

**OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2909
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

**ROCK RIDGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1405 PROGRESS PARKWAY, VIRGINIA, MN 55792
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Members Present:

Bill Addy
Nicole Culbert-Dahl
Tim Riordan

Matt Sjoberg
Pollyann Sorcan
Tom Tammaro
John Uhan

Other Staff Present:

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent
Sheena Stefanich, Parkview Principal
Bob Voss, Transportation Director
Willie Spelts, Director of School to Work
Engagement, Fundraising Coordinator

Members Absent:

Brandi Lautigar
Stacey Scholz

- I. CHAIR RIORDAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken.
- II. **APPROVE AGENDA:**
- A. RIORDAN added an approval for a 0.2 FTE overload for Secondary Science teacher Lisa Rudstrom for the 2022-2023 school year to the Consent Agenda (Item 4.49)
- B. Motion to **approve the agenda as amended** made by ADDY, seconded by TAMMARO.
1. Sorcan asked to combine *6.1 Consider approval of one of the proposed Facilities Use Agreements between the City of Eveleth and ISD 2909 Rock Ridge for the 2022-2023 school year* and *6.2. Consider approval of the Facilities Use Agreement between the City of Virginia and ISD 2909 Rock Ridge* into one agenda item (Item 6.1) to discuss simultaneously. Board agreed.
 2. Sorcan made a motion to delete *6.3 Consider approval of agreement between Rock Ridge Community Education and The Duluth Area Family YMCA regarding afterschool programs effective September 1, 2022 until June 15, 2023* and discuss at a future meeting. Board opted to keep the item on the agenda as a discussion item, but to not take any action.
 3. Sorcan asked to move Item 6.1 to immediately follow the Consent Agenda. Board agreed.
 4. Sorcan asked for future clarification on why some meetings have one set of bills and other meetings have two sets of bill packets, as well as an explanation of the high cost of advertising expenses.
 5. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
- A. Motion to **approve the Consent Agenda** made by SJOBERG, seconded by ADDY. Motion passed unanimously.
1. Approval of August 22, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
 2. Payment of the bills.
 3. Approval of correction of lane change for Lisa Rudstrom from MA to MA+10 effective for the 2022-2023 school year.
 4. Approval of contract for Samantha Papenfuss-Krage for the Substance Abuse Prevention Grant Youth Group Leader position with a stipend of \$4,000 (PCN Grant) for the 2022-2023 school year.
 5. Approval of 0.2 FTE overload for Secondary Teacher David Rengo with a salary of \$16,368.20 effective for the 2022-2023 school year.

