

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
MARCH 21, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

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

Maya Lindquist, Student Representative
Savannah Haugen, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:30 p.m.)

PREVIEW OF AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT TIM LUTZ

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Jeff Lind, seconded by Gabriel Warren, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Sarah Young, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by consent to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from School Board Meetings Held on February 28, 2022
- B. Current Bills & Special Checks Totaling: \$2,998,290.77
- C. Noncertified Staff Resignations
- D. Certified Confirmation of Resignation
- E. Second Reading and Adoption of SBR 400-90-3: 2022-2023 School Calendar
- F. Request to Submit Grant Application – Gene Haas Foundation
- G. Request to Accept Grant – Gene Haas Foundation
- H. Request to Submit Grant Application – Library Grant
- I. Request to Accept Grant – Library Grant
- J. Resignation of Administrative Staff Member

SPECIAL TOPICS

Spotlight Presentation: Bemidji Middle School Art Program & Club – Drew Hildenbrand and Molly Wiste

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 Updates

Superintendent Tim Lutz provided an update on COVID-19. Cases continue to go down. Our district information for last week include: two positive COVID staff members and no one quarantining; four students positive COVID and no students quarantining due to close contact in school. There were two students quarantining due to close contact at home. The number of lost student days due to COVID quarantining was 28 days last week.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Maya Lindquist & Savannah Haugen reported on Bemidji High School activities including: AP tests prep, Show Choir performances, BHS Robotics competitions, Speech competitions, and the music department trip to Washington, DC.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Nicole Jaranson – Bullying & Change
2. Deanna Bordeaux – Code of Conduct/Racism Bullying
3. Margaret Baumgartner – Intersectional & Transformational Justice Policy for Staff and Administration

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Ann Long Voelkner and Sarah Young reported on the following Listening Session topics: ESSER funds and supporting paras and secretaries regardless of their vaccination status; a grant opportunity for accessibility of playgrounds; and teacher involvement in the superintendent search.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Jeff Lind, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations: \$1,000 from the American Legion Post 14 to Bemidji High School Robotics and \$17,200 from the IDEA Circle MI2 to the Mechatronics Academy.

EQUITABLE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Field Trip Request – Bemidji Middle School VEX Worlds Championship

The motion was offered by Gabriel Warren, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to approve the Bemidji Middle School VEX Worlds Competition Field Trip request to Dallas, Texas on May 1-7, 2022.

RELATIONSHIPS/COLLABORATION

HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

Resolution Relating to \$2,500,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds and Revision of Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan

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

RESOLUTION RELATING TO \$2,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION FACILITIES MAINTENANCE BONDS, SERIES 2022A; STATING OFFICIAL INTENT TO PROCEED WITH AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT OR DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES AND ANY BOARD OFFICER TO AWARD THE SALE THEREOF AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AND EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH SAID AWARD AND SALE; ESTABLISHING COMPLIANCE WITH REIMBURSEMENT BOND REGULATIONS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. REVISION OF STATE APPROVED LONG TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PLAN

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION AND DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS. The District is authorized, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.595 and Chapter 475, to borrow money by the issuance of its general obligation facilities maintenance bonds. This Board hereby determines that it is necessary and desirable and in the best interest

of the District to issue its General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2022A in the approximate principal amount of \$2,500,000 (the Bonds) to be used, together with any funds of the District which might be required, to finance deferred capital maintenance projects at District facilities, including a roofing project at the high school, as described in the District's ten-year facility plan (the Facility Plan) hereby approved by this Board. Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.595, Subdivision 5 it is hereby determined that the total amount of District indebtedness as of March 1, 2022 is \$35,120,000.

SECTION 2. APPROVAL BY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA. The approved Facility Plan will be submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Education of the State of Minnesota (the Commissioner of Education) as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.595, Subdivision 5 and such approval will be received prior to the date on which the Bonds will be issued.

SECTION 3. NOTICE PUBLICATION. The Clerk is authorized and directed to cause notice of the intended Facilities Maintenance Projects, the amount of Bonds to be issued to finance the Projects, and the total amount of the District's indebtedness to be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the District.

SECTION 4. SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS. The Superintendent or Director of Business Services and any Board officer, in conjunction with PMA Securities, LLC, in Albertville, Minnesota (PMA), independent municipal advisor to the District, are hereby authorized to solicit proposals for the purchase of the Bonds.

SECTION 5. AWARD OF SALE; RATIFICATION. The Superintendent or Director of Business Services and any Board officer in consultation with and upon the advice of representatives PMA, are hereby authorized and directed to award the sale of the Bonds to the purchaser and execute a bond purchase agreement on the part of the District with respect to the Bonds, provided that a favorable recommendation to accept the proposal is received from PMA and the true interest cost does not exceed 3.00%. This Board shall meet at an upcoming regularly scheduled or special meeting to adopt a bond resolution prepared by the District's bond counsel ratifying the sale of the Bonds and incorporating the terms and conditions of the proposal so accepted.

SECTION 6. OFFICIAL STATEMENT. PMA is authorized to prepare and distribute an Official Statement related to the sale of the Bonds.

SECTION 7. STATE CREDIT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM. (a) The District hereby covenants and obligates itself to notify the Commissioner of Education of a potential default in the payment of principal and interest on the Bonds and to use the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55 to guarantee payment of the principal and interest on the Bonds when due. The District further covenants to deposit with the Registrar or any successor paying agent three (3) days prior to the date on which a payment is due an amount sufficient to make that payment or to notify the Commissioner of Education that it will be unable to make all or a portion of that payment. The Registrar for the Bonds is authorized and directed to notify the Commissioner of Education if it becomes aware of a potential default in the payment of principal or interest on the Bonds or if, on the day two (2) business days prior to the date a payment is due on the Bonds, there are insufficient funds to make that payment on deposit with the Registrar. The District understands that as a result of its covenant to be bound by the provision of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55, the provisions of that section shall be binding as long as any Bonds of this issue remain outstanding.

(b) The District further covenants to comply with all procedures now and hereafter established by the Departments of Management and Budget and Education of the State of Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55, Subdivision 2(c) and otherwise to take such actions as necessary to comply with that section. The chair, clerk, superintendent or Director of Business Services is authorized to execute any applicable Minnesota Department of Education forms.

SECTION 8. REIMBURSEMENT. (a) (i) The Internal Revenue Service has issued Section 1.150-2 of the Income Tax Regulations (the Regulations) dealing with the issuance of tax-exempt obligations all or a portion of the proceeds of which are to be used to reimburse the District for Project expenditures made by the District prior to the date of issuance (the Reimbursement Obligations).

(ii) The Regulations generally require that the District make a declaration of its official intent to reimburse itself for such prior expenditures out of the proceeds of a subsequently issued series of tax-exempt obligations within 60 days after payment of the expenditures, that such obligations be issued and the reimbursement allocation be made from the proceeds of such obligations within the reimbursement period (as defined in the Regulations), and that the expenditures reimbursed be capital expenditures or costs of issuance of the obligations.

(iii) The District desires to comply with requirements of the Regulations with respect to the Project.

(b) (i) The District proposes to undertake Project and to make original expenditures with respect thereto prior to the issuance of Reimbursement Obligations, and reasonably expects to issue Reimbursement Obligations for such project in the maximum principal amounts shown below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Maximum Amount of Obligations Expected to be Issued for Project</u>
Deferred capital maintenance projects; Roofing project at the high school.	\$2,500,000

(ii) Other than (i) de minimis amounts permitted to be reimbursed pursuant to Section 1.150-2(f)(1) of the Regulations or (ii) expenditures constituting preliminary expenditures as defined in Section 1.150-2(f)(2) of the Regulations, the District will not seek reimbursement for any original expenditures with respect to the foregoing Project paid more than 60 days prior to the date of adoption of this resolution. All original expenditures for which reimbursement is sought will be capital expenditures or costs of issuance of the Reimbursement Obligations.

