

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS  
OCTOBER 19, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Gonzalez, Jeff Lind, Ann Long Voelkner, Carol L. Johnson, Sarah Young, Jeff Haack, and Superintendent Tim Lutz

Joel Roberts Student Representative  
Abigail Enquist, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:32 p.m.)

PREVIEW OF AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT TIM LUTZ

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Jeff Lind, and carried by consent to approve the following items:

- A. Meeting Minutes from the September 21, 2020 School Board Meeting
- B. Current Bills & Special Checks Totaling: \$3,910,552.15
- C. Request to Submit Grant Application – Thrivent
- D. Request to Accept Grant – Thrivent
- E. Request to Submit Grant – Beltrami Electric
- F. Request to Accept Grant – Beltrami Electric
- G. Noncertified Staff Resignations
- H. Certified Staff Appointments
- I. Lane Advancements
- J. Second Reading and Adoption of SBR 700-30-10: Instruction – Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process

SPECIAL TOPICS

Spotlight Presentation: Indian Education Program Update – Sonia Wadena, Indian Education Coordinator

Spotlight Presentation: Bemidji Community Arena Signage Presentation - Hugh Welle & Kayla Winkler

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Jeff Lind, and carried by all in attendance to approve new signage for the BCA Arena to be renamed First National Arena and Sanford Power Rink.

## COVID UPDATES

### **Sanford Health and County Public Health Update.**

#### Sanford Health: COVID-19 Facts Over Fear

Dr David Wilcox and Kayla Winkler, from Sanford Health, reviewed the COVID-19 timeline. COVID-19 is not spreading in school. It is spreading in small groups in the community.

Sanford has increased COVID hospital bed capacity with progressive plans for making more beds.

#### COVID Community Impact & Updates from Public Health

Megan Heuer and Cynthia Borgen, from Public Health, indicated COVID-19 spread is not happening in school. There are more cases in the community and long-term care facilities.

The community is urged to continue handwashing, social distancing, wearing masks, and manage chronic disease. More information is available on the Minnesota Department of Health and CDC websites.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Joel Roberts and Abigail Enquist reported on Bemidji High School activities including fall sports; homecoming weeks; production of a student-made video urging the community to wear masks and social distance to help keep students in school; and the imbalance of A-week and B-week number of in-school days.

## LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Jeff Haack and John Gonzalez reported on the following Listening Session topics:

Lisa Vind: Teaching distance and in-person students simultaneously.

Sonia Wadena: Concern for food delivery for families with no transportation and The Seven Grandfathers Teachings staff concern.

## 2020 OPERATING REFERENDUM

### **Referendum Update**

Superintendent Tim Lutz indicated he has been giving referendum information presentations for various community groups. The Vote Yes Committee is sending out mailings, letters to the editors, and updating their Facebook page.

## EQUITABLE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### **Distance Learning Update**

Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, indicated there are 951 elementary students enrolled in the distance learning model. There is a waiting list for elementary. At the quarter break we will allow more students into the distance learning model. At the secondary level, our teachers are teaching three models: seat based, at home and distance learning kids.

With the high number of students in distance learning, staffing has become an issue. We are limiting how kids move in and out because we have to shift staffing. As the COVID numbers change, people want to shift learning models.

The Rigor for distance learning has risen compared to last year. At the elementary level, we have kids log in with their live teacher most of the morning. The afternoon is reserved for project-based time. At the end of the day another optional log in time for students is available to ask questions or leave comments. Logging in daily is a must.

Superintendent Lutz indicated he has met with the COVID-19 Regional Support Team, public health, and Sanford Health and everyone is in agreement that we continue with the learning model in place. Research and data shows spreading is not happening in school if we follow safety protocols.

