

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
AUGUST 16, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, August 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gabriel Warren

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:31 p.m.)

PREVIEW OF AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT TIM LUTZ

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Jeff Lind, seconded by Jeff Haack, and carried by consent to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from the July 14, 2021 & July 19, 2021 School Board Meetings
- B. Current Bills & Special Checks Totaling: \$3,182,819.21
- C. Release from Contract Request
- D. Noncertified Staff Resignations
- E. Certified Staff Appointments
- F. Request to Submit Grant Application – PAYA New America
- G. Request to Accept Grant – PAYA New America
- H. Request for Extended Leave: Bryan Hammitt

SPECIAL TOPICS

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 Updates

Superintendent Tim Lutz indicated COVID cases are on the rise in Beltrami County. The Delta variant has been identified in our county as well as some of those surrounding us.

Local vaccination status – 2 out of 3 secondary students are not vaccinated. Those under 12 years old cannot be vaccinated.

Herd immunity needs to be at 90% to eradicate COVID

New Quarantine Guidelines

Jordan Hickman apprised the Board on the latest quarantine guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Tracy Blichfeldt – Health & Safety
2. Gabriel Schwinghammer – COVID
3. Angelina Soli – Health & Safety
4. Katy Metson – Masks
5. Daniel Larson – Masking
6. Justin Hoover – Percentage of students affected by COVID
7. Miranda Carlson – Masks
8. Mitchell R. Donat – School Masking/Parents Choice
9. Roy Grandbois – Critical Race Theory
10. Christopher Jaranson – COVID Prevention

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Jeff Haack & Jeff Lind summarized the concerns of those who attended the Listening Session regarding masks.

REFERENDUM UPDATE

Referendum Update

Superintendent Lutz indicated the referendum committee is just getting started. Several committee members were at the County Fair to help spread the word about the referendum. We are asking community members to sit in on one of the referendum committees.

DONATIONS

EQUITABLE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

RELATIONSHIPS/COLLABORATION

Resolution to Convey Tax-Forfeited Property to the Independent School District No. 31 Solway School Forest Purposes

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

RESOLUTION TO CONVEY TAX-FORFEITED PROPERTY TO THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31 SOLWAY SCHOOL FOREST PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Independent School District # 31 has approved and authorized a request for conveyance of tax-forfeited land lying within Eckles Township in the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ in Section 30, Township 147 North, Range 34 West (17.01-acre) for use as a School Forest, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute section 89.41, Subd. 2 allows conveyance of tax-forfeited land to any school district by the Commissioner of Revenue without monetary compensation or consideration for use as a School Forest, but said conveyance is subject to the conditional use and reversion provisions under section 282.01, subds. 1c and 1d, para. (e), and

WHEREAS, Eckles Township has approved the establishment and maintenance of a School Forest for outdoor classroom educational purposes, now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bemidji Area Schools ISD #31 School Board approves a conveyance by the Commissioner of Revenue of the above described tax-forfeited land for use as a School Forest under the terms provided in Minnesota Statute section 282.01, Subd. 1a para. (j) for no monetary compensation or consideration and

subject to the conditional use and reversion provisions under section 282.01, subds. 1c and 1d, para. (e).

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

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

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

Resolution Relating to Establishing the Location for Absentee Voting for School District Elections Not Held on the Same Day of a Statewide Election

Member Jeff Haack introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, which motion was seconded by Member Sarah Young.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION FOR ABSENTEE VOTING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS NOT HELD ON THE DAY OF A STATEWIDE ELECTION

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

It is hereby found, determined and declared that the Board hereby establishes the School District office, 502 Minnesota Avenue NW, Bemidji, Minnesota as the location for absentee voting with respect to School District elections not held on the day of a statewide election.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Sarah Young, Carol L. Johnson, Jeff Haack, Jeff Lind, and Ann Long Voelkner, and the following voted against the same: None.

WHEREUPON, the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Resolution Relating to Appointing Absentee Ballot Board Members for the November 2, 2021 School District Special Election

Member Carol L. Johnson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, which motion was seconded by Member Jeff Lind.

RESOLUTION RELATING TO APPOINTING ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021 SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION

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

It is hereby found, determined and declared as follows:

1. The following individuals, each of whom is qualified to serve as an election judge, are hereby appointed as absentee ballot board members for the School District's special election on November 2, 2021 to act as such at the absentee voting location listed below:

ISD No. 31 (Bemidji)
School District Office

Jodee Treat
Danielle Johnson

502 Minnesota Ave NW
Bemidji, Minnesota

Tabby Mack
Jake Berg
Leala Roth
Krisi Fenner
Ashley Eastridge
Ginger Schwartz

2. The following individuals, each of whom is qualified to serve as an election judge, are hereby designated to deliver absentee ballots to hospital patients and residents of health care facilities in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 203B.11, Subdivision 1 for the School District's special election on November 2, 2021:

Jodee Treat
Danielle Johnson
Tabby Mack
Jake Berg
Leala Roth
Krisi Fenner
Ashley Eastridge
Ginger Schwartz

Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Jeff Haack, Sarah Young, Jeff Lind, Carol L. Johnson, and Ann Long Voelkner, and the following voted against the same: None.

WHEREUPON, the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Request for Licensed Staff

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to add 2.0 FTE social workers and 5.0 FTE elementary education teachers and related specialists for the 2021-2022 school year.

Resolution Relating to Health & Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year

Board Chair Ann Long Voelkner explained there would most likely not be an action taken on the Resolution Relating to Health & Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year at this meeting. She wants to take time and meet again in the next couple of weeks to make a decision based on the most current COVID information.

Superintendent Lutz reviewed Health and Safety Measures including Learning Models and how we can keep kids in school, encouraging vaccinations, wearing face coverings, and updated contract tracing practices.

Four different sample resolutions prepared by the Minnesota School Boards Association for Minnesota school districts were shared regarding masking:

- All staff, students, and visitors must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.
- Staff, students, and visitors in buildings that are between the grades K-5 must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.
- All staff, students, and visitors who are not vaccinated must wear a mask.
- All staff, students, and visitors are recommended to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 7:57 p.m.

Sarah Young, Clerk

Date Approved

Ann Long Voelkner, Chair

Date Approved