

School Board Meeting Minutes

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #912

MILACA, MINNESOTA 56353

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 6:30 pm

Area Learning Center Meeting Space

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 912, Milaca, Minnesota was held at the Milaca Area Learning Center meeting space on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, for the purpose of discussing board business.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Jeff Larson.

Upon roll call the following members were present: Jere Day, Sara Larsen, Rachelle Nelson, Genevieve Plumadore, Bryan Rensenbrink, Aimee Struffert, Jeff Larson. Those absent: none. Superintendent Tim Truebenbach was also present.

Changes to Agenda:

VI. Presentations

1. Community Coalition Presentation by Amber Kent (addition)
2. Student Presentation (addition)

Motion by B. Rensenbrink, second by J. Day, to approve the agenda with the above changes. Motion carried.

Public Forum

Nicole Nelson (grade 9), Dominic Santa Lucia (grade 8), Payson Patrin (grade 8), and Maija Johnson (grade 9) addressed the board regarding robotics. The students asked the board consider making robotics a student activity to take advantage of the opportunity's activities have access to. Robotics is currently a student club.

Andrew Nelson, Band Director, addressed the board regarding the district's need for an auditorium. He believes the district should continue asking the community for its needs to establish credibility that the need is real. The music program staff is available and willing to advocate for an auditorium, answer questions, and would like to be included in the design when the project comes to fruition. Mr. Nelson believes an auditorium space will not only benefit the students and community, but may help recruit music teachers when the time comes.

Committee Reports

Superintendent Truebenbach reported the Transportation Committee met on December 18 to discuss transportation inefficiencies and look at opportunities for savings due to declining enrollment.

J. Larson reported the Committee of the Whole met and attended the MSBA Leadership Conference, January 16-18.

G. Plumadore reported the Finance Committee met on January 17, and continuation meeting on January 22, for a financial update and discuss potential budget cuts.

Presentations

MHS seniors, Asa Erickson and Kaitlin Trigg, from Ms. Taylor's Business Internship class, presented on their experience interning in the marketing department of Heggies Pizza. During the internship, Asa researched the advantages of Heggies continuing to work with Goldbely, an online marketplace for businesses to sell their products through the web. Kaitlin researched employee attraction, retention, training, and shortages. In addition to valuable real life business experience, Asa and Kaitlin earned 2 college credits for their semester long internship.

Amber Kent presented on the progress of the Planning & Implementation Grant at MHS. This is a one time, 5-year grant, focused on prevention programs to reduce underage alcohol use. The achievements of the grant include formation of the Milaca Community Coalition, formation of RISE (a youth led, adult guided, youth group), and working with law enforcement and Mille Lacs County to pass the Social Host Ordinance in 2018.

According to the February 2017 Student Positive Community Norms survey, 74% of MHS grades 7-12 students would rather not drink alcohol when hanging out with friends and 85% do not drink alcohol in a typical month. These numbers closely follow the trends when compared to other cohorts, which indicates the perception that majority of high school kids drink alcohol, is a misperception.

Consent Agenda

Motion by A. Struffert, second by R. Nelson, to approve the consent agenda.

- Approval of the minutes from the December 17, 2018 Regular Board Meeting and the January 7, 2019 Reorganizational Board Meeting
- Approval of check numbers 646968 through 647087 and wire transfers
- Approval of PMA Transfers to First National Bank: \$400,000 on 12/5/18, \$550,000 on 12/13/18, \$300,000 on 12/20/18, \$750,000 on 12/27/18
- Revision to the hire of Jodi Allen, Paraprofessional (replacing Tessa Jenson), 32.50 hours/week, \$14.06/hour, effective January 2, 2019 (previously approved as January 3, 2019)
- Hire Randy Johnson, Science Teacher, MA+20, Step 15, .2 FTE, \$7,114.45, effective second semester of the 2018-2019 school year
- Hire Patricia Lewis, Cleaner (replacing Dennis Jenson), 40 hours/week, \$13.13/hour, effective January 7, 2019
- Change in hours for Sue Haapala, Paraprofessional, 36.25 hours/week, \$14.06/hour, effective January 9, 2019 (previously 31.25 hours/week)
- Change in hours for Teresa Nelson, Paraprofessional, 37.50 hours/week, \$17.38/hour, effective January 14, 2019 (previously 32.5 hours/week)
- Accept the retirement of Ann Westphal, Title I Teacher, effective the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Thank you, Ann, for 33 years of service to Milaca Public Schools!
- Accept the retirement of Shirley Geurkink, ADSIS Teacher, effective the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Thank you, Shirley, for 15 years of service (22 years including subbing prior to hire) to Milaca Public Schools!
- Leave requests:
 - Tina Schmidt, December 17, 2018 – March 11, 2019
 - Cassandra Smith, April 5 – May 28, 2019
 - Sarah Dahlberg, April 23 – May 28, 2019
 - Robert Clement, January 7 – February 1, 2019
- Lane Changes:
 - Rosemary Nelson, BA+20 to BA+30, \$44,217
 - Christina Moscho, BA+20 to BA+30, \$45,758
 - Jenny Wihlm, BA+20 to BA+30, \$62,725
 - Cassandra Wredberg, BA+20 to BA+30, \$44,217
 - Cassandra Smith, BA+20 to BA+30, \$45,785
 - Kalieka Hallerman, MA+10 to MA+20, \$58,769
 - Jackie Barland, BA+20 to BA+30, \$53,470
 - Geri Wild, MA to MA+10, \$65,491
 - Juliet Herrity-Weidenborner, BA+10 to BA+20, \$57,495
 - Jodi Linder, BA+20 to BA+30, \$42,674.50
 - Chelsie Belkholm, BA+10 to BA+20, \$42,607
- Approve the Overnight Trip Request for Girls Golf to Paynesville, May 10-12, 2019