#### RELATIONSHIPS/COLLABORATION

#### **Designation of Identified Official With Authority For the Minnesota Department of Education External User Access Recertification System**

Jeff Lind introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

#### DESIGNATION OF IDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY FOR THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXTERNAL USER ACCESS RECERTIFICATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, MDE's External User Access Recertification System is a password protected website for members of educational organizations who have received prior approval to access statewide testing and graduation information. On behalf of Bemidji Area Schools, Tim Lutz is designated by the School Board as the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) for Bemidji Area Schools for the secure site for Minnesota Department of Education Secure Systems information. This School Board action will be forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Education as a matter of record.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji, Minnesota, designates Tim Lutz, Superintendent of Schools, as the Identified Official with Authority with the Minnesota Department of Education for External User Access Recertification System related to the testing and graduation information of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji Area Schools.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Jeff Lind, Jeff Haack, Sarah Young, Carol L. Johnson,  
Ann Long Voelkner, and John Gonzalez  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

#### HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

#### **Approval of 2020-2022 Challenged Resources Committee**

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to accept the 2020-2022 Challenged Resources Committee members.

## **2020-2021 Indian Education Policies and Procedures**

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2020-2021 Bemidji Area Schools Indian Education Policies and Procedures as written.

### **Assurance of Compliance With State and Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination**

Jordan Hickman, Director of Human Resources, reported the Assurance of Compliance With State and Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination Report has been completed online as required. No action was taken.

### **Resolution Regarding Allowable Fund Balance Transfer for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Ann Long Voelkner introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

#### **RESOLUTION REGARDING ALLOWABLE FUND BALANCE TRANSFERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Laws 2020, Chapter 116/House File 4415, Article 3 Section 8, Subdivision 1, which stated in part:

“Section 8. FUND TRANSFERS; FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021 ONLY. Subdivision 1. Fund and account transfers allowed. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.80, subdivision 3, for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 only, a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit may transfer any funds not already assigned to or encumbered by staff salary and benefits, or otherwise encumbered by federal law, from any accounts or operating fund to the undesignated balance in any other operating fund...”

WHEREAS, a fund transfer is allowed if the transfer meets the criteria set forth in Section 8 of Minnesota Laws 2020, Chapter 116/House File 4415, Article 3:

1. The transfer does not increase state aid obligations to the district or result in additional property tax authority for the district or charter school.
2. A transfer is limited to the operating funds of a district or charter school.
3. A school board must approve a fund transfer by the fiscal year reporting deadline.
4. A district or charter school must maintain accounting records for the purpose of this Executive Order that are sufficient to document both the specific funds transferred and use of those funds. Such accounting records are subject to auditor review.
5. Any execution of this flexibility must not interfere with or jeopardize funding per federal requirements.
6. Any transfer must not interfere with the equitable delivery of distance learning or social distancing models

WHEREAS, the School Board of Bemidji Public Schools, Independent School District 31, has determined that that the criteria identified under Section 8 have been satisfied for a fund transfer pursuant to Minnesota Laws 2020, Chapter 116/House File 4415, Article 3;

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District has reviewed and approved the attached *Request for Fund Transfer*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 31 authorizes the School District administration to submit the attached *Request for Fund Transfer*.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Jeff Lind, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Ann Long Voelkner, Jeff Haack, Jeff Lind, Sarah Young,  
Carol L. Johnson, and John Gonzalez

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

### **Class Size Report**

Superintendent Tim Lutz reported on fall class size as recommended in SBR 400-30-1R: Class Size. Two elementary distance learning classrooms exceed the guidelines. Twenty-six out of 218 Bemidji High School classes exceed the guideline. No action was taken.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

#### **Staff Development Day Summary**

Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, provided an overview of staff training that occurred on October 15, 2020.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Special School Board Meeting to Canvass Election Results – Friday, November 13, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

November Meeting – Monday, November 16, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

### OTHER

#### **Once Around the Table**

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

### ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Carol L Johnson, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 9:07 p.m.

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Carol L. Johnson, Clerk

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Date Approved

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John Gonzalez, Chair

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Date Approved