beginning around the birth of her child approximately on March 17, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
- Approval of the 2022-2023 school calendar as presented.
- Approve the school district to move forward with the submission of the application to the Department of Human Services for CAPS Care.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

2021-2022 Revised Budget

	2021-22	2021-22	(Increase)	2021-22	2021-22	(Increase)	2021-22
	Budget	Revised		Budget	Revised		Revised Fund
	Revenues	Revenues	Decrease	Expenditures	Expenditures	In Expenses	Balance
			In Revenues				Inc/(Decrease)
General Fund	\$9,346,464	\$9,477,780	-\$131,316	\$9,095,582	\$8,998,127	\$97,455	\$479,653
Food Service	\$495,838	\$495,838	\$0	\$442,980	\$443,013	-\$33	\$52,825
Community Services	\$371,092	\$391,777	-\$20,685	\$363,362	\$367,980	-\$4,618	\$23,797
Capital Projects							
Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debt Retirement	\$2,327,017	\$2,327,017	\$0	\$1,648,350	\$1,648,350	\$0	\$678,667
Scholarship Fund	\$13,495	\$13,495	\$0	\$13,495	\$13,495	\$0	\$0
Activity Fund	\$101,990	\$103,990	-\$2,000	\$95,914	\$97,914	-\$2,000	\$6,076
Total	\$12,655,896	\$12,809,897	-\$154,001	\$11,659,683	\$11,568,879	\$90,804	\$1,241,018

Moved by Melissa Marschall, seconded by Daniel Small to approve the revised 2021-2022 budget as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Additional Junior High Softball Coach for the 2021-2022 School Year

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Leigh King to approve the hiring of an additional junior high softball coach for the 2021-2022 school year if participation numbers increase above twenty students participating at the junior high level. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spring Sport Coaching Contracts for the 2021-2022 School Year

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Leigh King to ratify the following spring coaching contracts for the 2021-2022 school year contingent upon participation numbers in each of the sports:

- Baseball:
 - Brad Augedahl, head coach, IV/6
 - Brandon Meiners, assistant coach, II/5

- Zach Hauser, junior high coach, I/13
- Matt Ginther, junior high coach, I/1
- Softball:
 - Chad Augedahl, head coach, IV/4
 - Kari Rusert, assistant coach, II/2
 - Jennifer Classon, junior high, I/4
 - Junior high softball position to be filled if approved as stated in the above motion
- Boys' & Girls' Golf:
 - Alex Lange, head boys' golf coach, IV/0
 - Robbie Sobczak, head girls' golf coach, IV/1
- Boys' & Girls' Track:
 - Reese Wait, head boys' track coach, IV/17
 - Mitchell Bechtel, head girls' track coach, IV/0
 - Rachel Welsh, assistant boys' and girls' track coach, II/0

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board that she attended the MESPA Conference which provided an opportunity to meet with other elementary principals from across the state from all sizes of schools and cities. Top priority for elementary schools is developing literacy. Spring Bling Week was held on February 14th through February 17th. We had great student and staff participation with a mixture of winter and spring themes for dress-up days of the week, special treats at lunch, snow sculptures, and forts, and a dance party at the end of the week. We received the Pickleball nets, rackets, and balls from our Houston County Ships grant. This will be used at recess as an additional choice of activity. PACE provided treats for our bus drivers in recognition of bus driver appreciation week. She completed the early admission to the reading and math corps program to request our reading and math corps tutors for next year. We celebrated our 100 days of school with the kindergarten students. Many parents and volunteers came for this event. Fun was had by all. Thank you to our kindergarten teachers Ms. Fingerson, Ms. Meyer, and Mrs. Newgaard. Kindergarten round-up will be on Tuesday, March 15th from 6:00 -7:30 PM at the Caledonia Area Elementary School. We are excited to meet our incoming kindergarten class. The elementary book fair was a huge success due to our esteemed media center specialist, Lorene Reining. Thank you also to our volunteers, Kari Neumann, Laurie Peter, Alex Studenski, and Pam Schieber. Many of our teachers are participating in professional growth opportunities via web-based learning during their PLC time to become even more skilled in the classroom. When we keep learning, we keep growing. An elementary building committee has been put together to configure room assignments for next fall. The kindergarten classrooms will likely be moving. Our goal is to give our kindergarten to the extra wing upstairs. The afterschool academy with our teachers working with our students in grades K-5 is going well, as students continue to show academic growth. We are preparing for MCA testing and teachers have scheduled the days that we will be testing our students. Feedback from parent-teacher conferences was favorable. We will continue to offer in-person and virtual conferences, based on parent preference and make accommodations for scheduling. Professional Development for elementary teachers consists of: Epic Development, Leveraging Literacy Learning with Trista Stamness, Wednesday, March 2nd; IReady Reading and Math professional development, March 3rd; and Winsor Learning, Sondag Systems Essentials Training for whole classroom instruction. Wednesday April 6th. Snarg, a character from IReady, will be visiting our classrooms and playground on March 16th. IReady has been a tremendous resource for our students and

