

Board Meeting Minutes
April 18, 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, and Spencer Yohe. Also present were Superintendent Craig Ihrke, Nathan Boler, Susan Link, Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Gretchen Juan, and Jordan Gerard.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

WARRIOR PRIDE

The following resolution was moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Wendy Woyczik

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)
Caledonia Lions	In recognition for volunteering 112 hours to sell athletic tickets for 30 events from November of 2021 through March of 2022	

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of March 14, 2022, Regular School Board Minutes
- Approve the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$628,191.22 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$300,000.00.
- Accept the resignation of Owen Blocker effective March 18, 2022 with thanks for his service to our school district.
- Accept the resignation/retirement of Marsha Sawle as an elementary teacher effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year with thanks for her thirty-one years of service and dedication to our school district.
- Ratify the hiring of Katie Block as the junior high softball coach I/0 at \$1,969.00 beginning the 2022-2023 school year.
- Ratify the hiring of Steve Munderloh as the middle/high school choir teacher beginning the 2022-2023 school year at BA+30/11 years at \$61,771.00.
- Approval of the Use of School District Facilities & Equipment Policy #902

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

ACTION ITEMS

FTE Changes for the 2022-2023 School Year

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Leigh King to approve the following FTE changes for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Elementary School – Increase 1.0 FTE First Grade Teacher
- Increase 0.34 FTE Keyboarding/Tech Skills Teacher

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Termination and Non-Renewal of a Probationary Teacher

Member Daniel Small introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION
AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACT
SAMANTHA STEELE KRUSE, A PROBATIONARY TEACHER

WHEREAS, Samantha Steele Kruse is a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 299,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 299, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subdivision 5, that the teaching contract of Samantha Steele Kruse, a probationary teacher in Independent School District No. 299, is hereby terminated at the close of the current 2021-2022 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the written notice be served to said teacher regarding termination and non-renewal of her contract as provided by law, and that said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION
AND NON-RENEWAL

April 18, 2022

Samantha Steele Kruse
313 South Second Street
Caledonia, MN 55921

Dear Samantha,

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 299 held on Monday, April 18, 2022, a resolution was adopted by a majority roll call vote to terminate your contract effective at the end of the current school year and not to renew your contract for the 2022-2023 school year. Said action of the board is taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 5.

You may officially request that the School Board give its reasons for the non-renewal of your teaching contract.

Yours very truly,

SCHOOL BOARD OF INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 299

Spencer Yohe
School Board Clerk

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Erin Hammell. Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Matt Blocker, Erin Hammell, Leigh King, Melissa Marschall, Daniel Small, Wendy Woyczik, and Spencer Yohe. he following voted against the same: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted

K-12 Dean of Students Position

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Wend Woyczik to approve hiring a K-12 Dean of Students position beginning the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Althing Student Health Event/Mental Health Screener

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Wendy Woyczik to approve the one-year trial contract to host an Althing Student Health Event with the understanding that the school district is not obligated to continue the second year if elected to do so. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Link informed the board that our students were able to partake in the NED motivational and character building lyceum. NED goes to schools all over the US promoting the positive mindset message of “Never give up,” “Encourage others,” and “Do your Best.” It has a pay-it-forward design, so other schools may also benefit from the message. Kindergarten round-up was well-attended, and currently, our numbers look to be 50 students for the upcoming school year. Thank you to all who worked on this event to make it successful and fun. We have five new students who started in April. We are excited to see and to have welcomed our new students. PACE will be sponsoring a family fun night on Friday, May 13th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Music in motion will be providing the entertainment. There will be dancing, games, and a concession stand. We are looking forward to seeing our parents and students for this out-of-school event. Our elementary students read for a combined total of 129,515 minutes during our “I love to read month.” Thank you to Jen Classon and Gina Steele for being good sports to be “S’mored” by Mrs. Engan’s class who won the reading contest for the most minutes read at 18,326 minutes. Lindsey Meyer and I worked on a grant for summer school that was approved by MDE. This means that we will be able to offer our academic summer success program again this year for all grades K-5. It will run from Monday, June 20th through Friday, July 1st. Ms. Howe is looking at providing social/emotional summer success programming as well. The dates will be somewhat different. She has met with St. John’s and St. Mary’s about their intent to participate in our Title program for next school year. This affirmation of consultation is done every spring to invite our non-public schools to use Title funds for their students. The elementary schedule has been created for next year. Teachers will be getting the schedule shortly, so they plan accordingly. MCA Testing has been completed for grade 4 reading, and grade 3 math. We also have completed two FAST Reading and Math assessments, and will be doing our final Fast Assessments for the year between May 9th through May 27th. We continue to do our IReady diagnostics. We are showing growth both individually and in grade levels. Parents of Edgenuity students have been contacted regarding MCA testing. Dates for ESY and ECSE have been set. Two para positions have been posted for special education summer school. Thank you to Marsha Sawle for her dedication to our students and to our school district. She taught from her heart and has touched many lives. Meetings attended: MTSS (Multi-tiered systems of support) HVED Principal meetings, HVED intervention meeting with Scott Moline, Caledonia monthly SPED meeting, Student Council Advisor meetings, Restrictive Procedures, Crisis committee meeting, Admin. Meetings, Technology meeting, CAE Student Support team meeting, Special Ed. IEP’s, Evaluations, Interventions, Responses to calls, and HVED related meetings and correspondence since the last board meeting (54).

