

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

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

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 Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes from the August 16, 2021 and August 25, 2021 School Board Meetings
- B. Current Bills & Special Checks Totaling: \$2,569,318.14
- C. Certified Staff Appointments
- D. Noncertified Staff Resignations
- E. Request for Extended Leave
- F. Request to Submit Grant
- G. Resolution of Agreement

REFERENDUM UPDATE

Referendum Update

Superintendent Tim Lutz provided an update on the Referendum on November 2. He indicated early voting began on September 17. Committees are forming to make presentations to the community regarding the need for a referendum.

DONATIONS

Donation

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by Jeff Lind, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donation: \$1,000 per year for three years from Grizzly Truss Fabricators, Inc., to the Construction Trades and Mechatronics Academies.

SPECIAL TOPICS

K-7 Summer Learning Program

Barry Olson and Trisha Richardson, Co-Coordinator for the Bemidji Summer Learning Community Program, provided an overview of last summer's program including: funding,

student qualifications, referral process and enrollment numbers. Last summer 252 students were enrolled in the program.

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 Updates

Superintendent Tim Lutz provided a COVID-19 status update including current county case rates. He explained the District's COVID-19 Mitigation Matrix which is an on/off ramp based on COVID numbers in our area, reviewed the current case numbers for staff and students in the district, and indicated several area school districts are now mandating masks as COVID cases have increased in their districts.

Jeff Haack indicated a desire to investigate a less conservative quarantine period. The district will look into this and report back at a later date.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Richard Soltau – Daughter Medical Condition/Mask Mandate
Marie Richey – Authority
Sara Spicer – Bemidji School Mission Statement

LISTENING SESSION REVIEW

EQUITABLE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

RELATIONSHIPS/COLLABORATION

Fordham University Student Field Experience/Internship Agreement

Jeff Haack introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A STUDENT FIELD EXPERIENCE/INTERNSHIP AGREEMENT WITH FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bemidji Area Schools enter into an agreement Fordham University for the purpose of providing student field experience/internship for Masters in Social Work students from Fordham University. This agreement shall be for an initial term commencing on September 9, 2021 and terminating on September 9, 2022. Thereafter, this agreement shall be automatically renewed on a year-to-year basis.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the chairperson hereby is authorized to execute such agreement.

The above resolution was seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

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

WHEREUPON, the above resolution was declared passed and adopted.

Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the Minnesota Department of Education External User Access Recertification System

Jeff Lind introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

DESIGNATION OF IDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY FOR THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXTERNAL USER ACCESS
RECERTIFICATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, MDE's External User Access Recertification System is a password protected website for members of educational organizations who have received prior approval to access statewide testing and graduation information. On behalf of Bemidji Area Schools, Tim Lutz is designated by the School Board as the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) for Bemidji Area Schools for the secure site for Minnesota Department of Education Secure Systems information. This School Board action will be forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Education as a matter of record.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji, Minnesota, designates Tim Lutz, Superintendent of Schools, as the Identified Official with Authority with the Minnesota Department of Education for External User Access Recertification System related to the testing and graduation information of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji Area Schools.

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

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

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

Assessment Results

Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, provided the Assessment Results for 2020-2021. She indicated the State did not assess MCA's in 2019-2020. The pandemic and outlying circumstances played a role in Bemidji's results.

Overall Bemidji Schools scored slightly below the state in Mathematics and Reading Proficiency. The subgroups of Special Education scored below the state and Free and Reduced scored better than the state average.

In Science Proficiency Bemidji Schools scored above the state.

The Spring 2021 NWEA Measures of Academic Progress results indicate Bemidji students scored at or above grade level.

Bemidji students taking the 2021 ACT scored at their highest level in five years.

Ms. Cardenuto indicated Bemidji High School graduation rates have been increasing.

She discussed goals and action plans for this school year which include filling the holes and gaps in the core curriculum.

Resolution Relating to Appointing Election Judges

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

RESOLUTION RELATING TO APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES 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 judges of election for the School District's special election on November 2, 2021 to act as such at the polling place listed below:

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 1 – Solway School
159 Lomen Avenue NE
Solway, MN 55678

Head Election Judge Karin Gaasvig
Julie Zeto
Mary Hood
LuAnn Bleiler

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 2 - Eckles Community Center
9735 Cardinal Rd NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Head Election Judge Mary Lou Milender
Margaret Curtis
Debra Larson

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 3 – Roosevelt Community Center
25053 Debs Road NW
Pinewood, MN 56676

Head Election Judge Jerry Winans
Travis Halverson
John Simmons
Rob Pond
Kathy Winger
Leola Helgeson
Kevin Peterson

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 4 – Northern Town Hall
445 Town Hall Road NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Head Election Judge Mary Israelson
Mary Locke
Mary Morton
Ann Newby
Libby Underhill
Pat Neurauter (alternate)
Diane Dockendorf (alternate)

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 5 – Horace May School
4415 Washington Avenue South
Bemidji, MN 56601

Head Election Judge Jake Berg
Donna Zelinsky
Dora Lee Souder
Connie Miller

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 6 – Lincoln School
1617 5th Street NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Head Election Judge Jim Marcotte
Janice Johnson

Nancy Okerlund
Karin Snortland

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 7 – J. W. Smith School
1712 America Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Head Election Judge Bobbi Jo Karpinski
Evie Johnson
Amy Haskell
Kellie Primus

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 8 - Boys & Girls Club
1600 Minnesota Avenue NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Head Election Judge Bob Sandbo
Cheryl Yarnott
Barbara Magnuson
Dawn Jackson

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 9 – Bemidji Town Hall
148 Carr Lake Road SE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Head Election Judge Marlys Eckman
Stacy Ness
Joan Miller
Kandi Paddock

Combined Polling Place Precinct No. 10 – Port Hope Town Hall
9779 Hillcrest Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Head Election Judge Eric Wickstrom
Deborah Best
Karen Spargo
Karen Tank
Suzanne Liapis

Alternate Election Judges

Margaret Batchelder
Danielle L. Johnson
Kailey Rucinski
Danielle M. Johnson
Leala Roth
Tabby Mack
Krisi Fenner
Ashley Eastridge
Ginger Schwartz
JoDee Treat

2. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit the results to the Board for canvass in the manner provided for other school district elections.

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

AYES: Carol L. Johnson, Jeff Haack, Jeff Lind, Gabriel Warren, Sarah Young and Ann Long Voelkner

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Resolution Regarding Allowable Fund Balance Transfer for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Jeff Haack introduced the following resolution and urged its adoption:

RESOLUTION REGARDING ALLOWABLE FUND BALANCE TRANSFERS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

WHEREAS, Minnesota Laws 2020, Chapter 116/House File 4415, Article 3 Section 8, Subdivision 1, which stated in part:

“Section 8. FUND TRANSFERS; FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021 ONLY. Subdivision 1. Fund and account transfers allowed. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.80, subdivision 3, for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 only, a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit may transfer any funds not already assigned to or encumbered by staff salary and benefits, or otherwise encumbered by federal law, from any accounts or operating fund to the undesignated balance in any other operating fund...”

WHEREAS, a fund transfer is allowed if the transfer meets the criteria set forth in Section 8 of Minnesota Laws 2020, Chapter 116/House File 4415, Article 3:

1. The transfer does not increase state aid obligations to the district or result in additional property tax authority for the district or charter school.
2. A transfer is limited to the operating funds of a district or charter school.
3. A school board must approve a fund transfer by the fiscal year reporting deadline.
4. A district or charter school must maintain accounting records for the purpose of this Executive Order that are sufficient to document both the specific funds transferred and use of those funds. Such accounting records are subject to auditor review.
5. Any execution of this flexibility must not interfere with or jeopardize funding per federal requirements.
6. Any transfer must not interfere with the equitable delivery of distance learning or social distancing models

WHEREAS, the School Board of Bemidji Public Schools, Independent School District 31, has determined that that the criteria identified under Section 8 have been satisfied for a fund transfer pursuant to Minnesota Laws 2020, Chapter 116/House File 4415, Article 3;

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District has reviewed and approved the attached *Request for Fund Transfer*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District 31 authorizes the School District administration to submit the attached *Request for Fund Transfer*.

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

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

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Bus Bids From State Contract Pricing

The motion was offered by Carol L; Johnson, seconded by Gabriel Warren, and carried by all in attendance to approve purchasing two buses from North Central Bus for \$184,145.86.

2021 Payable 2022 Levy Limit Certification

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2021 Pay 2022 Levy Limit at the Maximum.

Request for Licensed Staff

The motion was offered by Jeff Lind, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to add 0.20 FTE physical education teacher, 0.20 FTE art teacher, and 0.14 FTE early childhood family education teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

October Meeting – Monday, October 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
October 4, 2021 Staff Development Day

OTHER

Once Around the Table

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

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 8:33 p.m.

Sarah Young, Clerk

Date Approved

Ann Long Voelkner, Chair

Date Approved