

Board Meeting Minutes December 21, 2015

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 Amanda King, Kelley McGraw, Jean Meyer, Michelle Werner, Jimmy Westland, Spencer Yohe, and student school board representative Nathan Hagerott. Also present were Superintendent Ben Barton, Mary Morem, Gina Meinertz, Nancy Runningen, Barb Meyer, Karen Schiltz, Janelle Field Rohrer, Dan McGonigle, Rebeckah Schroeder, Logan Larson, Katrina Paulson, Ted Hanson, Dustin Moburg, Josh Gran, Brad Harguth, and Winnifred Schulte. Absent was Jared Barnes and student school board representative Nicholas Loging.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Jimmy Westland to approve the agenda as amended to remove the hiring of Brent Schroeder from the consent agenda and place as an action item. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

WARRIOR PRIDE

Thank you to Virginia Dever for your generous donation of various supplies to be used towards our Robotics Program. Thank you to the Immanuel-Wilmington Church ELCA Group for their generous donation to the Caledonia Needy Student Fund. Thank you to the Arlin Falck Foundation for their generous monetary donation to be used towards the boys and girls soccer programs.

BOARD SHOWCASE

School Audit Report

Kim Hillberg from Larson Allen, LLP presented the 2014-2015 school audit report.

Jazz Band Presentation

Mr. Moburg and attending students discussed with the board the idea of bringing the program of jazz band back to our school district as an offering for students. They stated that due to low participation numbers, this program was discontinued beginning the 2013-2014 school year. They have fourteen students signed up to participate in this program so far and requested the board to discuss the idea of offering this program once again at our school district. They have a schedule practice already set up and music picked out. Mrs. Morem informed the board that it was the Student Leadership Team that brought this idea to her, and she would like to see this once again being offered to the students. She feels it is a valued asset to the school district. The board requested Mr. Moburg to create and share with them a document showing the budget and revenue source income for this program. It was the consensus of the board that this idea be further discussed at the January board meeting with possibly action taken during this meeting.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student school board representative, Nathan Hagerott, informed the board that the high school students will be seeing the movie Creed tomorrow. The winter activities are in full swing, and the band and choir performances were held last week.

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING TO DISCUSS THE 2016 BUDGET & LEVY

A Truth In Taxation Hearing was held and a presentation was shared during this hearing. Community members in attendance asked questions of the board about their tax statements they received

in the mail, and the board members addressed these questions with the community members during the hearing.

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Michelle Werner to adopt the final levy certification for 2016 in the amount of \$2,690,988.44. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by Jean Meyer to approve the following consent agenda:

- Approval of the minutes of the November 16, 2015, regular school board meeting and minutes of the December 1, 2015, special school board meeting.
- Approval of the electronic transfers and bills due and payable amounting to \$450,336.76 including check numbers 59306 through 59464.
- Adopt the 2015-2016 teacher seniority list and the 2015-2016 support staff seniority list.
- Accept the resignation of Eddie Hodges as the assistant boys and girls track coach effective immediately with thanks for his years of services to our school district.
- Accept the resignation of Samantha Steele as a part-time para effective January 19, 2016, with thanks for her seven years of services to our school district.
- Ratify the contract for Sue Schroeder as a part-time general para in the Surround Care Program beginning the December 3, 2015, at III/P years at \$10.72 per hour.
- Approve the maternity leave request of Sara Buros to begin approximately on April 4, 2016, and continue for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

New Hire

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by Jean Meyer to ratify the hiring of Brent Schroeder as an interim substitute as a middle/high school counselor beginning December 4, 2015, for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. Those voting in favor: Amanda King, Jean Meyer, Michelle Werner, Jimmy Westland, and Spencer Yohe. Those opposed: Kelley McGraw. Absent was Jared Barnes. Motion carried.

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

Member Spencer Yohe 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 Michelle Werner and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Amanda King, Kelley McGraw, Jean Meyer, Michelle Werner, Jimmy Westland and Spencer Yohe. The following voted against the same: None. Absent was Jared Barnes. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Set January Organizational Meeting

Moved by Jean Meyer, seconded by Jimmy Westland to hold an organizational school board meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the middle/high school media center. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Spring Grove Coop Agreement

Moved by Spencer Yohe, seconded by Jimmy Westland to adopt the Spring Grove Coop Agreement as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Meinertz informed the board that she has started a book club with 4th and 5th grade students that meet twice a week to discuss, ask questions, and set their next reading goal. She updated the board with regard to PBIS and has been busy with PBIS rewards for students, which is a great opportunity to create a positive relationship with them. The elementary staff has been working on creating their staff development plans for January and also has finalized the annual curriculum report. The final reports have been sent to both grant suppliers for the Warrior Way mural and most of the comments received stated that this has brightened the school and found ways to give ownership and pride to the students. She updated the board regarding the Economic Analysis Partnership. The student achievement leadership team created a plan for intervention implementation for this school year. The students enjoyed the visit with the author, Roland Smith. The Voices team is working to implement the RTI process with fidelity. They are organizing interventions, creating paper trails, and discussing specific student needs.

Mrs. Morem informed the board that the middle school students participated in Ring and Run by donating money to wear their pajamas to school. She is continuing to work on PBIS and has planned a school-wide reward day for December 22nd. The middle school winter sports are in full swing and doing well. They are working on setting a date for the Senior Awards night. She thanked Mr. Martin for taking the time with students to participate in caroling throughout the community to spread holiday cheer. She congratulated Nathan Hagerott and Alyssa Meiners who were nominated for the ExCel Award. The choir concert was held on December 17th. She surveyed students on wishes for future classes. The Safe Routes to School Grant is being written.

Mrs. Runnigen informed the board that the December/January community education class mailing was mailed out on November 23rd. She discussed these mailings with the community education advisory council. The consensus was to send out more frequent mailings versus one big catalog in the fall and winter. She has submitted the Hand in Hand Preschool's Parent Aware renewal application.

They are continuing to accept registrations for the SAC program. They are working on the NWEA testing schedule for January and have updated student records in TestWes.

Superintendent Barton reiterated the fact that the community education brochures will be mailed out more frequently, which is also the way that surrounding community education programs are going to be doing their brochures. He informed the board that Senator Jeremy Miller was in the school district last week and that Representative Greg Davids will be in our school district on January 4th.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

School Policies

The board held the first reading of the following policies with the adoption to take place at the January regular school board meeting:

- Participation In and Attendance at MSHSL State Tournaments and Competitions Policy #536
- Unnamed Aerial Vehicle (Drone) Policy #809
- Hiring Process Procedures Policy #428

2016-2017 School Calendar

The board reviewed the 2016-2017 school calendar proposal. The adoption of this calendar will be take place at the January regular school board meeting.

Support Staff Substitute Hourly Wage

Superintendent Barton discussed the support staff substitute hourly wage, which is currently at \$9.50 per hour. He informed them that this may be brought forth to them at a future board meeting to request a pay increase.

Safe Routes to School

Barb Meyer updated the board regarding the Safe Routes to School Grant, which the school district is currently working on completing. This grant application is due on January 8th. If this grant is secured for our school district, an expert will come to the school district and devise a safe routes to school plan for our district.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Yohe updated the board on Minnesota State High School League activities. He stated that the Activities Committee is working on a school logo. Direct Meyer informed the board that the support staff negotiations is close to being complete and will be brought forth in the near future for board action. Director Werner informed the board that the teacher negotiations continue to meet. Director Westland volunteered during the middle school lock-in, and thanked the Letter Person's Club for doing an outstanding job assisting other students during this event.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Michelle Werner, seconded by Spencer Yohe to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Jean Meyer, Clerk