

**Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2017**

The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 299, Caledonia, Minnesota, met in a regular school board meeting in the Middle/High School Media Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kelley McGraw at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The school board members present were Jared Barnes, Melissa Marschall, Emily McGonigle, Kelley McGraw, Michelle Werner, Jimmy Westland, and Spencer Yohe and school board student representative Isabel Allen. Also present were Ben Barton, Mary Morem, Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Gina Meinertz, Lee Morem, Janelle Field Rohrer, Jean Klinski, Deb Cody, Dan McGonigle and Justin Fahse with Larson Allen LLP.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Spencer Yohe seconded by Jared Barnes to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

WARRIOR PRIDE

Thank you to the Ring and Run Committee for their monetary donation to our students at our school district. Thank you to American Legion Post 191 for the monetary donation to the Robotics program. Thank to the family of James Moenck for their monetary donation to our school milk/lunch program for our students in need at our school district.

BOARD SHOWCASE

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded Emily McGonigle to accept the school audit report as presented from Larson Allen, LLP. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Ms. Allen thanked the school district for the purchase of a camera and lens to be used for the Veteran's project, as it will be very beneficial for this project.

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING TO DISCUSS THE 2018 BUDGET AND LEVY

A Truth in Taxation Hearing was held, and a presentation was shared during this hearing. No community members were in attendance to ask questions.

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded Jared Barnes to adopt the final levy certification for 2018 in the amount of \$2,229,345.12. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Emily McGonigle, seconded by Melissa Marschall to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of November 20, 2017, Regular School Board Minutes
- Approval of the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$444,775.66 including check numbers 62442 through 62542 along with electronic transfers from MSDLAF to Merchants Bank in the amount of \$500,000.00.
- Adopt the 2017-2018 teacher seniority list and the 2017-2018 support staff seniority list as presented.
- Approval of the licensed staff FTE increase for Heidi Myhre from 0.50 FTE to 0.65 FTE and Suzanne Sivertson from 0.50 FTE to 0.57 FTE effective the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

Set January Organizational Meeting

Moved by Jimmy Westland, seconded by Jared Barnes to hold an organizational school board meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places for Multiple Precincts and Designating Hours During Which the Polling Places Will Remain Open for Voting for School District Elections

Member Michelle Werner introduced the following resolution

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COMBINED POLLING PLACES FOR MULTIPLE PRECINCTS AND DESIGNATING HOURS DURING WHICH THE POLLING PLACES WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR VOTING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 299, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for school district elections are those precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The board hereby confirms those precincts and polling places so established by those municipalities.

2. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the board may establish a combined polling place for several precincts for school elections not held on the day of a statewide election. The following combined polling places are established to serve the precincts specified for all school district special and general elections not held on the same day as a statewide election:

Combined Polling Place: Caledonia Auditorium

Name and address of combined polling place: 219 East Main Street, Caledonia, MN 55921

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 299 located in Blackhammer Township, Brownsville City, Brownsville Township; Caledonia Precinct City 1, Caledonia Precinct City 2, Caledonia Township, Crooked Creek Township, Eitzen City, Jefferson Township, Mayville Township, Mound Prairie Township, Sheldon Township, Union Township, Wilmington Township, and Winnebago Township.

3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.09, the polling places will remain open for voting for school district elections not held on the same day as a statewide election between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 o'clock p.m.

4. The clerk is directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the county auditors of each of the counties in which the school district is located in whole or in part **within 30 days after its adoption.**

5. As required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 204B.16, Subdivision 1a, the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give written notice of new polling place locations to all registered voters in the school district whose school district polling place locations have been changed. The notice must be a nonforwardable notice mailed at least twenty-five (25) days before the date of the first election to which it will apply. A notice that is returned as undeliverable must be forwarded immediately to the appropriate County Auditor, who shall change the registrant's status to "challenged" in the statewide registration system.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Melissa Marschall and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Jared Barnes, Melissa Marschall, Emily McGonigle, Kelley McGraw, Michelle Werner, Jimmy Westland, and Spencer Yohe. The following voted against the same: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions and Reasons Thereof

