

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
DECEMBER 18, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justin Hoover

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 5:00 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Christian Taylor-Johnson – Banning of Books
Magie Baumgartner- The proposed restriction of access to literature that is diverse and increases youth access to representation
Kelly Johnson – Security and Force Protection levels
Jeff Aas – Investing in Teachers
Rance Bahr – Contract Settlement
Julie Maus -Historic School Funding
Gina Bernard-Book Concern at BHS

REQUEST TO REMOVE TOPIC(S) FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes from the November 20, 2023 Regular School Board Meeting
- B. Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling \$3,416,015.57
- C. JROTC Instructor
- D. Non-Certified Staff Resignations
- E. Teacher Seniority List
- F. Second Reading and Adoption of SBR 700-90-8 MSBA 520:Student Surveys
- G. Second Reading and Adoption of SBR 700-90-8 MSBA 521:Student Disability Nondiscrimination

SPECIAL TOPICS

Annual Audit Presented by Brian Opsahl, CPA for Brandy Martz & Associates, P.C.

Brian Opsahl, CPA shared the results of the 2022-2023 audit.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Calla and Carter talked about many things that are happening around the district at the High School, Middle School and Elementary Schools. Thank you to the custodial staff at the High School.

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Ann Long Voelkner reported about against banning books and support of our teachers.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Anna Manecke, seconded by Dave Wall, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations: \$14,000 from Apple to Bemidji High School Robotics.

ACTION ITEMS

2022-2023 Audit Approval

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Jenny Frenzel, and carried by all in attendance to approve the FY 2022-2023 annual audit as presented.

Ashley Eastridge, Director of Business Services, presented the Truth in Taxation Public Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on December 18, 2023.

Recognize State Participants

A list of fall state participants were listed.

No action was taken.

Tentative Agreement with the United Services Workers Association for 2023-2025

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of SBR 200-60-1, the employment agreement between Independent School District No. 31 and the United Food Service Workers Association for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025.

Potential Reductions in Programs and Positions

Julie Laitala introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFORE

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district may dictate that the School Board must consider a possible reduction in expenditures, and

WHEREAS, shifts in elementary and secondary student participation might cause discontinuance of positions and/or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made concerning which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed, and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31: That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to

consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures; and make recommendations to the School Board for discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Dave Wall and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Dave Wall, Jenny Frenzel, Anna Manecke, Julie Laitala, and Ann Long Voelkner

NOES: None

ABSENT: Justin Hoover

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

First Reading of SBR 400-90-3:2024-2025 School Calendar

The motion was offered by Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to accept the first reading of SBR 400-90-3: 2024-2025 School Calendar.

First Reading of SBR 400-90-3:2025-2026 School Calendar

The motion was offered by Dave Wall, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to accept the first reading of SBR 400-90-3: 2025-2026 School Calendar.

2023 Payable 2024 Levy Limit Certification

The motion was offered Jenny Frenzel, seconded by Anna Manecke, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2023 pay 2024 Levy Limit as presented.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January School Board Meeting, January 22, 2023, 6:30 PM, District Office Board Room

OTHER

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Olson shared information about the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. Time: 6:39 p.m.

Clerk

Date Approved

Chair

Date Approved