The board thanked Ann Westphal and Shirley Geurkink for their years of service in Title I.

The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Principals/Directors/Coordinators Report

The High School Principal reported Andrew Nelson, Band Director, received the Minnesota VFW Teacher Award; January 21 professional development day focused on suicide prevention training, self-care/co-regulation, and safety; Winter MAP testing schedule for grades 7-9; students will attend the Construct Tomorrow expo at SCSU; Granite Ridge Principal/Activities Director meeting will address activities scheduling conflicts; applying for a Math Corp member; in 2018, students in Milaca earned 1,067 college credits, saving over \$350,000 in tuition.

The Assistant Principal of Student Activities reported MHS juniors, Jalen Taylor and Mason Voshell, are recipients of the 2018-19 Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) award; and MHS seniors, Chloe Hendrickson and Joe Rosenberg, are recipients of the 2018-19 Triple A Award.

The Elementary Principal reported "I Love to Read" month kicks off February 1; conferences are in February; PreK/Kindergarten registration is in March; congratulated Ann Westphal and Shirley Geurkink on their upcoming retirements.

The Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator provided a testing update and how to feasibly do an area assessment comparison of nearby districts with different demographics; reported continuing grade level departmental meetings; ratification of the Teacher Development and Evaluation; flexible professional development update; Morlaca (Mora/Milaca collaborative) professional development day in February; American Indian parent group item will be on February agenda; welcomed board members to contact him with questions.

The Community Education Director/Facilities Manager thanked Stephen Blenkush for his years of service to the Community Education Advisory Council; the staircase in the addition, which initially failed state inspection, has now passed.

The board broke for a break at 8:15 p.m. and reconvened at 8:22 p.m.

The Business Manager reported working on the assumption and adjustments for the FY2020 budgets; revising FY2019 budgets; calendar year end reporting; explained acronyms and UFARS coding; showed School Finance and Special Education Funding videos; presented the financial picture of the district.

Superintendent Truebenbach presented on budget alignment. As a result of the failing bond and operating referendum, projected decrease in Kindergarten enrollment, need for the district to reserve funds for roof repairs, special education cross subsidy increases, and lower than anticipated year end district fund balance due to special education cross subsidy and declining enrollment, the Finance Committee and superintendent are recommending \$1,200,000 in adjustments for budgetary alignment. The board will take action establishing a list with adjustments at the February 19 board meeting.

Superintendent Truebenbach reported the Finance Committee is recommending the board direct administration, with final review by the Building and Grounds Committee, to utilize up to \$400,000 of the \$2,000,000 donation approved in December, for safety modifications to the facilities. The Finance Committee is also recommending administration look for areas currently subsidized by the district, due to family's inability to pay for various activities and/or educational opportunities. The remaining donated funds will be invested.

Items on Which Board Discussion and Action is Requested

Motion by B. Rensenbrink, second by J. Day, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the enrollment numbers.

Superintendent and Board Member Items

Superintendent Truebenbach intends to schedule a meeting with the Calendar Committee to develop a draft of the 2019-20 school calendar for board approval at the February 19, 2019 meeting.

Superintendent Truebenbach reported being re-elected as the Milaca Chamber of Commerce secretary and is excited to continue working with the chamber and volunteering to help with community events. He intends his involvement to also be a liaison connecting the Milaca School District with local businesses.

Superintendent Truebenbach will attend the SEE day at the Capital on March 19 and the Family Pathways community dialogue on February 6. He invited board members to attend these events with him. He and G. Plumadore attended the SEE general membership meeting in January.

Superintendent Truebenbach explored scheduling regular monthly meeting dates with the Finance, Policy, and Building and Grounds Committees and reported a savings could be realized by publishing a summary of the board meeting minutes in the paper, as opposed to the entire minutes.

From around the district, Superintendent Truebenbach thanked Mandy Anderson, Amy Bolt, and Kim Lubrant for their presentation and information distributed to staff at the professional development day on January 21.

Board Member Items:

The board reviewed the Student Activities Accounts.

The board members and superintendent commented about their experiences at the Minnesota State School Board Association Leadership conference.

The board heard second readings of policies:

- Policy 102 Equal Educational Opportunity
- Policy 205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings
- Policy 206 Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints About Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations

Motion by B. Rensenbrink, second by R. Nelson, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Chairperson


Clerk

February 19, 2019

Date

February 19, 2019

Date