Mr. Boler informed the board that March 17th marked the end of third term. Grades have been finalized for term three, including the eligibility list. Spring break provided both students and staff a chance to recharge as we enter the final term of the school year. The MS/HS held its annual tornado drill on March 29th as well as the first fire drill of the spring. April continues to be a busy time as we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year. The master schedule is complete, the parent registration meeting took place on March 29th, as well as registration meetings with each grade level. Student registration is well underway. The CNA cohort is on pace for next year. This will be a PSEO opportunity that will include students from neighboring school districts. The search continues for a MS/HS science teacher. We have hired a choir teacher and will be holding MS math interviews the week of April 11th. We will also have openings for paraprofessionals as we continue to operate short at the MS/HS. Our Parent

Advisory Council (PAC) continues to meet on a regular basis. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the MS/HS conference room. He has been working hard to complete teacher evaluations and has four left to complete. On April 4th, Chris Gordon came to speak to students in grades 5-12 about the "The Attitude of Gratitude". 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. The parent/student community presentation will take place at 7:00 p.m. following the school board meeting. He asked them to spread the word and encouraged the board to attend as well. The juniors took the ACT on April 5th at the city auditorium. The MCA Reading test took place on April 12th and April 14th. MCA Math and science will take place on April 26th and April 28th. At present, there are fifteen people signed to attend the Washington D.C. trip in June 2023. Congratulations to our Knowledge Bowl team as they competed at the state competition. Congratulations to our BPA students who competed at state and to the students who qualified for nationals. Congratulations to the boys' basketball team and their terrific season and third place finish at state. Spring extra-curricular activities are underway. Hopefully the weather improves so we can get some events in. Meetings/trainings attended over the past month, including but not limited to: HVED Principals Meeting, BCC meeting, Restrictive Procedures, Crisis Committee, Technology Committee, Q-comp, Facilities Committee & Student Support Team.

Mrs. Juan informed the board that preschool classes are filling up for the fall. They have screened twenty students during the spring early childhood screening session. They are currently looking for an ECFE teacher. They have posted positions for a 3K teacher position and two Pre-K para positions. Phase one of the CAPS Care application was submitted on April 25th and are waiting to hear back from DHS in regards to this application. They have held interviews for the CAPS Care Coordinator position. They are receiving a lot of registrations for the summer SAC program. They will have their annual SAC staff training on May 11th. They have started registration for the summer t-ball/peewee programs. She is looking into a few more classes for the summer, potentially a garden class. The 6th grade play will begin practice on April 25th. There are four students taking the ACT on April 19th and forty-five students tested on April 5th. They are about half-way through MCA testing. Reading and math tests need to be completed by May 6th. Science tests need to be completed by May 13th.

Superintendent Ihrke congratulated the Robotics team for qualifying for state competition. He congratulated Spencer Yohe for being inducted into MSUM Dragon Sports Hall of Fame for distinguished service. Spring sports is underway although the weather has not been cooperating to get games played. The camera system has been installed. He thanked Marsha Sawle for years of service to our school district and wished her well as she retires. Support staff negotiations has a tentative agreement and this will be brought forth to the board in May. He informed the board that we will be working on submitting past due accounts to collections at our school district.

Ms. Barb Meyer informed the board that school meals will go back to paid, reduced and free for the 2022-2023 school year. She has submitted the audited information requested on the Federal ECF (Emergency Connectivity Funds). She is compiling and submitting food service review information to MDE. She has participated in Food Service webinars, is working on the application for SFSP, and is working with Ms. Stackhouse on new processes for next year. She is working on meal claims, LCTS reporting, nonpublic school purchases/processes, reimbursement requests, student activities, ESSER items, Perkins, the 2022-2023 budget, and other office duties.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Graduation Ceremony Planning

The high school graduation ceremony will be held on May 27th and Directors Erin Hammell, Leigh King, and Spencer Yohe will assist in handing out diplomas at the graduation ceremony.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

The school board members congratulated Marsha Sawle on her retirement and wished her well. Congratulated boys' basketball for taking third place at state. Congratulated the Robotics team for qualifying for state and wished them good luck during the competition to be held the first weekend in May. Director Yohe updated the board regarding the MSHSL meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Daniel Small, seconded by Erin Hammell to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk