

## **Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting Pipestone Area Schools**

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pipestone Area Schools was held Monday, September 23, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM in Conference Room 1148, MS/HS.

**Members Present:** Chairman Bard Carson; Directors Katie Wiese, Mark Hiniker, Tyler Fruechte, and Chrissy DeBates. Absent: Lance Oye and Daphne Likness. Also present: Jacque Kennedy, Klint Willert, Sonja Ortman, Lisa Pease, and Deb Peschon.

**Visitors Present:** Natalie Resch, Kyle Kuphal, Nancy Stiles, and Tami Taubert.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Carson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Deletions:**

**MOU with PAEA for Emergency Situations**

Motion by DeBates, second by Wiese, approved the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Forum:** None.

**Presentation:** None.

**Consent Agenda**

**Approve Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 26, 2024:**

**Personnel Report: Action Required (new subs, contracts, resignations, volunteers):** Scott Sterud and Scott Boomgaarden, elementary and MS/HS Dean of Students; LeeAnn Trujillo, paraprofessional and translator; Vicki VanEssen, piano accompanist; Pam Kruse, band lessons; Dave and Ellen Dulas, peer helper; Jamie Fenicle and Nancy Stiles; NHS, Erika Pelach, music, vocal groups; Zach Ploeger, music, instrumental groups; Tanya Schroyer, STARS; Michael and Kaysee Slaba, high school student council; Ingrid Wielenberg, middle school student council, Andy Yost, annual and newspaper; Jodelle Minet, math coach; Samantha Terry and Kristen Brockberg, ECFE parent educator; and Heather DeWilde, tech assistant. Lane changes: Tamara Kremin, BS+20; Sean Kallevig, MA+20; Jaime Danks, MA+20; Kaysee Slaba, BS+20. Ashley Maly and Danielle Bauman, BA+20. Resignation from Heather DeWilde, paraprofessional. New subs: Rebeka DeWeerd, teacher sub and Irina Ness, para sub. Volunteers: Brian Boomgaarden, Phil Berg, and Brandi Schaap, FFA coach; and Brian Boomgaarden, welding.

**Financials**

**Review of Budget Year-to-Date:** The budget year-to-date shows expenditures as of September 20, 2024 at \$2,518,417.35 or 15%. This was non-action.

**Approve Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2024:** The treasurer's report for month ended August 31, 2024 shows a cash balance of \$9,616,861.05. Motion by DeBates, second by Wiese, approved the treasurer's report for August. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve 2023A Bonds Treasurer's Report for August 31, 2024:** The MN Trust 2023A Bonds treasurer's report for month ended August 31, 2024 has a cash balance of \$2,819,024.12. Motion by Fruechte, second by Hiniker, approved the 2023A bonds treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve Regular Bills for September:** Regular bills paid through September 17, 2024 totaled \$415,151.16. Motion by Wiese, second by Hiniker, approved payment of the regular bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve High School Activity Bills for September:** High school activity bills paid through September 17, 2024 totaled \$12,451.38. Motion by DeBates, second by Wiese, approved payment of the high school activity bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve 2023A Bond Bills:** 2023A Bond bills paid through September 12, 2024 totaled \$3,500.00. Motion by DeBates, second by Hiniker, approved payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Board Forum/Information**

**Board Reports and Updates:** Negotiations meets on the 25<sup>th</sup> with the ESP group. Reported the community likes the cell phone policy, and the finance committee will need to meet with Steve Pumper from PMA to review options to pay for the remainder of the roof project.

**Administrator's Report**

**Superintendent's Board Report (Enrollment):** September enrollment is 1102.

1. **Roofing project** - We hosted a pre-bid meeting on Wednesday, September 18. We had several companies participate in the meeting and tour the facility roof. Tremco representatives were present and provided an overview of the plan to replace the 2002 original roof on the high school. At the meeting, the potential bidders were presented the following timeline:
  - September 27 - Pre-bid questions and clarification due
  - October 4 - Bids due and will be opened on the afternoon of October 4

- October 28 - Bid awarded at the school board meeting
  - June 1, 2025 - Phase 1 of project begins
  - June 1, 2026 - Phase 2 of project begins
  - September 1, 2026 - Project substantial completion date
2. **Roofing Project Financing** - At this time, our estimated cost to complete the entire roof project, without any change orders or bid alternatives, will be in excess of \$3.9 Million. This project, along with the maintenance surface coat on the track, is currently being funded by our 2023A Bonds, which provided us with approximately \$2.9 Million of construction funding. Our estimate is that we will need another \$1.3 - \$1.5 million of funding in order to complete the entire roof project.

Jacque and I met with our representatives from PMA to discuss options to come up with this funding. The options we discussed were:

- Using existing unreserved Fund Balance
  - No interest or financing costs
- Entering into a Lease Financing
  - Dollars come out of Fund Balance, but over several years
  - This option does NOT qualify for Ag to School Credit
- Issuing a Facilities Maintenance Bond
  - Pay back debt over 10-15 years using future Facility Maintenance Dollars
  - This option DOES qualify for Ag to School Credit

A reminder that the Ag to School Credit for our District means the State is paying approximately 50% of the debt each year.

We should be able to complete Phase 1 of the project with current funds on hand, but we will need to make a decision regarding Phase 2, which will take place in 2025 or 2026, so we have some time to make a decision and to evaluate just how many additional dollars we need.

In the meantime, there has been some push at the State Level to allow school districts to levy for Roof replacements. If this legislation goes through in 2025, we will have another option for us to consider.

3. **Office of Higher Education partnership** - The Pipestone Area Schools is partnering with the Office of Higher Education on streamlined admissions procedures for students. In terms of a brief program overview, the Direct Admissions Minnesota ([Direct Admissions Minnesota \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)) is Minnesota's proactive admissions program for high school seniors. The process uses existing K-12 data to review each student's academic performance and aligns it to pre-established admissions criteria. Students receive a letter/email communication and survey in early fall indicating which colleges will admit them so they can reserve their spot. Direct Admissions seeks to increase college-going promotion and behavior by jump-starting the process and removing self-selection bias and barriers. The program starts with the belief that *all students* are "college material." One primary goal is to reduce the anxiety around the "will I get in?" question by leading with the validation of "YES!" This fall, Direct Admissions will be in 185 participating high schools (including Pipestone) from 56 counties across the state. This is approximately 32,224+ seniors across the state. The Office of Higher Education has seen immense success for students participating in the program. I am excited about this opportunity and partnership for the PAS students.
4. **Homecoming Week** - I want to give a big thank you to all the staff at PAS who go above and beyond over Homecoming Week. It can be a week of distractions and disruption. However, I was impressed with the way staff members managed it all in support of the kids and the community.
5. **Minnesota Student Survey** - I would encourage you to review the attached documentation the district received regarding the Minnesota Student Survey which was last administered in 2022. The survey will be administered again in January 2025. The information included with this board report highlights some of the significant adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) experienced by children in the Pipestone Area School District. These challenges are significant and have a profound impact on our youth. As a district and community, we need to continue to build awareness and find ways to support our at-risk children. You can see the most prevalent ACEs in PAS include incarcerated parents, mental health issues at home, emotional abuse, and alcohol abuse in the home. Research has demonstrated the more ACEs a person experiences, the more likely they will experience challenges in life with relationships, mental health, and

overall wellbeing. Please review this information. The district has taken steps regarding ACEs by training teachers this fall about Adverse Childhood Experiences and the residual impact of these experiences on the academic achievement and personal wellbeing of the children in our care.