teachers. She has processed partial IRLA leveled book orders for grades K-5, but would like to do a fundraiser in the spring to complete the order. Her idea is to do a “Run/walkathon with the principal,” one mile for each grade. Kindergarteners would do a half mile. Students would get pledges for their efforts. Curriculum focus this year: Elementary professional development: Winsor Learning, Soudy, Essentials, Epic Development: Leveraging Literacy and Learning (IRLA), IReady reading and math, Ready Reading and Math, Zaner Bloser (handwriting program). Other meetings and trainings include HVED Principal meetings, HVED Sped para meeting, Student Council Advisor meetings, HVED MTSS for SLD eligibility, Restrictive Procedures, Technology Committee, Curriculum Committee, CAE Student Support team meeting, “Leaders in literacy: Growing Student Performance while Building Teacher Expertise,” St. Mary’s, Student support team meetings, and Edgenuity.

Mr. Boler informed the board that March continues to be a busy time as we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year. This is very time consuming as we work to create a schedule that best fits the school and survey students about the electives they would like to have offered. We continue to make changes to our master schedule but are nearing a final draft. A parent registration meeting will be held the week of March 28th. The CNA cohort is on pace for next year. This will be a PSEO opportunity that will include students from neighboring school districts. Kurt Zehnder came in to meet with the middle school on March 3rd and the high school on March 4th. Topics included safe driving, physical altercations at school, vaping, and more. Brent Schroeder and himself have been part of the MNMTSS (Minnesota Multi-Tier Systems of Support) five-month cohort put on my MDE. They have completed the third meeting as we look at ways to improve support/interventions for students. Parent Advisory group met on February 24th. We are working on creating a name, mission, and core values. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15th at 5:00 p.m. in the MS/HS media center. He attended the HVED MTSS day virtually on March 7th. On March 9th, a group of students will attend a job fair in La Crescent. All students grades 10-12 had the option to attend. Semester one report cards were sent home the first week of February. The reason for the delay is because we cannot finalize all grades until we receive grades from MNVA and PSEO courses. The changes to our COVID protocols has boosted morale among most staff, specifically those working closely with contact tracing/COVID protocol. February 7th through February 11th was Snow Days. Students enjoyed dress up days and the activities of the week. February 21st through February 25th was National FFA week. The FFA team is planning events for the school. He has been working hard to complete teacher evaluations. He is in the process of scheduling two speakers to come in to speak at the school. Chris Gordon will be coming in on April 4th to discuss “The Attitude of Gratitude” and focusing on the good around us rather than focusing on the negative. On April 18th and 19th, Robert Hackenson will be presenting to both the parents and student body regarding safe social media use and making good/responsible decisions. Both events will be advertised in the coming days. There is a great deal of work being done to prepare for the 2022-2023 school year. I provided the first draft of a master schedule but many changes have been made. The state has extended the grace period for teachers to teach College in the Schools through September 2023. I am in the process of looking into different options for the 2022-2023 school year. He is continuing to work on a CNA class that will be offered for students at CAPS. The class would include clinicals outside of school as well as the CNA test at the end of the class. The MS/HS still has an opening for a paraprofessional. The MS/HS had Professional Development on February 10th. The time was used to prepare for MCA testing, hold building level PLCs, and prepare for conferences. Conferences were held on February 15th. Homework Help will continue to run Thursday from 3-4:30 pm. “Virtual” help sessions on Mondays from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Tuesday’s will now be “Beyond the Bell” which provides homework help along with enrichment activities. MCA prep work is taking place with the testing schedule being finalized. Testing at the MS/HS will begin on April 12th. We will be running a two-hour late schedule on the days when multiple grade levels will be testing. The junior ACT has been scheduled for April 5th at the city auditorium. We have begun junior interviews with the hopes of completing these prior to class registration for the 2022-2023 school year. We held a parent advisory