6. Approval of hire of Stace Landwer for the Elementary Yearbook Advisor position (stipend \$1,672) and the Elementary Student Council Advisor position (stipend \$1,433) for the 2022-2023 school year.
7. Approval of hire of Debra Meissner-Devries for the 0.7 FTE Interventionist position for the 2022-2023 school year pending Out-of-Field permission.
8. Approval of hire of Skyler Harju for the Junior High Girls' Swimming Coach position with a stipend of \$3,105 effective August 22, 2022.
9. Approval of hire of Amelia Sandnas for the Junior High Volleyball Coach position with a stipend of \$3,105 effective August 30, 2022.
10. Approval of hire of Riley Schinderle for the Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 6, 2022.
11. Approval of hire of Sarah Johnson for the Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 6, 2022.
12. Approval of hire of Adam Nori for the Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 6, 2022.
13. Approval of hire of Taryn Greiner for the Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 6, 2022.
14. Approval of hire of Carrie Elg for the Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 6, 2022.
15. Approval of hire of Cole Jackson for the Special Education Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 6, 2022.
16. Approval of hire of Wendy Larson for the Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 6, 2022.
17. Approval of hire of Cole Jackson for the 0.2 FTE Science Teacher at a salary of \$9,017 (Step A - Lane 1) effective September 6, 2022.
18. Approval of hire of Kendra Mariucci for the Indian Education Academic Advisor position at a rate of \$17.00/hour effective September 7, 2022.
19. Approval of transfer of Emily Jankila to the Indian Education Director position at a rate of \$26.50/hour effective September 8, 2022.
20. Approval of hire of Christina Crosby for the Early Childhood Family Education Teacher position at a rate of \$31.00/hour effective September 12, 2022.
21. Approval of hire of Lissa Kreifels for the Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 21, 2022.
22. Approval of hire of Emily Houghton for the Para Educator position at a rate of \$18.47/hour effective September 21, 2022.
23. Approval of hire of Jeff Ralston for the Junior Varsity Girls' Hockey Coach position with a stipend of \$5,015 effective October 31, 2022.
24. Approval of hire of Jaime Lindseth for the Head Baseball Coach position with a stipend of \$5,732 effective March 1, 2023.
25. Approval of hire of Matt Anderson for the Head Boys' Track and Field Coach position with a stipend of \$5,732 effective March 13, 2023.
26. Approval of additional duty of Lunch Supervisor with an annual stipend of \$2,866 for the 2022-2023 school year for the following current staff members: (VHS) Sheila Takanen, Dawn Savela, Matt Krage (Sr. High), and Samantha Papenfuss-Krage (Jr. High); and (Parkview) Kelly Kennedy.
27. Approval of additional duty of Morning Aide with an annual stipend of \$2,866 for the 2022-2023 school year for the following current staff members: (Parkview) Kate Barnes, Gina Anderson, Crystal Scuffy, and Deron Davidson; (Laurentian) Melissa Lautigar and Dominic Casareto.
28. Approval of volunteer Tennis Coaches for the 2022-2023 school year: Tom Prosen, Kathryn Troutwine.
29. Approval of volunteer Cross Country Coaches for the 2022-2023 school year - Dallas Hammer, Aaron Nelson.

30. Approval of volunteer Junior High Football Coach for the 2022-2023 school year - Nathan Fink.
31. Approval of unpaid leave of absence following exhaustion of accrued sick leave for Debra Aas-Toivola (Para Educator) effective August 31, 2022 until after October 31, 2022.
32. Approval of unpaid leave of absence (approximately 4 weeks) for Meggie Schroeder following her allotted 12-weeks of FMLA time.
33. Acceptance of resignation of Desiree Tomczak from the Para Educator position effective August 19, 2022.
34. Acceptance of resignation of Nancy Rebarich from the Lunch Aide position effective August 22, 2022.
35. Acceptance of resignation of Stacy Buatala from the Elementary Yearbook Advisor position effective August 23, 2022.
36. Acceptance of resignation of Jody Koschak from the Para Educator position effective August 24, 2022.
37. Acceptance of resignation of Betty Suihkonen from the Senior Class Advisor position effective August 30, 2022.
38. Acceptance of resignation of Kaiti Rigstad from the Assistant Speech Coach position effective August 31, 2022.
39. Acceptance of resignation of Tianna Robinson from the Para Educator position effective September 1, 2022.
40. Acceptance of resignation of Sondra Mosher from the Homebound Para Educator position effective September 7, 2022.
41. Acceptance of resignation of Misty Elliott from the LEO Club Advisor position effective September 8, 2022.
42. Acceptance of resignation of Dawn Koski from the Pre-K Teacher position effective September 8, 2022.
43. Acceptance of resignation of Teresa Knife Chief from the Indian Education Director position effective September 9, 2022.
44. Acceptance of resignation of Tara McDowell from the Para Educator position effective September 9, 2022.
45. Approval of termination of Pia Starkovich from the Early Childhood Aide position effective September 7, 2022 due to verbal declination of offered position for the 2022-2023 school year and the lack of response to requests for a written resignation.
46. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation from Ed and Peggy Bonach in the amount of \$5,000 for the #RockRidgeRising campaign to be used for playground equipment.
47. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation from Robert Horvat in the amount of \$1,000 for the #RockRidgeRising campaign.
48. Acceptance and appreciation of a donation from A. Eric Kishel in the amount of \$1,500 for the #RockRidgeRising campaign to be used for the Aquatic Center scoreboard in honor of the VHS Class of 1981 swim team.
49. Approval of Approval of 0.2 FTE overload for Secondary Teacher Lisa Rudstrom effective for the 2022-2023 school year.

IV. **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND VISITOR INPUT:** Ben Johnson, Russ Troutwine, Isaac Flatley, Jeff Torrel, Wade Harsila, and Fritz Kvaternik. Each provided input on the facility use of the Hippodrome and the Iron Trail Motors Event Center for the upcoming hockey season.

V. **ADMINISTRATION ITEM:**

- A. Motion to **approve 150 hours at \$150/hour for facility use of the Hippodrome and 350 hours of facility use of the Iron Trail Motors Event Center for 2022-2023 (pending agreement from the Cities of Eveleth and Virginia)** made by SJOBERG, seconded by ADDY. Motion passed 5-2 with SORCAN and CULBERT-DAHL voting NO.

VI. **REPORTS:**

- A. Sheena Stefanich provided a recap of the first few days of the new school year at Parkview.
- B. Willie Spelts provided a fundraising update as well as highlighted stories about Rock Ridge that have been in the recent news.
- C. Bob Voss informed the board about transportation around the district for the 22-23 school year.
- D. Supt. Schmidt discussed enrollment numbers since the first day of school, the growth and importance of our Rock Ridge social media outlets, the announcement of the North Star Groundbreaking Ceremony (Sept. 22, 4PM in front of the former Roosevelt school), and the quick improvements made to the Laurentian parent pick-up car line since the first day of school.
- E. Christy Dreshar, Operations Director, and Dani Spolarich, Executive Director from Arrowhead Center provided information on the resources available through Arrowhead Center and the potential of partnering with Rock Ridge.

VII. **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to **approve the agreement between Rock Ridge Community Education and The Duluth Area Family YMCA regarding afterschool programs effective September 1, 2022 until June 15, 2023** made by UHAN, seconded by ADDY.
 - 1. **Motion to table** made by SORCAN, seconded by CULBERT-DAHL. Motion failed 2-5 with UHAN, SJOBERG, ADDY, TAMMARO, and RIORDAN voting NO.
 - 2. **Motion to approve** passed 5-2 with SORCAN and CULBERT-DAHL voting NO.
- B. Motion to **approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Southwest Minnesota State University and Rock Ridge Public Schools regarding student teachers effective until July 31, 2027** made by SJOBERG, seconded by TAMMARO. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion to **approve the donation request from the Virginia Area Historical Society for the cornerstone to the Roosevelt Building and the contents of the found time capsule to be put on exhibit** made by ADDY, seconded by TAMMARO. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS** were made.

IX. **CLOSED SESSION:**

- A. Motion to **enter into Closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.05, subdivision 3(d), to engage in discussions with the School Board's legal counsel related to litigation threatened against the School District by Pollyann Sorcan. The Board of Directors seeks legal advice on the status of the matter, alleged claims against the District, the District Attorney's analysis of the same, and the District's options for responding to such claims** made by RIORDAN, seconded by TAMMARO. Motion passed 6-1 with SORCAN voting NO.
 - 1. Regular meeting closed at 8:07 P.M.
 - 2. Board went into Closed session at 8:14 P.M.
 - 3. Regular meeting reopened at 8:49 P.M.

- X. Motion to **direct the district's attorney to take action as discussed in Closed session** made by TAMMARO, seconded by ADDY. Motion passed unanimously 6-0. Note: SORCAN left the meeting during the time of the Closed session and did not return to the Regular meeting.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

CHAIR - TIM RIORDAN

CLERK – BRANDI LAUTIGAR