

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
APRIL 16, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, April 16, 2018, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Bahr, Carol L. Johnson, Ann Long Voelkner, Jeff Haack, Shawn Whiting, John Gonzalez, and Superintendent James Hess

Andrew Hokanson, Student Representative
Taylor Gish, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:30 p.m.)

PREVIEW OF AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT JAMES HESS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Melissa Bahr, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Shawn Whiting, seconded by John Gonzalez, and carried by consent to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from the March 19, 2018 School Board Meeting
- B. Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling: \$5,310,346.56
- C. Confirmation of Resignations: Nicole Anderson, Daniel Bryant, Patricia Marquardt, Jane Nord, Michael Ohl, Joel Steffen, Miriam White
- D. Noncertified Staff Resignations: Eric Birch, Scott Engelstad, Annette Nyland, Sandra Raddatz, Jon Smith, Ronald Wind
- E. Certified Staff Appointment: Tanja Corrington
- F. Request to Submit Grant Application – Operation Round Up
- G. Request to Submit Grant Application – School Forest Conservation Corps Minnesota Grant
- H. Request to Submit Grant Application – School Forest Conservation Grant
- I. Request to Accept Grant – School Forest Conservation Corps Minnesota Grant
- J. Request to Submit Grant Application – George W. Neilson Foundation
- K. Field Trip Request Bemidji High School Orchestra and Choir

SPECIAL TOPICS

Otter Tail power Company Rebate – Roger Garton presented a check from Otter Tail Power Company for \$20,000 for an energy savings project at Bemidji High School.

Paul Bunyan Elementary Social Emotional Lessons – Kathy VanWert and Stacy Bender Fayette presented on Peacemaker Resources Social & Emotional Learning instruction at Paul Bunyan Elementary.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Andrew Hokanson and Taylor Gish, Student Representatives to the Board, reported on Bemidji High School activities.

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Ann Long Voelkner and Carol Johnson reported on the following Listening Session topics: School Safety and Media Specialist Position

NEW SCHOOL PLANNING

Superintendent Hess provided an update on Gene Dillon Elementary School including a construction update, the upcoming Dedication Ceremony on September 12, 2018, and the school mascot which will be the American Bald Eagle. No action was taken.

EQUITABLE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Bemidji Area Schools Demographics

Kathy Palm, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, reported on the 2017-2018 District Demographics including: Poverty, Special Education, LEP, Ethnicity, and Homeless populations. No action was taken.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) Update

Kathy Palm, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, reported the school district started MCA testing the first week in April and will continue until the second week in May. The district expects to administer 6,578 MCA tests this year. No action was taken.

McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Funding Update

Superintendent James Hess informed the School Board that the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Funding was being eliminated. He has asked the Minnesota Commissioner of Education to consider re-distributing these funds. No action was taken.

RELATIONSHIPS/COLLABORATION

Extension of Lease for Ball Fields with Beltrami County

Superintendent James Hess informed the School Board that the district recently extended the lease with Beltrami County for the ball fields located by Bemidji Middle School for another 15 years. No action was taken

HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

Potential Reductions and Additions in Programs and Positions

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by John Gonzalez, and carried by all in attendance, to remove .50 FTE Social Worker (Homeless Program) from the list of potential reductions and remove .5 FTE Elementary Principal from the list of potential additions.

John Gonzalez moved to withdraw his second to the previous motion. Therefore the original motion died due to lack of a second.

A motion was made by Shawn Whiting, seconded by John Gonzalez, to amend the motion to approve a 1.0 FTE Social Worker position to the list of potential additions.

Jeff Haack introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION DISCONTINUING AND REDUCING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 adopted a resolution on December 19, 2016, directing the administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and positions; and

WHEREAS, said recommendations have been received and considered by the School Board;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, that the following positions be discontinued:

1. 0.20 FTE World Languages (German)
2. 0.40 FTE Music
3. 1.0 FTE Keyboarding & Technology
4. 0.20 FTE Art

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Melissa Bahr, and upon vote being taken, the following voted in favor: Jeff Haack, Melissa Bahr, Shawn Whiting, Ann Long Voelkner, John Gonzalez, and Carol L. Johnson, and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

John Gonzalez introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption as amended:

RESOLUTION INCREASING POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 adopted a resolution discontinuing positions, and

WHEREAS, recommendations for a staffing addition has been received and considered by the School Board;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, that the following position be added:

1. 0.20 FTE Business Education
2. 0.20 FTE Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS)
3. 0.20 FTE Mathematics
4. 0.70 FTE Physical Education
5. 0.20 FTE Science
6. 0.10 FTE Industrial Technology
7. 1.10 FTE Elementary Title I
8. 2.0 FTE Special Education
9. 1.0 FTE Assistant Principal
10. 0.5 FTE Elementary Principal
11. 2.5 FTE Elementary Education (STEM/STEAM)
12. ~~0.5 FTE~~ **1.0 FTE Social Worker**

13. 0.50 FTE Q-Comp Staff Development Specialist
14. 0.30 FTE Media Specialist
15. 1.0 FTE Early Childhood

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Jeff Haack, and upon vote being taken, the following voted in favor: John Gonzalez, Shawn Whiting, Melissa Bahr, Ann Long Voelkner, Jeff Haack, and Carol L. Johnson, and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Resolutions Relating to Terminations, Nonrenewal of Contracts, Unrequested Leave of Absences, and Contract Offer

Melissa Bahr introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACTS OF TANJA CORRINGTON, BETH ANDERSON, JENNY FRENZEL, MICHAEL MEEHLHAUSE, EMILY DRAPER, ANNA HAMMAN, LAURA NEWTON

WHEREAS, Tanja Corrington, Beth Anderson, Jenny Frenzel, Michael Meehlhause, Emily Draper, Anna Hamann, Laura Newton are probationary teachers in Independent School District #31,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 that pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 5, the teaching contracts of Tanja Corrington, Beth Anderson, Jenny Frenzel, Michael Meehlhause, Emily Draper, Anna Hamann, Laura Newton are hereby terminated at the close of the 2018-2019 school year on June 4, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that written notice be sent to said teachers regarding termination and nonrenewal of their contracts as provided by law, and that said notice be substantially in the following form:

NOTICE OF TERMINATION AND NONRENEWAL

Dear:

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, held April 16, 2018, a resolution was adopted by majority roll call vote to terminate your contract at the end of the current school year on June 4, 2018, and not to renew your contract for the 2018-2019 school year. Said action of the Board was taken pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 5.

You may officially request that the School Board give its reasons for the nonrenewal of your teaching contract.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL BOARD OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31

Clerk of the School Board

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and upon vote being taken, the following voted in favor: Melissa Bahr, John Gonzalez, Jeff Haack, Shawn Whiting, Ann Long Voelkner, and Carol L. Johnson, and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

John Gonzalez introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING TO PLACE CHRISTINE FREUNDSCHUH
ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31 as follows:

1. It is proposed that Christine Freundsuh be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay and fringe benefits effective at the end of the 2017-2018 school year on June 4, 2018, pursuant to M.S. 122A.40 as listed:
Christine Freundsuh .40 FTE
2. Written notice shall be sent to said teacher regarding the proposed placement on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits as provided by law and that the notice be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PLACEMENT ON UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Dear:

You are hereby notified that at the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, held April 16, 2018, consideration was given to your placement on unrequested leave of absence without salary and fringe benefits as a teacher in the employ of Independent School District No. 31, and a resolution was adopted by a majority vote of the Board, proposing your placement on unrequested leave of absence effective at the end of the 2017-2018 school year on June 4, 2018, for "XX" FTE pursuant to M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 11, upon the grounds described in said statute and which are specifically as follows:

DISCONTINUANCE OF POSITION, LACK OF PUPILS, AND FINANCIAL LIMITATION

Under the provisions of the law, you are entitled to a hearing before the School Board provided you make a request in writing within fourteen days after receipt of this notice. If no hearing is requested within such period, it shall be deemed acquiescence by you to the School Board's proposed action.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL BOARD OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31

Clerk of the School Board

3. That each and all of the foregoing grounds of said notice are within the grounds for unrequested leave placement as set forth in M.S. 122A.40, Subdivision 11, and are hereby adopted as though separately set forth and resolved herein.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Melissa Bahr, and upon vote being taken, the following voted in favor: Ann Long Voelkner, Shawn Whiting, Melissa Bahr, Jeff Haack, John Gonzalez, and Carol L. Johnson, and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Melissa Bahr introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO OFFER CONTRACT TO ANNA HAMANN

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, to offer a contract to Anna Hamann for .85 FTE for the 2018-19 school year.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Shawn Whiting, and upon vote being taken, the following voted in favor: Shawn Whiting, Ann Long Voelkner, Jeff Haack, Melissa Bahr, John Gonzalez, and Carol L. Johnson, and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Nonlicensed Staff – Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2017-2019

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by John Gonzalez, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of the terms and conditions of employment for the Nonlicensed staff for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019.

Bus Technician/Diesel Mechanics Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2017-2019

The motion as offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Shawn Whiting, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of the terms and conditions of employment for the Bus Technician/Diesel Mechanics for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019.

Support Services Group – Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2017-2019

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of the terms and conditions of employment for the Support Services Group for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019.

District Office Administration – Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2017-2019

The motion was offered by John Gonzalez, seconded by Shawn Whiting, and carried by all in attendance to approve the terms and conditions of employment for District Administrators for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17, 18, 19, 2018 - Superintendent Candidate Interviews
May 3 & 4, 2018 – Horace May Second Grade Play
May 7, 2018 – Bemidji High School Hall of Fame Banquet
May 10, 2018 – Bemidji High School American Indian Senior Honors Banquet
May 14, 2018 – Retirement Reception for Dr. Jim Hess, Superintendent of Schools
May 17, 2018 – Bemidji High School National Honor Society & Senior Awards Ceremony
May 21, 2018 – May School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

OTHER

Minnesota Department of Human Rights Proposal

Stephanie Hubbard, Director of Special Education, informed the School Board of the District's task force and plan for addressing Disproportionalities in Suspensions and Expulsions. No action was taken.

Once Around the Table

School Board Members shared their observations of events in the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Melissa Bahr, seconded by John Gonzalez, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 9:30 p.m.

Jeff Haack, Clerk

Date Approved

Carol L. Johnson, Chair

Date Approved