

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS  
APRIL 17, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol L. Johnson, Ann Long Voelkner, Jeff Haack, Melissa Bahr, John Gonzalez, Richard (Bill) Faver, and Superintendent James Hess

Nicole Jensen, Student Representative  
Andrew Hokanson, 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 Richard (Bill) Faver, seconded by Melissa Bahr, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes from the March 20, 2017 School Board Meeting
- B. Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling: \$3,873,030.52
- C. Confirmation of Resignations: Deborah Best, Deborah Cembrook, Jane Daniels, Beth Fleahman, James Lubke, Sally LaMere Rodgers, Mark Stevens, Mark Studer
- D. Noncertified Staff Resignations: Gail Kelsey, Tyann Smith, Richard Tolman, Amber Tschudi-Ackerman
- E. Certified Staff Appointment: Thomas Borowicz
- F. Request to Submit Grant – Northwest Minnesota Foundation
- G. Request to Submit Grant – Neilson Foundation
- H. Request to Submit Grant Application – Target
- I. Request to Accept Grant –Target
- J. Field Trip Request – Bemidji High School JROTC
- K. Request for Extended Leave: Wendy Nyegaard
- L. Request for Extended Leave: Jana Norgaard
- M. Request for Extended Leave: Doyle Turner
- N. Field Trip Request – Bel Canto Choir Tour 2017
- O. Request to Submit Grant Application – Wells Fargo Foundation
- P. Request to Accept Grant – Wells Fargo Foundation
- Q. Release from Contract Request – Brandon Bjercknes

SPECIAL TOPICS

Responsive Classroom – Jason Luksik, Tami Wesely, Ami Aalgaard, Wendy Templin, Patricia Welte, and Kathy VanWert

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jim Wetterlund – Primary Food Service Vendor  
Diane Gehrke – Symposium “One Loaf at a Time”

## NEW SCHOOL PLANNING

Superintendent Hess indicated the power poles have been relocated at the site of the Gene Dillon Elementary School, site clearing has begun, and a webcam will be installed and linked to the school district’s web site. No action was taken.

## EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

### **Health Insurance Proposals for FY 2017-2018**

The motion was offered by Richard (Bill) Faver, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to approve the NWSC Pool as the district’s health insurance carrier for 2017.

### **Bids for Primary Food Service Vendor**

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by Melissa Bahr, and carried by all in attendance to approve Food Services of America as Primary Vendor for the next school year with the possibility of extending the contract for an additional four years.

### **Marching Band Trailer Ownership Transfer**

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to approve the Ownership Agreement between the Bemidji Marching Band Boosters and Bemidji Area Schools, ISD #31.

### **Potential Reductions and Additions in Programs and Positions**

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. .10 FTE Business Education
2. .18 FTE Physical Education

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, Richard (Bill) Faver, Carol L. Johnson, John Gonzalez, and Ann Long Voelkner, 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:

#### 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. .20 FTE Mathematics
2. .05 FTE Elementary Education
3. .15 FTE Elementary Art
4. .15 FTE Elementary Music
5. .15 FTE Elementary Technology
6. .33 FTE Development/Adapted Physical Education
7. 2.30 FTE Special Education
8. 1.0 FTE American Indian Culture and Curriculum Specialist
9. .50 FTE Speech-Language Pathologist
10. .50 FTE Q-Comp Technology Integrationist

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

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

#### **Resolutions Relating to Termination and Nonrenewal of Contracts**

Carol L. Johnson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

#### RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERMINATION AND NONRENEWAL OF THE TEACHING CONTRACTS OF JESSICA BINSTOCK, DIANE THOMASON, MICHAEL MEEHLHAUSE, NICOLE CARTIER, KENDRA MURRAY, MELISSA WILLIAMS, LISA PINGREY, AND BRIGITTA NICOSON

WHEREAS, Jessica Binstock, Diane Thomason, Michael Meehlhause, Nicole Cartier, Kendra Murray, Melissa Williams, Lisa Pingrey, and Brigitta Nicoson 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 Jessica Binstock, Diane Thomason, Michael Meehlhause, Nicole Cartier, Kendra Murray, Melissa Williams, Lisa Pingrey, and Brigitta Nicoson are hereby terminated at the close of the 2016-2017 school year on June 5, 2017.

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 17, 2017, a resolution was adopted by majority roll call vote to terminate your contract at the end of the current school year on June 5, 2017, and not to renew your contract for the 2017-2018 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

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Clerk of the School Board

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: Carol L. Johnson, Melissa Bahr, Jeff Haack, John Gonzalez, Richard (Bill) Faver, and Ann Long Voelkner, and the following voted against: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF STUDENT SUCCESS

**Grand Canyon University Student Teacher Agreement**

Jeff Haack introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A STUDENT TEACHING AFFILIATION AGREEMENT  
WITH GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bemidji Area Schools enter into an agreement with Grand Canyon University for the purpose of providing student teaching, practicum, and observation experiences for students from Grand Canyon University for the period beginning March 22, 2017 and ending March 22, 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the chairperson is hereby authorized to execute such agreement.

The above resolution was seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: John Gonzalez, Carol L. Johnson, Jeff Haack, Richard (Bill) Faver,  
Melissa Bahr, and Ann Long Voelkner  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the above resolution was declared passed and adopted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May School Board Meeting – Monday, May 15, 2017, 6:30 p.m.  
Bemidji High School Hall of Fame Banquet – May 1, 2017, 6:00 p.m.  
Horace May Second Grade Play – May 4, 2017, 1:30 or 7:00 p.m. & May 5, 2017,  
9:30 a.m.  
Bemidji High School American Indian Senior Honors Banquet – May 11, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

OTHER

**Once Around the Table**

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

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 8:20 p.m.

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Melissa Bahr, Clerk

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Date Approved

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Ann Long Voelkner, Chair

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Date Approved