Member Michelle Werner introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFORE

WHEREAS, there has been a reduction in student enrollment, and,

WHEREAS, this decrease in student enrollment must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 299 as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions and as a result of a reduction in enrollment make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Jared Barnes and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Jared Barnes, Melissa Marschall, Emily McGonigle, Kelley McGraw, Michelle Werner, Jimmy Westland, and Spencer Yohe. The following voted against the same: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services (Minnesota)

Member Spencer Yohe introduced the following resolution

Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services (Minnesota)

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality special education programs and instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) now known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act IDEA to: improve access to education for children with disabilities by guaranteeing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist States and school systems to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, when IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the additional cost of educating children with disabilities; and yet the federal government has failed to adequately fund the mandated programs and services arising under IDEA, never providing more than 15 percent of the additional cost; and

WHEREAS, sufficient federal funding for IDEA would significantly enhance the ability of local school systems to provide an excellent education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the special education cross-subsidy continues to be a major obstacle for Minnesota School Districts to grapple with, due to the growing number of students receiving special education, more specialized services and rising costs associated with those services and inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the state special education funding system has not kept pace with the rising cost of mandated services and supports for students with special needs; and,

WHEREAS, the cross-subsidy for school districts for FY2016 is \$679 million; a 5.6 percent increase from FY2015; and

WHEREAS, between rising need and insufficient state and federal aid, the amount of funding school districts as a whole in Minnesota will be forced to pay for special education costs will reach an average of \$815 per student in FY17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the Governor and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding and meaningful special education reforms at the federal and state levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there is an urgency the Minnesota Legislature to convene a task force to work on special education funding, specifically with a focus on the impacts of the new special education funding formulas, the projected cross-subsidy and recommendations with a timeline to eliminate the cross-subsidy.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Jimmy Westland and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Jared Barnes, Melissa Marschall, Emily McGonigle, Kelley McGraw, Michelle Werner, Jimmy Westland, and Spencer Yohe. The following voted against the same: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services (Federal)

Member Spencer Yohe introduced the following resolution

Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services (Minnesota)

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality special education programs and instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) now known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act IDEA to: improve access to education for children with disabilities by guaranteeing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist States and school systems to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, when IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the additional cost of educating children with disabilities; and yet the federal government has failed to adequately fund the mandated programs and services arising under IDEA, never providing more than 15 percent of the additional cost; and

WHEREAS, sufficient federal funding for IDEA would significantly enhance the ability of local school systems to provide an excellent education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the special education cross-subsidy continues to be a major obstacle for Minnesota School Districts to grapple with, due to the growing number of students receiving special education, more specialized services and rising costs associated with those services and inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the state special education funding system has not kept pace with the rising cost of mandated services and supports for students with special needs; and,

WHEREAS, the cross-subsidy for Minnesota school districts for FY2016 is \$679 million; a 5.6 percent increase from FY2015; and

WHEREAS, between rising need and insufficient state and federal aid, the amount of funding school districts as a whole in Minnesota will be forced to pay for special education costs will reach an average of \$815 per student in FY17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the President and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding and meaningful special education reforms at the federal and state levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Minnesota calls upon the Congress of the United States to pass appropriate legislation in order to increase funding for federal special education mandates to meet the urgent financial special education needs of our cities and towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be delivered to all United States Representatives and Senators representing Minnesota in the Congress of the United States.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Jimmy Westland and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Jared Barnes, Melissa Marschall, Emily McGonigle, Kelley McGraw, Michelle Werner, Jimmy Westland, and Spencer Yohe. The following voted against the same: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Lighting Retrofit LED Conversion

Move by Jared Barnes, seconded by Emily McGonigle to proceed with going out for bids for the lighting retrofit LED conversion and to have this project bided out as a whole and also parceled out for each building. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Meinertz updated the board regarding the curriculum and technology committee meeting. She informed the board that the elementary building has created a letter and a bag with school supplies to give to every new student who comes to the elementary to help them feel prepared and welcomed as they begin school at our district. The Warrior Way float was a success in the winter parade. She updated the board regarding the natural playground.