meeting on January 31st. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the MS/HS media center. Our main focus will be to create a name, mission statement, and core values. An initial interest meeting was held in February for parents/students interested in going to Washington D.C. In January, he was able to attend the MASSP conference in Minneapolis. This is always a fantastic opportunity to connect with principals around the state as well as bringing new ideas back to Caledonia. Congratulations to all our extracurricular activities and our student participants. Best of luck to each activity as they move into sections/end of year competitions. Meetings/trainings attended over the past month, including but not limited to: HVED Principals Meeting, BCC meeting, Restrictive Procedures, Crisis Committee, Daycare Committee, and Student Support Team.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that Hand in Hand Preschool and Early Childhood Family Education Fall of 2022 preschool registrations will open on March 28th. Early childhood screening is scheduled for March 31st and April 1st. She has submitted the Summer Reads application and hoping to have two more summer reads VISTAS this summer. Community ed classes are in full swing and going well. She is looking for members to be part of the Community Ed Advisory Council. She updated the board regarding testing. She updated the board regarding the CAPS Care and informed the board that it is the school district's goal to have the daycare center ready to open on Monday, August 15th. We are currently a certified child care center for ages 33 months to 13 years. We are applying to be a licensed program for children ages six weeks to 13 years. We are currently looking to hire a part-time child care coordinator to help with the initial application process and be part of developing the program. This position has potential to move into a full-time position depending upon the need. We will also be looking to hire teachers, assistant teachers, and aides for the daycare in the future. We are applying for our full capacity but the number of spots we have available will depend on how many staff we can hire.

Superintendent Ihrke updated the board with regard to the projects happening in the elementary gymnasium. During spring break, there will be new phones, a new paging system and a new camera system installed in the school district. He recognized the school board for their hard work they continue to demonstrate for our school district. He thanked the school bus drivers for their countless hours getting our students to school and events safely and that their hard work does not go unnoticed. He congratulated all the co-curricular and curricular activities for their successful seasons and wished them well as they continue to compete. He thanked Jean Klinski for her twenty-three years of service to our school district and wished her well in her retirement.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that she received notice the school district will be audited on our Federal ECF (Emergency Connectivity Funds). She is working with HVED on special ed forms/coding. The school district qualified for \$17,090.36 for food & nutrition Supply Chain Assistance (SCA). There is a grant available for kitchen equipment purchases that Ms. Stackhouse and herself have been working on, and that prices are going up significantly on equipment in just the past few months. The onsite review of the food service program will be May 4th at the middle/high school, and this is a new review location for us. She attended the Region V winter session. She notified that the school district is being transitioned from DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) to UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) numbers, and that this number is required for us to receive Federal funding. She has completed the revised 2021-22 Budget. She stated that it has been difficult budgeting with so many grants going with different lengths of time (crossing several years). Continue to work on other business office duties.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Discussion Regarding a K-12 Dean of Students

The school district would like to revisit the idea of having a K-12 Dean of Students. A combined Dean of Students/COVID Coordinator was approved last fall. This would be solely a K-12 Dean of Students position. Administration is putting together a job description. We would like to take action regarding this position at the regular school board meeting in April.

School Policies

The first reading of the Use of School District Facilities and Equipment Policy #902 was held with the adoption to take place at the April regular school board meeting.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

The school board members updated one another regarding support staff negotiations, finance committee meetings, MSBA meetings they attended, facilities committee meetings, and an HVED committee meeting. They thanked Gretchen Juan and Nancy Runningen for their hard work with the CAPS Care and that this is something that is truly needed within our community with the daycare shortages. They congratulated Jean Klinski on her retirement and thanked her for her years of service to the school district. They wished all the students participating in the co-curricular and curricular activities the best of the luck as they prepare for their future events and congratulated all the students for their successful seasons thus far.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Wendy Woyczik, seconded by Erin Hammell to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.
Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk