

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Directors Pipestone Area Schools

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of Pipestone Area Schools was held Monday, February 24, 2025 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 1148, MS/HS.

Members Present: Chairman Brad Carson, Directors Tyler Fruechte, Chrissy DeBates, Tami Taubert, Mark Hiniker, Daphne Likness, and Katie Wiese. Also present: Jacque Kennedy, Klint Willert, Sonja Ortman, Lisa Pease, Jennifer Moravetz, and Deb Peschon.

Visitors Present: Nancy Stiles, Sharon Peterson, Jill Grimmett, Kathy Hachmann, Melissa Hansen, Matt Quaintance, Heidi Williams, Kathryn Baker, Sharon Blom, Melanie Johnson, Jean Steenstra, Stephanie Backer, Jodi Hansen, Zach Brandt, Carrie Backer, Kyle Kuphal, Clarinda Loving, Jim Schmidt, and Josh Stukel.

Call to Order: Chairman Carson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentation

Mike Bloemendaal, Softball Field Street

Public Forum: Sharon Petersen

Consent Agenda

Approve Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 27, 2025:

Personnel Report: Action Required: Erika Pelach, spring musical; Mark Moeller, head track coach; Todd Texley, Todd Tinklenberg, Coly Maly, assistant track; Ashley Maly, Larissa Pemberton, junior high track; Craig Boedekker, head boys golf; Grant Everson, head girls golf; Cristin Winter, junior high golf; James Skyberg, head boys tennis; Skylar Mendro, boys tennis assistant; Robert Petersen, head softball; Shelby Baatz, softball assistant; Shane Reinhard, B softball; Morgyn Carson, 8th softball; Carmen Skyberg, 7th softball; Rick Zollner, head baseball; Cody Heidebrink, baseball assistant; Sean Kallevig; B baseball; Scott Sterud, 8th baseball, and Ryan Wielenberg, 7th baseball. New sub – Tatum Pottratz, para sub. Volunteers: Jennings Wallace, track and field; Kyla Hubbling, softball; and Mitchel Carson, baseball. Motion by Likness, second by Fruechte approved all items in the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Financials

Review of Budget Year-to-Date: The budget year-to-date shows expenditures as of February 20, 2025 at \$9,512,995.46 or 55%. This was non-action.

Approve Treasurer's Report for January: The treasurer's report for month ended January 31, 2025 shows a cash balance of \$8,866,434.78. Motion by Wiese, second by DeBates, approved the treasurer's report for January. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve 2023A Bonds Treasurer's Report for January: The MN Trust 2023A Bonds treasurer's report for month ended January 31, 2025 has a cash balance of \$2,798,749.41. Motion by Likness, second by Wiese, approved the 2023A bonds treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Regular Bills for February: Regular bills paid through February 18, 2025 totaled \$347,623.60. Motion by Taubert, second by Hiniker, approved payment of the regular bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve High School Activity Bills for February: High school activity bills paid through February 13, 2025 totaled \$8,456.15. Motion by Wiese, second by DeBates, approved payment of the high school activity bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve FY2025 Budget Amendments: Motion by DeBates, second by Wiese, approved the FY2025 budget amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Forum/Information

Board Reports and Updates: A calendar and policy meeting were held. Tyler and Dr. Willert attended a negotiations training in Marshall. The drumline performance at the basketball game was really good.

Administrator's Report

Superintendent's Board Report and Enrollment Report: Enrollment 1106.

1. Quiver Quips - I continue to do a monthly internal staff communication titled "Quiver Quips". I have used this as an additional communications tool to provide staff with information updates on a variety of items including our grant, the work of the board, some general reflections, as well as information on educational innovations and change. I have received positive feedback on the tool as we continue to work on improved communications throughout the district.
2. Special Board Workshop - On February 27, 2025 we will hold a workshop meeting on special education information and programming. The special board meeting will include a presentation by representatives from the Service Cooperative and allow time for some questions and answers. I have asked the building principals to be present to help respond to questions. We cannot discuss any specific cases and/or situations to ensure we protect student privacy. However, we can discuss things such as what an individualized education plan is, the process in special education identification, and programming supports for special needs learners. I will also briefly touch on 504 and 504 programming.
3. Budget Preparation - The district continues to hear rather dismal news regarding the state of the budget at the state level. The district administrative team is starting some work to consider certain positions in the district and determine the possibility of budget reduction recommendations at a future board meeting.
4. Educational Support Professionals (ESP) Negotiations - We are still in the process of negotiating with the Educational Support Professionals in the district. The board received a request for a meeting with the group. Unfortunately, the ESP group was unable to meet in February, thus extending the process even further. The next negotiations meeting is set for Monday, March 17, 2025. The last best offer provided by the board includes the following:
 - o Request by Association to update language on membership and Dues Deduction
 - o Changes to distribution of longevity pay for district commitment
 - o Additional compensation for custodians who obtain boilers license
 - o Additional compensation for custodians checking the boiler - \$25 per day, \$50 over weekend and \$75 per holiday weekend
 - o Increase 403B retirement account match by \$100 per year for each earning level
 - o Acknowledgement employees may take a few unpaid days of leave
 - o Add Juneteenth as a paid holiday (from 12 paid holidays to 13 paid holidays)
 - o Free activity tickets for ESP employees
 - o Earned Safe and Sick Time implemented in excess of state requirements by transferring previous sick leave to ESST time.
 - o Bonus compensation for custodial staff who may obtain boiler license.