6. **Rural Child Care Innovation Program** - The district has worked with other community partners on the challenges and opportunities regarding daycare needs in the community. On October 29, there will be a dinner and community town hall presentation at the Pipestone Country Club regarding this work. The registration deadline is October 14. The Pipestone Economic Development Authority has more information.
7. **Buildings and Grounds Info** - We have experienced some issues this fall with our facility air temperature and humidity levels. Len has been working to resolve the situation. Some things he has discovered in the process includes issues with airflow, some motors are no longer functional on the system (need to be replaced), also some former employees installed valve systems backwards, thus restricting the system. Len is working to resolve these items as soon as possible.
8. **American Indian Parent Advisory Committee** - According to Minnesota statute and the Minnesota Department of Education, school districts that have 10 or more American Indian students enrolled must establish an American Indian education parent advisory committee. At this time, I believe PAS has 45 identified American Indian students. The committee would serve in an advisory role to help ensure that "American Indian students receive culturally relevant and equitable educational opportunities" (from MDE website). We will be working to establish this committee and fulfill the statutory requirements of this advisory committee. If you are aware of individuals who may be interested or willing to serve on this committee, please feel free to let me know. Here is a link to the MDE website for more information: [American Indian Parent Advisory Committees \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mde.state.mn.us/education/american-indian-parent-advisory-committees).
9. **State School Board Conference** - The 2025 MSBA Leadership Conference is scheduled for January 16 and 17 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. While that may feel like a bit into the future, it is time to start making attendance plans. Please take a look at your calendars and let Deb or I know if you plan to attend.
10. **Solar Project Update** - I have been in communication with representatives from Sioux Valley Energy regarding the solar project. We were informed there is a public meeting scheduled for October 2, regarding solar in Pipestone. That public meeting is now planned for October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sioux Valley Energy may have an SVE representative attend. Then, once the public meeting has been completed, the city will conduct a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readings of an ordinance. These readings are currently planned to occur on October 7 and 21. At this time, Sioux Valley anticipates that the current permit application will most likely remain the same and will need to include our project's plans and specification for approval. Following the final approval of the solar ordinance, it appears that the city will then need to take action to formally repeal the existing solar moratorium. Potentially, this action could occur on the same date as the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading/approval. Once that is all done, I believe we will see action by Sioux Valley Energy as they are still planning to get the project complete this fall and energized before the end of 2024.

### **Principal's Board Report: Sonja Ortman:**

We are off to a great start at PAS! I am really proud of my staff and all of the students who are abiding by the cell-phone policy. We have had two infractions in three weeks which is awesome! We have incredible students and our teachers are holding everyone accountable.

Our administration was under a metaphorical attack last week as we announced expectations for Homecoming. Our students ARE amazing and some of the traditional practices were not things that the administration could get behind. Vandalism and toilet-papering were at an all-time low; I am proud of our students. We had an incredible week of dress-up days, activities, and school pride.

Math and ELA teachers were trained in administering NWEA/Map tests. We will be administering these in the next two weeks. While we do not want to over-test students, this particular test is going to give us valuable data that we can use to inform our instruction and even our continuous improvement model.

Our new teachers are excited to be Pipestone Arrows and are a great asset to our team.

Overall, we have had an incredible start to our school year and I am proud to be a part of this team.

### **Jennifer Moravetz:**

As we embark on another exciting school year, I am excited to share the positive momentum and enthusiasm the start of this school year has been. The energy in our halls is awesome to see and feel. Our students are eager to learn, and it has been fun to see them reconnect with friends and teachers. Staff members have gone above and

beyond to create welcoming classrooms and engaging learning environments. We have so many great things happening at the elementary school. We have the best elementary team serving the most incredible students.

- We had 16 staff members be trained in CPR through the American Heart Association.
- All staff at the elementary received ALICE Training on Wednesday, September 18th .
- Ludolph Bussing came and provided bus safety training for all students in grades PreK - 5th.
- Staff have received training on our new district assessment, NWEA MAP and DIBELS. The Elementary will have completed MAP testing by the end of the day Monday and DIBELS should be completed by the end of the week.
- We have our first data dig with NWEA MAP results on Wednesday, September 25th.
- The outside custodial staff have done a superb job keeping the playground clean of the little rock pebbles.
- We had fun dress up days during homecoming week and ended it with the parade and pep fest.
- The Elementary Booster Club will be having a Back to School Bash on Wednesday, September 25th at Vest View park from 4:00 - 7:00pm. All are welcome to attend.
- I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each board member for your support in approving the new Dean of Students position this school year. Mr. Scott Sterud has done an incredible job strengthening student support, creating a positive school culture, enhancing communication, addressing behavioral challenges, supporting our staff, and supporting my vision for the elementary school. Thank you for supporting a shared commitment to fostering a positive and nurturing educational environment for all students.
- As I work with my team to strive to provide a holistic educational experience for our students, it is essential to recognize the significant role that social-emotional learning and mental health support play in student success. With our ever-growing needs at the elementary level, I continue to see a great need to have a school counselor. The implementation of a school counselor is not just an addition to our staff; it is an investment in the future of our students. By addressing their social, emotional, and academic needs, we can create a more nurturing and effective learning environment. I want the school board to be aware of the substantial social-emotional and mental health needs at the elementary and ask the school board to seriously consider an additional position at elementary for a counselor. The benefits of having a dedicated school counselor will positively impact our students, staff, and community as a whole.

