

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT #2342
WEST CENTRAL AREA SECONDARY SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
March 25, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm by Nessman. Members present per roll call: Ulrich, Sabolik, Christenson, Grosz, Beuckens, Nessman and Strunk. Members Absent: None. Administration present: Hogie and McNamara. Administration Absent: Prasch, Knutson, Moerke, Powers, Foslien, and Amundson.

Visitors: Chris Ray & Nicole Hanson

Visitor Comments: Chris Ray asked if there has been any determination on graduation being held and the band trip to New York this summer. Mr. Hogie answered at this time that there hasn't been any decision made on either topic.

Motion by Beuckens, seconded by Grosz to adopt the modified agenda according to the agenda addendum. MCU

Motion by Christenson, seconded by Grosz, to approve the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on February 19, 2020. MCU

Motion by Sabolik seconded by Strunk, to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$645,103.92. Checks reviewed were #146861 - Lakeshore for \$2,213.48, #146832 - CDW for \$43,946.44 and #146788 for R J Mechanical for \$12,632.05. MCU

A presentation from Tina Lindquist regarding football boosters and scoreboard has been tabled.

Mr. Hogie gave an update from the meeting with the Finance Committee. Ms. Powers has provided spreadsheets that show what has transpired since the budget was approved. The budget had projected a deficit of approximately \$276,000, now looking at updated figures we are looking at a surplus of approximately \$150,000, keep in mind this is on a 12 million dollar budget. Some areas to note are Special Education Co-Op we received \$52,674 more than expected. Ottetail Power rebate was recognized as revenue and also expense. The biggest change was, our budget for ADM of 756 and we were actually slightly higher at 790. This would be a projected increase of \$370,000 in revenue. Positive updates for the District.

Technology Coordinator: (Kevin McNamara) – Mr. McNamara reported that E-Rate Category 2: Internal network and infrastructure. Our competitive bidding period is over for our FCC E-Rate Form 470 for Category 2 equipment. After evaluating the submitted bids we have selected a bid from CDWG and have posted our FCC Form 471 for funding approval. Mr. McNamara commented on school closure preparedness, fortunately we are well situated for a technology standpoint to transition into distance learning if the school closure continues. Many of our services we rely on for instruction and day to day business are cloud based and can be accessed from anywhere. Stacy & I have been able to make adjustments to prepare our devices and services for the potential of distance teaching and learning in the coming weeks. We have partnered with Runestone Telecom Association to get internet services to our families without internet in their residence at no cost to families. A huge thank you to RTA for their services as distance learning would be difficult without internet access for these families. Student devices in grades 5-12 all currently have school issued devices at home. Grades 5-12 have Chromebooks, Grades 11 & 12 have Windows 10 laptops. We have ordered additional devices for grades K-4 to be 1:1. Devices are scheduled to be delivered by the end of this week. Devices will be prepared and sent home if the school closure continues. All school owned devices are now covered under our Accidental Damage Protection policy (no cost to the district or families for repairs). All school issued devices are now filtered by GoGuardian. Each grade level has filtering policies in place. We are preparing the filters to allow access to instructional content requested by our teachers.

Community Education: (Naomi Moerke) – Ms. Moerke reported that we have had to cancel the remaining community education courses until further notice. Prairie Fire Children's Theater had 51 students who participated in the production "Peter Pan". Prairie Fire employees really do an awesome job. The kids had fun, and the production was very cute. Anders Thursday night skiing program had 74 students registered this year. Kensington Fire Department graciously donated money for the transportation out to Andes each week. The program wrapped up on Thursday, March 12th. We are beginning to receive township donations for summer recreation. We are so thankful for the townships, cities, organizations, and others who donate to help us keep costs low. VPK we are approved for 26 seats (I believe), at south elementary. We will be looking at ways to

update and use that money for the VPK classes at south. All AARP courses are suspended until May 1st per AARP. We are looking at holding a course in June in Elbow Lake.

Activities Director: (Jacob Foslien) – Mr. Foslien reported that the winter sports season was very successful. All three varsity sports were in a section final (wrestling, girls basketball, and boys basketball). Congrats to the student athletes and coaches on their successful season. Spring sports are currently on pause due to the pandemic. As of March 23, MSHSL has suspended all practices until March 30th and all games until April 6th. I do anticipate an update regarding future MSHSL practices and games this week.

Buildings & Grounds Director: – (Pete Amundson) Mr. Amundson reported with warmer weather we are experiencing a few roof leaks at both Elementary sites. An option was found for handrails for the bleacher isles and will plan on installing this summer. New thermostats have been installed for the heat pumps at secondary school (warranty issue), they seem to be working better. We are currently having some issues with one of the boilers at North. The custodial staff are deep cleaning and disinfecting at each location. Mr. Amundso also commented in an effort to minimize the number of people in our buildings the custodial staff are working a shortened rotating schedule with one custodian on at a time.

Elementary School Principal: (Natalie Prasch) – Ms. Prasch reported Kindergarten Round-up was a huge success at both sites. South had 24 families and North Elementary had 22. We have two teachers piloting Go Math! and we just found out that it will no longer be published. The sales team was just as surprised as we were to hear this news. Their new resource, Into Math, will be piloted by Haley Grosz, 1st grade at North, and Kari Bentrup, 4th grade at South. With our extended break, we are trying to work out the logistics of choosing a new resource. Teachers are very busy getting ready for distance learning. We will have activities for all students in all academic areas ready to go for March 30th. We will be sending report cards home with our distance learning packets. Tenured staff evaluations have been completed for this year's evaluation cycle. Ms. Prasch also commented, kudos to the staff for their adjustment to this weird time in our history. Our teachers have stepped up and created some great distance learning lessons for our students. Our paraprofessional staff have helped with staffing the daycare at both sites as well as helped with cleaning. Our kitchen staff has prepared wonderful meals for our kids utilizing the daycare. Our custodians have sanitized and disinfected everything. It truly has been a team effort and I am proud to be working in this great environment.

Secondary School Principal: (Susan Knutson) - Ms. Knutson reported staff are adjusting to the “new normal” with great attitudes. Many of them are even commenting on how this will be a good opportunity for them to think outside the box and learn some new things. Just like always, WCA staff have tackled this challenge with grace and ingenuity. We are currently using a participation plan for student attendance. If staff see that there are particular students not participating in distance learning they will forward the concern to me and I will determine if there are underlying issues like accessibility or if it's non-participation by choice. We will treat the week of March 30th-April 3 like it's the 1st week of school, by going over distance learning expectations, and getting into the routine and making sure every student is able to access their classes. Staff will complete weekly logs for me in the WCA Secondary Google Classroom. We will conduct, at a minimum, weekly faculty zoom meetings. Ms. Knutson also commented on 2020-2021 staffing updates. We have had several applications for the math position and plan to start the hiring process next week. There have been no applications for the Special education position at this time. We have created the master schedule with the new common hour study time and are developing a plan for how to get the students to complete class registrations under our current situation.

Business Manager: (Diane Powers) - Ms. Powers commented we have applied for a waiver, and it's been approved for the food service program to be able to get reimbursed for the breakfast and lunches that our Food Services staff is preparing daily. The next step is to fill out the application for each site, this was done on Monday. We are waiting for approval from MDE. On Monday, March 23rd the Food Services prepared 106 breakfast/lunches to be delivered to families that requested them. Around 26 breakfasts and lunches are being prepared each day for our daycare children. Title I, II and IV amendment windows are open. We will be working on amending our applications. As of now, the amendments are due by the end of April. Ms. Powers is starting to work on the FY 21 budget. Also, Budget vs. Actual figures were available.

Superintendent: (Dale Hogie) - Mr. Hogie gave updates on the COVID-19, updates are provided daily on the Minnesota Dept. of Health and Minnesota Dept. of Education websites daily. There have been public press releases with the most current and critical information. Today, School District Superintendents were given embargoed, privileged information. We will begin a period of distance learning. Distance Learning has been implemented by MDE beginning March 30 and continuing through April 30. Teachers will spend time in our schools on May 1 and May 4 to plan for students' return. Classes are to resume on May 5. Our schools continue to provide childcare to Tier 1 & Tier 2 families. Free lunches and snacks for school aged children will continue to

