

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
May 31, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Forum Room
Crosby, MN

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Special meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Forum Room, Secondary Building at 6:30 p.m. on May 31, 2023 with Chair Mike Domin presiding.

Members Present: Barb Neprud, Mike Domin, Beth Hautala, Laura Lee, Tommy Sablan and Superintendent Jamie Skjeveland. Kim Coughlin was absent.

Chair Domin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approve Agenda-Motion by Sablan, second by Lee to approve the agenda. All voting aye, and the motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Legislative Update

The 2023 legislative session ended on May 22, 2023. The Board reviewed a number of items relating to school finance, changes to the Public Labor Relations Act, and educational policy.

Coughlin arrived.

Budget Deficit Scenarios

The Board discussed three budget scenarios with the goal of identifying a threshold of deficit at which an operating referendum election would be considered.

Handling the Deficit

Fund Balance
Budget Reduction
Operating Referendum

The Board discussed a number of budget reduction options and asked for input from administration. A list of budget reduction options will continue to be worked through, including adding additional descriptions about other details, issues and costs associated with each potential reduction. The big picture will likely involve a combination of approaches to balancing the 2024-2025 budget, including reductions, an operating referendum election in November 2023, and using some of the fund balance. The operating referendum alone, will not be enough to avoid some level of budget reduction. The finance committee will continue to work on these topics over the next several months, with the likelihood of a special Board meeting in late June or early July to review updated information and work on formulating a decision on an

operating referendum in November 2023. A budget reduction list will need to be completed leading up to January or February 2024.

Barb Neprud left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

If Operating Referendum, Communication Consultant?

The Board discussed the need for a communications consultant in the event that there is a decision to go to the voters with an operating referendum election in November 2023. There is great value to this, but also an acknowledged risk; including an acknowledgement that it would be very difficult to engage in an operating referendum process without a communications consultant. Board consensus was to proceed with discussions with the District's financial advisor and potential communications consultants to be prepared to engage both in June or July.

The next regular Board meeting will be June 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Forum Room.

Adjourn-Motion by Sablan, second by Coughlin to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. All voting aye, and the motion carried

Recorded by Wm Tollefson

Laura Lee, Clerk