

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, November 16, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

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

Joel Roberts, Student Representative
Abigail Enquist, 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 Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Meeting Minutes from the October 19, 2020 School Board Meeting
- B. Current Bills & Special Checks Totaling: \$4,764,362.31
- C. Noncertified Staff Resignations

SPECIAL TOPICS

Spotlight Presentation: Gene Dillon Elementary Social Emotional Learning (SEL) – Ami Aalgaard, Principal & Amy Riley, School Counselor

COVID UPDATES

Superintendent Lutz provided an update on COVID and the present learning models. We are in the same learning model since we started school. What we are doing in school is working. To date there are no cases of community spread in our schools.

COVID numbers in our county are rising. Superintendent Lutz provided an update on the number of district staff and students who are in quarantine. Our COVID support team says we can continue to stay in our current model.

District leadership will meet on November 17th with health professionals regarding the current situation. With cold weather, hunting, and holidays coming up we want to be prepared for an outbreak. We have contingency plans in place.

Superintendent Lutz indicated if we go to a more restrictive learning model it is harder to come back to a less restrictive model because we lose an important data point – how we are doing in our district.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Joel Roberts and Abigail Enquist reported on Bemidji High School activities including: the current learning model, homecoming, and the cancellation of winter formal.

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

Carol L. Johnson and Ann Long Voelkner reported on the following Listening Session topic: BHS music parent concern regarding the choir recording session in the auditorium.

2020 OPERATING REFERENDUM

Referendum Summary – Next Steps

Superintendent Lutz thanked everyone who voted in the referendum. It was rejected and our budget issues remain unresolved. The district leadership and school board will need to look for ways to stabilize the budget with cuts. We are looking at \$4 million - \$6 million in cuts next year and the following year. No action was taken.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to accept the donation of \$2,500 from Affinity Plus to the Business Management Career Academy.

HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

2019-2020 World's Best Workforce Summary

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2019-2020 World's Best Workforce Summary.

Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places for Multiple Precincts and Designating Hours During Which the Polling Places Will Remain Open for Voting for School District Elections Not held on the Day of a Statewide Election

Jeff Haack introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

Attached is the resolution establishing combined polling places for any school district election which is not held on the day of a statewide election. This is in response to the new legislation adopted in 2017 which requires school districts to establish combined polling places each year by December 31. The combined polling places designated in the resolution are the polling places for the following calendar year unless a change is made in the case of an emergency or because the polling place has become unavailable.

The above resolution was seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

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

WHEREUPON said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 21, 2020, 6:00 p.m., Truth in Taxation Hearing
December 21, 2020, 6:30 p.m., December Monthly Meeting

OTHER

PSA – Mask Up Bemidji Strong

The video produced by the Bemidji High School Advanced Video Class was shown. No action was taken.

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 Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 8:04 p.m.

Carol L. Johnson, Clerk

Date Approved

John Gonzalez, Chair

Date Approved