

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
MARCH 18, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room. Justin Hoover attending remotely from the Conference Room Lobby at 1032 South Kihei Road, Kihei, HI 96753.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jenny Frenzel, Dave Wall, Anna Manecke, Julie Laitala, Justin Hoover, Ann Long Voelkner and Superintendent Jeremy Olson
Calla Gieser – Student Representative
Carter Fish – Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Emily Papke-Larson – Viewpont Neutral and LGBTQ+ students
Finn Jorgensen – Student Perspectives of Current issues
Arnold Dahl-Wooly – Two Spirit and Ojibwe Culture
Angie Fournier – Psychology and Student Mental Health
Rayne Heck – Hope for our Students
Christian Taylor-Johnson – Pride LGBTQ+ Flag
Jennifer Sanford – Supporting Bemidji Teachers
Michael Bjerk – Teacher Contract
Kristie O’Beirne – Teacher Contracts
Sarah Duncan – School/teacher fund salary

BOARD CHAIR ELECTION

Dave Wall was nominated by Julie Laitala and upon vote being taken Dave Wall was duly elected as Board Chair.

Yes votes are as follows: Julie Laitala, Jenny Frenzel, Justin Hoover, Dave Wall, Anna Manecke

REQUEST TO REMOVE TOPIC(S) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Julie Laitala, and carried by all in attendance to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from the February 26, 2024 Regular and February 28, 2024 Special Board Meeting.
- B. Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling \$3,224,489.36
- C. Certified Confirmation of Resignations
- D. Non-Certified Staff Resignations
- E. Request for Extended Leave – Stephen Pflieger

- F. Request to Submit Grant – Friends of the Library
- G. Field Trip Request – Bemidji Middle School Mathcounts Competition
- H. Field Trip Request – Bemidji High School Robotics World Championship

SPECIAL TOPICS

Bemidji Middle School Art Department

The Bemidji Middle School Art Department presented about woods classes and the projects that they have made. They talked about Technology and Design which includes screen printing, AI art, and floor planning amongst other things.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Calla Gieser and Carter Fish talked about winter sports concluding and spring sports starting. Term 3 is ending next week, Mock Trial went to state and Bemidji Middle School Robotics is going to Worlds.

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Ann Long Voelkner talked about a flag not considered viewpoint neutral, online bullying and students not feeling safe, accepting Ojibwe students.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations, \$1,500 from CS Fitness and Sarah Stewart for the BHS Art Program, \$800 from Bank Forward to the BMS Academic Showcase and \$2,500 from Gene Haas Foundation to BHS Robotics.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution Relating to Renewal of an Expiring Referendum

Ann Long Voelkner introduced the resolution and urged its adoption:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 126C.17, Subd. 9b, allows the School Board to renew an expiring referendum.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 126C.17, Subd. 9b, sets forth the following requirements to renew an expiring referendum:

- 1) The per pupil amount of the referendum is the same as the amount expiring, or for an expiring referendum that was adjusted annually by the rate of inflation, the same as the per-pupil amount of the expiring referendum, adjusted annually for inflation in the same manner as if the expiring referendum had continued;
- 2) the term of the renewed referendum is no longer than the initial term approved by the voters;
- 3) the school board has held a meeting and allowed public testimony on the proposed renewal; and
- 4) the expiring referendum has not been previously renewed under Minnesota Statutes 126C17, Subd. 9b.

WHEREAS, the expiring referendum is within the last two fiscal years of the term of the referendum.

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

The Board hereby determines and declares that it is necessary and expedient for the school district to extend and renew the general education revenue provided by an expiring referendum passed by the voters of the school district on November 4, 2014. This referendum was passed with an amount of \$180 per adjusted pupil unit and for a term of 10 years beginning with taxes payable in 2016.

The term of the renewed referendum will be 10 years beginning taxes payable 2026.

The clerk is authorized to send this adopted resolution, no later than September 1 of the calendar year in which this resolution was adopted, to the commissioner of the education and to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part.

This resolution becomes effective 60 days after adoption.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Justin Hoover and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Ann Long Voelkner, Jenny Frenzel, Julie Laitala, Justin Hoover, and Dave Wall and the following voted against the same: Anna Manecke

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

First Reading of Revised SBR 200-10-14:Subpoena of a School District Employee or Jury Duty MSBA 408

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Julie Laitala, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of revised policy SBR 200-10-14:Jury Duty or Subpoena of a School District Employee.

First Reading of Revised SBR 200-90-9:Harassment and Violence MSBA 413

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Justin Hoover, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of revised policy SBR 200-90-9:Harassment and Violence.

First Reading of Revised SBR 200-70-2:Drug, Alcohol and Cannabis Testing MSBA 416

The motion was offered by Justin Hoover, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of revised policy SBR 200-70-2:Drug, Alcohol and Cannabis Testing.

First Reading of Revised SBR 900-70-1:Advertising MSBA 905

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of revised policy SBR 900-70-1:Advertising.

First Reading of Revised SBR 700-60-2:Health Services Policy

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of revised policy SBR 700-60-2:Health Services Policy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April School Board Meeting, April 15, 2024, 6:30 PM, District Office Board Room

OTHER

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Olson shared information about the district.

The motion was offered by Julie Laitala, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to close the meeting to discuss labor negotiations strategy (MN Statute 13D.03: Labor Negotiations Strategy and MN Statute 13D.05: Attorney-Client Privilege). Time: 7:56 p.m.

7:57 – Calla Gieser and Carter Fish left the meeting

Negotiations Strategy – Closed Session

The Motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, and seconded by Anna Manecke, to adjourn Negotiations Strategy and move to closed session for Attorney-Client Privilege. Time: 8:34 p.m.

Attorney-Client Privilege– Closed Session

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to go back into open session. Time: 8:50 p.m.

8:50 - Justin Hoover left the meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Julie Laitala, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:53 p.m.

Anna Manecke, Clerk

Date Approved

Dave Wall, Chair

Date Approved