### **Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Board Report:**

- 1) Assessment Calendar
  - a. Has been updated to reflect the assessments the students in our district will be taking.
  - b. Posted to the district website
- 2) District assessments
  - a. New testing platforms: NWEA (K-11) & DIBELS (K-5)
    - i. Elementary students will be finishing up NWEA testing by the end of the week.
    - ii. DIBELS testing takes longer because it is 1:1
    - iii. MS/HS staff were trained last Wednesday during the early dismissal and will be testing math this week and ELA next week
- 3) Wednesday Early Dismissal Professional Development
  - a. Completed required Bloodborne Pathogens and Seizure Training
    - i. Elementary staff had ALICE training and MS/HS staff will have their ALICE training on October 2.
    - ii. New PD platform: The Master Teacher
      1. Paraprofessionals: Para Educator
        - a. 150 online courses that give them some training and strategies that will benefit them when working with students
      2. Teachers: Teacher eLearning Bundle
        - a. 215 online courses
- 4) MCA Student Assessment Reports
  - a. Elementary has been sent out
  - b. MS/HS should be sent out by the end of the week

### **Discussion Items**

**First Reading of 2024-2025 Teacher Seniority List:** Non-action.

**First Reading of 2024-2025 Para Seniority List:** Non-action

**First Reading of 2024-2025 Secretary, Custodian, AP and Tech Seniority List:** Non-action.

**First Reading of Policy 620 - Credit for Learning:** Non-action.

**Board Action**

**FFA National Convention Request:** Resch requested permission to go on the overnight trip to the FFA National Convention. She also requested the school district to assist in payment for the substitute teacher cost, and transportation cost of the competing team in the school suburban in the amount of \$1,800.00. Motion by DeBates, second by Fruechte approved the overnight trip, substitute cost, and use of school suburban for \$1,800.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution Accepting Donations:**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education.", and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full." and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Pipestone Area Schools, ISD 2689, gratefully accepts the following donations to the school as identified below:

Pipestone Publishing Company	\$1,425.00	Donation to Athletic Help Fund from fall poster
Arrow Booster Club	\$9,196.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fisher Hedgehog tackling dummy (\$1,295)</li><li>• Hadar 36" tackling ring (\$650)</li><li>• Hadar 48" tackling ring (\$900)</li><li>• Summer Acceleration Camp (\$2,000)</li><li>• 2 tennis court ball mowers (\$1,567.19)</li><li>• Garmin portable golf launcher(2) (\$1,100)</li><li>• Individual spike trainer volleyball (\$949)</li><li>• Volleyball catch-it (\$734.99)</li></ul>
PIPESTONE	\$4,000	Donation for overdue lunch balances

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution made by Member Hiniker and duly seconded by Member Wiese, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same: Wiese, DeBates, Fruechte, Carson, and Hiniker.

The foregoing resolution was approved 5-0 this 23rd day of September, 2024.

**Approve Policy 613 - Graduation Requirements:** Motion by Wiese, second by Fruechte, approved policy 613, Graduation Requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

**Second Reading of Policies 403 - Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of a School District Employee; 504 - Student Dress and Appearance; 522 - Title IX Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure, and Process; 606.5 - Library Materials; 606.5 - Form; 616 - School District System Accountability:** Motion by Wiese, second by Fruechte, approved the second reading of policies 403, 504, 522, 606.5, 606.5 form, and 610. Motion carried unanimously.

**Declare Desks/Chairs Obsolete:** Motion by DeBates, second by Fruechte, to declare thirty-five (35) desks with chairs obsolete due to cost of repairs vs new desks. Motion carried unanimously.

**Certify Proposed Levy Limitation and Certification Report for 2024 Payable 2025 (Set Truth in Taxation Meeting, December 16, 2024, 7:00PM):** Motion by Wiese, second by Fruechte, to certify the levy 2024 payable

2025 for the maximum and set the truth-in-taxation date for December 16, 2024, 7:00PM. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Wiese, second by Fruechte, to adjourn the meeting (7:55PM). Motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Brad Carson

Brad Carson, Chairman

/s/ Katie Wiese

Katie Wiese, Clerk

Approved and dated by the board October 28, 2024

Submitted, Deb Peschon