

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Long Voelkner, Sarah Young, Gabriel Warren,
Carol L. Johnson, Jeff Lind, 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 Sarah Young, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes from School Board Meetings Held on January 24, 2022, February 3, 2022, and February 17, 2022
- B. Current Bills & Special Checks Totaling: \$3,212,479.24
- C. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised SBR 400-30-8: Instruction – School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals
- D. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised SBR 700-60-4: Medication Policy
- E. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised SBR 700-90-6: Unpaid Meal Charges
- F. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised SBR 800-10-1: Food Service Responsibility
- G. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised SBR 900-10-5: Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction Policy
- H. Certified Confirmation of Resignation
- I. Noncertified Staff Resignations
- J. Release from Contract Requests
- K. Lane Advancements
- L. Field Trip Request – Bemidji Middle School Minnesota State VEX VRC State Championship
- M. Field Trip Request – Bemidji Middle School Mathcounts State Competition
- N. Request to Submit Grant – YST
- O. Request to Submit Grant – Beltrami Electric

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Maya Lindquist & Savannah Haugen reported on Bemidji High School activities including:

The mask mandate being dropped and a handful of students still wearing a mask, BHS hosted the Speech Invitational, and BHS music program contests.

Maya Lindquist and Savannah Haugen excused themselves at 6:37 p.m.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching – Abe Schwartz

Abe Schwartz, Bemidji Middle School teacher, was the most recent recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Abe was named the Minnesota awardee.

Community Center Proposal – Jerry Loud

Jerry Loud shared the Oshkiimaajitahdah – OODENA Central School Project vision which is to duplicate best practices from the Redby location to a Human Services Community Center that demonstrates a new standard for providing services. They want to create partnerships with local providers in all areas of need: culture, health care, dental, SNAP, mental health, chemical health, housing, education, career development, youth advocacy, emergency services, energy assistance, training and childcare center. This will strengthen their ongoing collaboration with Beltrami County with the addition of including other partners in the Bemidji area.

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 Updates

Superintendent Tim Lutz reported effective February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is no longer enforcing the requirement that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs.

The CDC is making this change to align with updated guidance that no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 and early education settings in areas with a low or medium COVID-19 Community Level.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Carol L. Johnson and Sarah Young reported on the following Listening Session topics: Lisa Vind – Class Size at elementary level, ESSER money and teacher input, retention/support for teachers, and Ruby Payne training.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Gabriel Warren, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations: \$1,000 from Fidelity Charitable to the Bemidji Area Schools Angel Fund; \$500 from the Bemidji Lions Club to the Bemidji High School Choir; and \$500 from the Rotary Club of Bemidji to the Bemidji High School Choir.

EQUITABLE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Curriculum Mapping Update

Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, indicated Bemidji High School staff are starting curriculum mapping as part of the transitional piece of moving from a four to five period day. Staff will be meeting several times throughout the year and will be provided curriculum writing time. No action was taken.

Learning Recovery Programs (ESSER III Funds)

Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, provided an update on the learning recovery dollars ESSER III FIN 161. Twenty percent of the ESSER III award must be used to address learning loss activities as identified by the State. She met with school site teams and identified priorities: before/after school tutorials, field trips, and learning recovery clubs. Final approval was given by the State, after site team meetings and our local ARP committee approval. The next step is to hire a coordinator to oversee activities. No action was taken.

Class Size Report

Tim Lutz, Superintendent of Schools, reported In accordance with SBR 400-30-1R: Class Size, the School Board must be informed of any class sizes that exceed the recommended guidelines. There are no elementary or Bemidji Middle School classrooms that exceed the guidelines provided in SBR 400-30-1R. There are six classes at Bemidji High School that exceed the guidelines in SBR 400-30-1R at this time. Every effort has been made to balance class sizes.

American Indian Parent Advisory Committee Resolution

Jeff Lind introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

AMERICAN INDIAN PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the school board or district has an AIPAC composed of parents/guardians of American Indian children who are eligible for Indian education programs, American Indian language and culture teachers and paraprofessionals, American Indian teachers, American Indian counselors, American Indian adults enrolled in educational programming, and American Indian representatives from community;

WHEREAS, the School Board or district affords the AIPAC the necessary information and the opportunity to effectively express their views concerning all aspects of American Indian education and the educational needs of the American Indian children enrolled in the school(s) and program(s); and

WHEREAS, the AIPAC is directly involved with and advises the School Board and district staff on Indian Education program planning; and

WHEREAS, the AIPAC develops and submits recommendations to the School Board and district staff pertaining to the needs of American Indian students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the AIPAC concurs that the School Board and district are compliant with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.78, and that the School Board and district are meeting the needs of American Indian students.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

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

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Resolution Approving Continued Inclusion of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* in the Ninth Grade Curriculum

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTINUED USE OF THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY
OF A PART-TIME INDIAN IN THE NINTH GRADE CURRICULUM

WHEREAS, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* has been approved as part of the ninth grade curriculum through the regular procedures required for approval of books to be used in an English classroom;

WHEREAS, the District has received one request for review of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* in accordance with the District's policy entitled "Information – Content Review of Instructional Material and Alternative Instruction";

WHEREAS, the School Board has the authority and discretion to select curriculum and books for use in Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District's Policy entitled "Instruction – Content Review of Instructional Material and Alternative Instruction" the Challenged Resource Committee has reviewed the book and has recommended that it be retained in the ninth grade curriculum with teacher guidance; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has reviewed the Recommendation of the Challenged Resource Committee, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* book, and the teacher's rationale for the use of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* as part of the ninth grade curriculum.

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

1. The Board adopts the findings of the Challenged Resource Committee and its recommendation.
2. The Board finds the book *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, when read as a whole, has educational value and is educationally suitable for ninth grade students, who are generally fourteen and fifteen years old.
3. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* will be retained in the ninth grade curriculum. Any ninth grade teacher who assigns *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* will ensure that guidance is provided to help students to understand the depths of the themes addressed in the book and to explore the literary aspects of the book.
4. Prior to the use of the book in the ninth grade curriculum, the teacher will inform the parents of the students of the mature content of the book, and parents will be given an opportunity to have their child read an alternative novel. The alternative novel will be selected in accordance with the "Instruction – Content Review of Instructional Material and Alternative Instruction" Policy.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Gabriel Warren, and upon being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof: Ann Long Voelkner, Jeff Lind, Sarah Young, Gabriel Warren, and Carol L. Johnson, and the following voted again the same: None.

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

RELATIONSHIPS/COLLABORATION

HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

Approval of Revised SBR 400-90-3: 2021-2022 School Calendar

The motion was offered by Gabriel Warren, seconded by Jeff Lind, and carried by all in attendance to approve the revisions to SBR 400-90-3: 2021-2022 School Calendar.

First Reading of SBR 400-90-3: 2022-2023 School Calendar

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of SBR 400-90-3: 2022-2023 School Calendar.

Capital Projects Schedule for FY 2022-2023

The motion was offered by Sarah Young, seconded by Jeff Lind, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2022 Capital Projects Schedule as presented.

Request for Licensed Staff

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Gabriel Warren, and carried by all in attendance to add a full time Title I teacher at JW Smith for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Resolution for Health and Safety Measures – Revised

Gabriel Warren introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES – REVISED

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji Area Schools, [hereinafter the “Superintendent”] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School Board Policy 100-20-1; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently ongoing and may remain ongoing for an unknown time; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the MDH has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures, the current CDC, MDE, and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that the following be implemented effective February 22, 2022.

Prevention Strategies: All staff, students, and visitors within Independent School District No. 31 buildings, regardless of vaccination status, are recommended to follow the strategies of physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection, screening testing, and staying home when sick as defined in the “CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools”

Masking: All staff, students, and visitors within Independent School District No. 31 buildings are recommended to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

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

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following health and safety measures effective February 22, 2022.

Prevention Strategies: All staff, students, and visitors within Independent School District No. 31 buildings, regardless of vaccination status, are recommended to follow the strategies of physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection, screening testing, and staying home when sick as defined in the “CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools” and implementing the shortened quarantine period as outlined by MDE Quarantine Guidance.

Masking: All staff, students, and visitors within Independent School District No. 31 buildings are recommended to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement different health and safety measures for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of different health and safety measures is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The health and safety measures selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement different health and safety measures.

Section 3: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District’s efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

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

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

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff Development Day Summary

Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, provided an update on the February 18, 2022 Staff Development Day activities:
Bemidji High School – Catalyst training
Bemidji Middle School – Peacemakers training, Writing Behind Every Door training & Amplify (science presentation) & Review of MAP data
Elementary & District-Wide – MAP data review, MTSS, specialists meeting, grade level meeting, Responsive classroom, first aid, Centers of Excellence meetings, and CPI training.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March Meeting – Monday, March 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Special School Board Meeting – Thursday, March 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

OTHER

Minnesota School Boards Recognition Week – February 21-25

Board Member Vacancy

Board Member Sarah Young outlined the process for filling the vacant Board Member position. Board Members are reviewing the applications. A discussion will be held at the March meeting.

Once Around the Table

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

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Gabriel Warren, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 7:47 p.m.

Jeff Lind, Clerk

Date Approved

Carol L. Johnson, Chair

Date Approved