be provided to families who have made, or make a request. Mr. Hogie commented on staffing and workload. For the safety of our staff and support the guidance to pursue options to work remotely, I made arrangements for most of our WCA staff to work from home(individual staff option) and adjusted hours of work for our maintenance staff and food service staff. Budget revisions have been provided by Ms. Powers. Rather than a Total FUND projected deficit of \$276,237, the District is looking at a \$150,745 revenue surplus projection. With the sudden indication that the state would implement distance learning our administrative team recognizes that computer access is a great tool for distance learning. I have directed Mr. McNamara to purchase enough Chromebooks (80) to provide our elementary students with devices. The Chromebook purchase was \$13,760 with an additional \$3,380 for 20 iPad Minis. Due to COVID-19, Board meetings can teleconference as we have done tonight. Mr. Hogie commented on the bond referendum date, there is currently extreme community concern related to COVID-19. A nearly finished draft of the School Perceptions survey is provided that Sue Peterson and I have worked on since March 18th. Also, Runestone has approached Mr. McNamara about providing internet access to families that do not have it in our district at this time at little or no cost during this time.

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Christenson to approve the following general consent items: Approve tenure for the following teachers: Jacklyn Hoepfer, Amy Swenson, Holly Nadgwick, Courtney Puchalski, Mareen Biss, Eli Dotts, Brenda Lindgren, Ben Johnson, Nicholas Ganoe, Janice Knutson, Jennifer Neu; approve the 2020-2021 school calendar; approve the certified and non-certified seniority lists; approve the unpaid leave of more than 2 days for Jenny Westrom for May 13-18; approve the advertising for a 1 FTE middle school counselor/social worker; approve the following contracts, 9-Month, 10-Month, 12-Month, 12-Month District Office, Jacob Foslien, Naomi Moerke, Diane Powers, and the 10-Month MOU to adjust pay dates to the 15th and last day of the month. Roll Call vote: Strunk-yes, Beuckens- yes, Sabolik-yes, Nessman-yes, Christenson-yes, Ulrich-yes, Grosz-yes. MCU

New Business:

Motion by Sabolik, seconded by Grosz to approve the resolution accepting gifts. Roll Call Vote: Yes-7 No-0. MCU

Motion by Beuckens, seconded by Grosz to approve the 2019-2020 budget revisions. Roll Call Vote: Strunk-yes, Beuckens- yes, Sabolik-yes, Nessman-yes, Christenson-yes, Ulrich-yes, Grosz-yes. MCU

Motion by Christenson, seconded by Ulrich to approve the teleconference for Board meetings - due to the declared health pandemic and the declared state of emergency and pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, until further notice, all school board meetings will be held by teleconference or other electronic means. Roll Call Vote: Strunk-yes, Beuckens- yes, Sabolik-yes, Nessman-yes, Christenson-yes, Ulrich-yes, Grosz-yes. MCU

Motion by Sabolik, seconded by Christenson to leave the anticipated bond referendum date as August 11, 2020. Roll Call Vote: Strunk-yes, Beuckens- yes, Sabolik-yes, Nessman-yes, Christenson-yes, Ulrich-yes, Grosz-yes. MCU

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Grosz to put the School Perception survey on hold at this time. Roll Call Vote: Strunk-yes, Beuckens- yes, Sabolik-No, Nessman-yes, Christenson-yes, Ulrich-yes, Grosz-yes. MCU

Motion by Christenson, seconded by Sabolik to close the meeting for a negotiation strategy session at 7:58 pm. Roll Call Vote: Strunk-yes, Beuckens- yes, Sabolik-yes, Nessman-yes, Christenson-yes, Ulrich-yes, Grosz-yes. MCU

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Beuckens to open the meeting at 8:36 pm. Roll Call Vote: Strunk-yes, Beuckens-yes, Sabolik-yes, Nessman-yes, Christenson-yes, Ulrich-yes, Grosz-yes. MCU

The closed session was for a summary of negotiations discussions Michelle Nessman previously conducted with a staff member and to solicit Board guidance as Michelle Nessman resumes negotiations discussions.

Motion by Grosz seconded by Ulrich to adjourn at 8:39 pm. MCU

Sara Strunk, Clerk