Mrs. Morem updated the board regarding the middle school PLC's. The Spelling Bee will be held in January. She informed the board that the middle school students attended the movie "Wonder" and will be following up with kindness activities. Middle school students continue to work through Character Strong curriculum with Mr. Schroeder. High school teachers have been sharing presentations on the elective and core courses to help guide decisions of students as they register for courses. Teachers attended the TIES Conference in Minneapolis. Mrs. Meinertz and herself continue to work hard with the new teacher cohort and the student

teachers with our partnership with Winona State University. Congratulations to our football state champions. The choir students are very busy preparing for their concert, singing at Rotary Lights and caroling in our local communities. Students have been working hard to raise money for Ring and Run. She is working with Sports Graphics to get signage for the commons area. March 9th will be senior day in Winona to prepare students to practice interviewing, team building and application for jobs.

Mrs. Runnigen is attending the Tri-County Community Ed Directors meeting on January 10th. She is finishing up the work on the community ed class offerings for January and February. She participated in the Caledonia Balloon Rally activities. There will be a gymnastics and volleyball camp during the winter break. She is hoping to add an ECFE class on Thursday nights in Caledonia and Saturdays in Eitzen and Brownsville. The ECFE Holiday Fun night will be held this evening. She updated the board regarding the SAC and Surround Care programs. She updated the board regarding testing.

Superintendent Barton informed the board that they are planning and preparing for the 2018-2019 school year. He also asked the board to continue to review the five-year LTFM plan.

Mrs. Meyer reported on the final Ag Grant summer program. Updated the board regarding the finance committee meeting. A group of people met with George Holt last week regarding special ed items. She continues to work on the LTFM plan and the food and nutrition programs. She submitted the transportation report and the nonpublic, homeschool, and compulsory reports to MDE. She completed the report of outstanding indebtedness to the county. She informed the board that our school district qualifies for free afterschool snacks this year and is working on the process to expend to all afterschool programs at the elementary. She continues to work on the targeted services funding.

Mr. Morem informed the board that the facilities department has been busy, and things are going well. He thanked the staff for the great job they are doing.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

White Garage

Superintendent Barton updated the board regarding the process of possibly selling the land where the elementary white garage is located. The school district will continue to research this idea.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

2018-2019 Working School Calendars

Superintendent Barton shared with the board three calendars for the 2018-2019 school year, as he would like to start the thought process for planning for the next school year. One option is the traditional calendar and the other two options are modified calendars. After a discussion regarding these calendars, it was the consensus of the board to have the school district do a survey monkey to staff, students, parents and the parochial schools.

School Policies

The first reading of the Website Accessibility Policy #540 was held with the adoption to be held at the January 2018 regular school board meeting.

The school board reviewed the following policies:

- School Weapons Policy #501
- Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person Policy #502
- Student Attendance Policy #503
- Student Entrance Student Age Policy #503.1

- Student Dress and Appearance Policy #504
- Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees Policy #505
- Corporal Punishment Policy #507
- School Activities Policy #510
- Student Fundraising Policy #511
- School-Sponsored Student Publication and Activities Policy #512
- Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design Policy #513
- Student Recruiting Policy #517
- DNR-DNI Orders Policy #518
- Interviews of Students Outside Agencies Policy #519
- Student Disability Nondiscrimination Policy #521

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director McGraw thanked the finance committee for their time this past month with it being busy for this committee. Director Werner updated the board regarding the activities committee. Director Yohe updated the board regarding the HVED committee meeting. Director McGonigle updated the board regarding the teacher negotiations committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jared Barnes, seconded by Emily McGonigle to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spencer Yohe, Clerk