

**REGULAR MEETING of the SCHOOL BOARD of EDUCATION**  
**Lester Prairie Public Schools**  
**Monday, March 17, 2025 5:45pm**  
**Lester Prairie School Media Center**

Roll call was taken and the following board members were present: Keith Christen, Jeff Engen, Brian Heimerl, Rebecca Heimerl, Candice Anderson and Dan LaMott attended virtually from Mystic Lake Hotel Business Center. Administration present: Dr. Melissa Radeke, Ross Scheevel, and Cheryl Bayerl **Guests:** Angelica Biondo, Tiffany Meuleners and Austin Neaton from Herald Journal.

**Call to order**

- Welcome to the public and guests
- **Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by board member Jeff Engen

**Agenda**

- Motion by B. Heimerl 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Heimerl to approve the Agenda as presented and or modified
  - **Vote: 6 for, 0 against.**

**Recognition of Communications since Last Meeting:**

- Communication - PBIS appreciation basket for school board members
- Open dialogue - none

**Minutes and Bills**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve consent agenda, the meeting minutes of the Regular Board meeting on February 10, 2025 and pay the bills (reviewed by R. Heimerl and Anderson) in the amount of:
  - o Board Bills: \$352,719.13
  - **Vote: 6 for, 0 against.**

**Administrative Reports**

**Mr. Lee K-12 Principal Report (Presented by Dr. Radeke):** - highlights

- PTO Read-a-thon was very successful. Raised over \$9,000
- Senior class trip leaves Saturday, March 22 at 3:00am returning Wednesday, March 26 approx 4:00pm. 26 of 37 seniors participating
- Kindergarten registration held March 6. Thanks to Cara Cline, Whitney Dhoore, Kathy Fiecke and Helen Lester for their efforts. 19 students currently registered
- End of Quarter Friday, March 21. Early release for all students
- Professional Development for teachers - Becky Carlson from SWWC will be working with several HS departments, Mr. Lee will be working with the

specialists and social studies department. This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> LETRS session of the year (8 total)

- MCA testing starts in April:

**Reading**

Grades 3-6 on April 9 and 10

Grades 7-10 on April 16

**Math**

Grades 3-8 on April 23 and 24

Grades 7-8 and 11 on April 23

**Science**

Grade 5, 8, 10 on April 30

- Angelica Biondo, K-12 Art Teacher, Angelica has been teaching at Lester Prairie for 4 years. Teaching and Art are a big part of her family and she's drawn a lot of inspiration from that. Through art, she feels many emotional and communicative skills are learned including brainstorming, problem solving, time management and communication skills. Her students are always encouraged to help each other and provide feedback. Collaboration is encouraged not only among her students, but among District staff as well. Angelica also works with the district's achievement & integration plan. In collaboration with HLWW district, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will get together to explore connections and cultural differences. Approx. 150 students will participate.

**Ross Scheevel AD/DoS - highlights**

- MSHSL is considering an Executive Order from President Trump regarding keeping men out of women's sports. At this time there appears to be no changes in MSHSL policy.
- Currently busy rescheduling spring sports schedules due to low participation
- Met with Doris and Luke from City of Lester Prairie to order materials for spring sports and discuss maintenance issues at the fields.
- Head Football coach position will need to be filled with Joe Scoblic's resignation after 35 years. Applications being accepted through the end of March with interviews anticipated to begin the first week of April.
- Mr. Scheevel will be attending the State AD conference March 25 - 27
- Girls Basketball ended season with 20-9 record, losing in Section semi final
- Boys Basketball ended season with 14-14 record
- Spring activities under way: Softball will have Varsity and JV teams, no JH - 22 participants total. Baseball will have Varsity (16 participants) and JH (19 participants). Track and field has 28 participants and Clay Target has 22 participants.
- Spring Play back for 2025. Evening performances May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Matinee performance May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Melissa Radeke Superintendent Report: - highlights**

- Enrollment - 431 Students, down 1 from last month.
- Viewed MSBA One Voice video
- District to receive less funding in 2025-26 school year. Likely need to spend from fund balance but need to minimize fund balance spend-down
- Added expenses (UI - \$12,000 summer employment, Paid Leave - \$13,500 plus long term sub costs, ESST (est. costs up to \$6,500-increased subs)
- Declining enrollment due to low birth rates - families not having as many children

- Reductions in funding: Compensatory (-\$46,000), Literacy Aid(\$6,763 less), REAP grants \$58,000 this year and next year - funding may be put on hold
- No teacher cuts planned, however may end up overstaffed in elementary if we don't get 2 Kindergarten classes

### **School Board Committee Reports**

- Community Ed. - none
- PTO - Read-a-thon raised \$9,250, Inflatable day May 19th
- Facilities/Maintenance- none
- Facility Planning - none
- Tech/Media - meeting 2-11-2025- Infosec phishing training continues, only 10 devices sent in for repair, down from 60+ in 2024
- Activities Committee - none
- Negotiations - none
- Meet and Confer - met in February, good communication both ways
- Policy - Multiple policy revisions/updates along with 2 policy 1<sup>st</sup> readings for March meeting
- Legislative - none
- City - Street/sidewalk project moving forward with start date after school year is completed. Project expected to be completed prior to school starting in the fall. Still working on regular meetings with city to improve communication between city and school

### **New Business**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by B. Heimerl to approve RESOLUTION ELIMINATING AND ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS POSITIONS.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by B. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Heimerl to approve Center for Effective School Operations (CESO) Service Agreement

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to designate Superintendent Melissa Radeke to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for ISD #424.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by B. Heimerl to approve HMH "Into Math" 3-Year Proposal.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

### **Old Business**

- None

### **School Finance**

- Motion by Engen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve the revised budget for the 2024-25 school year.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by B. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Heimerl to approve the following fundraisers: Baseball - Longhorns and Clean the Ditch.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

### **Policy Administration**

- Motion by B. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Heimerl to approve all policies as presented.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to rescind Policy **709.1 Bus Accident Safety Policy and Protocol**.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- First reading discussion on policy **621 Literacy and the Read Act**.
- First reading discussion on policy **423 Employee-Student Relationships**.

### **Personnel**

- Motion by Engen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Heimerl to approve the following contracts for:  
**Brandon Kutz** - JV Baseball Coach,  
**Emma Blashack** - JV Softball Coach,  
**Angela Christen** - Assistant Varsity Softball Coach,

**Sean Tritabaugh** - Trapshooting Coach,  
**Arlyn DeBruyckere** - Assistant Trapshooting Coach,  
**Brian Herrmann** - Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach.

\*\*Keith Christen abstained

**Vote: 5 for, 0 against**

- Motion by B. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve resignation of Mike Bjork as secondary science teacher effective June 30, 2025.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by R. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson to approve resignation of Joe Scoblic as Head Football Coach.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by B. Heimerl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Heimerl to approve long-term sub contract for Jodi Sanken from March 10, 2025 to April 17, 2025 with the option of finishing out the school year.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

- Motion by Anderson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Heimerl to approve long-term sub contract for Teresa Oie from April 22, 2025 to May 23, 2025.

**Vote: 6 for, 0 against**

#### **Other Items for the Board**

- None

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM**

*Jeff Engen, Clerk ISD #424*