(c) As of the date hereof, there are no District funds reserved, pledged, allocated on a long term basis or otherwise set aside (or reasonably expected to be reserved, pledged, allocated on a long term basis or otherwise set aside) to provide permanent financing for the original expenditures related to the Project other than pursuant to the issuance of the Reimbursement Obligations. Consequently, it is not expected that the issuance of the Reimbursement Obligations will result in the creation of any replacement proceeds.

(d) The District's Director of Business Services shall be responsible for making the "reimbursement allocations" described in the Regulations, being generally the transfer of the appropriate amount of proceeds of the Reimbursement Obligations to reimburse the source of temporary financing used by the District to make payment of the original expenditures relating to the Project. Each reimbursement allocation shall be made not later than (i) eighteen (18) months after the date of the original expenditure or (ii) eighteen (18) months after the date the Project is placed in service or abandoned (but in no event later than three (3) years after the original expenditure is paid) and shall be evidenced by an entry on the official books and records of the District maintained for the Reimbursement Obligations and shall specifically identify the original expenditures being reimbursed.

SECTION 9. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY. If the Superintendent or Director of Business Services and any Board officer have not approved the sale of the Bonds and executed the related bond purchase agreement by September 30, 2022, the authorization provided in Sections 4 and 5 of this resolution shall expire.

SECTION 10. REVISION OF STATE APPROVED LONG TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PLAN. Approval of revised Long Term Facilities Maintenance plan to reflect changes due to the issuance of general obligation facilities maintenance bonds.

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

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

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Approval of Bemidji Area Schools Communications Plan

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Gabriel Warren, and carried by all in attendance to approve the Bemidji Area Schools Communications Plan.

Tentative Agreement with the Secretarial-Clerical & Paraprofessional Bargaining Unit for 2021-2023

The motion was offered by Sarah Young, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of SBR 200-20-1, the employment agreement between Independent School District No. 31 and the MSEA for Secretarial-Clerical & Paraprofessional Employees for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023 and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to sign the Memorandums of Understanding as indicated therein.

Tentative Agreement with the Bus Drivers' Bargaining Unit for 2021-2023

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jeff Lind, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of SBR 200-50-1, the employment agreement between Independent School District No. 31 and the MSEA for Bus Drivers for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023 and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to sign the Memorandums of Understanding as indicated therein.

District Office Administration - Terms & Conditions of Employment for 2021-2023

The motion was offered by Gabriel Warren, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the provisions of the terms and conditions of employment for District Administrators for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023; and payment of the COVID retention and vaccination stipends.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special School Board Meeting, March 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Special School Board Meeting, April 4, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Special School Board Meetings Superintendent Interviews, April 11 & 12, 2022, 4:00 p.m.
April Board Meeting – Monday, April 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

OTHER

School Board Member Nominations Process

Todd Haugen was nominated by Ann Long Voelkner, and upon vote being taken, Ann Long Voelkner, Sarah Young, Gabriel Warren, and Carol L. Johnson voting in favor and Jeff Lind voting against Todd Haugen's nomination.

Kent Porter was nominated by Jeff Lind, and upon vote being taken, with Jeff Lind voting in favor and Sarah Young, Gabriel Warren, Ann Long Voelkner, and Carol L. Johnson voting against Ken Porter's nomination.

Resolution Filling School Board Vacancy by Appointment

Member Sarah Young introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION FILLING SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of school board member with a term expiring the first Monday in January, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the vacancy occurred more than ninety (90) days prior to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the year the vacancy occurred and prior to the fourth year of the vacant term;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, State of Minnesota, as follows:

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, Subd. 5b, Todd Haugen is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy and to serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The appointment shall be effective thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution unless a valid petition to reject the appointee is filed with the school district clerk pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, Subd. 5b(b) within that thirty (30) day time period.

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

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

WHEREUPON, said Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Once Around the Table

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

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Sarah Young, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 7:54 p.m.

Jeff Lind, Clerk

Date Approved

Carol L. Johnson, Chair

Date Approved