Current compensation offer:

\$1.00 per hour increase year 1 compared to ESP wanting \$0.75 per hour

\$0.75 per hour increase in year 2 compared to ESP wanting \$0.75 per hour

Maintain longevity compensation as determined from previous contractual negotiations.

Additional final offer includes the new language as outlined (however, the ESP negotiators would accept a lower hourly rate increase of \$0.75 per hour rather than \$1.00 per hour increase to remove the proposed language):

NEW LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE BOARD ~ This language is similar to language in the teacher master agreement and would allow the district to hire and compensate new employees for previous experience in a similar roles and duties.

Initial Placement on Schedule: ESP staff with previous experience in the Pipestone Area School District shall, upon returning to the District within twenty-four months, receive full credit their rate of compensation for their previous experience. Accumulated sick leave will not be granted to the staff member. ESP staff who retire but are subsequently rehired shall have their rate of compensation determined by the District and no accumulated sick leave shall be given. The Exclusive Representative recognizes that credit may be given for new hires for work experience relevant to the assignment, as negotiated between the School District and the applicant (not to exceed an amount 10% less the rate of compensation of existing employees with similar years of experience).

5. Calendar - The calendar committee has met one time and will meet again to finalize the calendars. We are reviewing and revising the previously presented 2025-26 calendar and creating the 2026-27 calendar. I am hoping to present these for board action at the March board meeting.
6. Training - Tyler and I attended the MSBA negotiations workshop in Marshall at the Service Cooperative. I found the training to be very good and insightful. The MSBA representatives

provided valuable information about the process, considerations, and future considerations districts will need to address in light of recent legislation.

7. Building HVAC Challenges at MS/HS – Len and his team have been working through a few building challenges. We have placed some temporary heaters in vestibules due to concerns about the very cold temperatures. We have also continued to work with Trane on ensuring the fan units and the other parts of our system. It is my hope that we can have a thorough review of the HVAC system this summer and put together an action plan on how we can ensure the system is functioning as it should.
8. Repeater – We are in conversation with several other agencies about adding a radio repeater to the district facilities. This would give us the opportunity to enhance communications within the building, particularly during times of emergency. This may require a shared financial commitment from the district. At this time, we are still in discussion and discovery on this communication solution.
9. Workplace Culture Survey – We are in the process of completing a culture survey with staff. The survey is a quick, 10 question survey, to gather some input on areas that influence our workplace culture. I will provide a summary of the survey for the staff and publish it in the Quiver Quips and will share a summary of the survey with the board at the March meeting.
10. Profile of a Graduate Meeting – We are locked in on March 19 and March 20 to initiate our Profile of a Graduate work. It is my hope that the profile will become our new district strategic plan. I have asked our facilitators from KnowledgeWorks to incorporate the requirements of the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness of Minnesota into the work. As a frame of reference for the board, here is a link to the requirements of Minnesota's Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness – [World's Best Workforce/Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness](#).

Discuss New Policy 524.5 - Personal Electronic Communication Devices

Principal's Board Report: Ortman: MS/HS will present a musical production this spring. The junior version of *Newsies* is expected to be a tremendous success. Auditions will take place March 3 and 4. Our lunch program is showcasing new, vibrant signage and has introduced a variety of fresh options to the salad bar, including cheese, bacon bits, chicken, and beets. We remain committed to maintaining full transparency with families regarding attendance. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, parents will receive formal notification. The schedule for the upcoming school year is currently under development, with version 1 in progress.

Moravetz: February is *I Love to Read Month* and we celebrated with a variety of fun and engaging reading activities. Here's what we did to make the month special: ○ Opening ceremony: Monday, February 3rd ○ Closing ceremony: Wednesday, March 5th ○ Dress up days which included bringing in a stuffed reading buddy ○ BINGO Reading Cards ○ Full day of reading activities ○ Buddy reading: Read with another grade level ○ Author's visit: Douglas Wood ● From February 5th to 7th, I had the opportunity to attend the MESPA Institute (Minnesota Elementary Schools Principals' Association) in the Cities. The event was a valuable experience with great keynote sessions, useful breakout sessions, and networking opportunities with fellow elementary principals. ● On Thursday, February 13th, we hosted Student-Led Conferences from 11am to 7pm. These conferences provided a valuable opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning by showcasing their progress, achievements, learning, and goals to their families. I received a lot of positive feedback from families regarding student-led conferences. Our preschool classes will host a special "Someone I Love Day" on Friday, February 21st. This heartwarming event is designed to celebrate the meaningful relationships in our students' lives. This special day will give our preschool students the opportunity to invite a loved one—whether a parent, grandparent, or another special person—to join them for fun and activities. ● On Friday, February 28th, we will hold our TERRIFIC Kid Program, recognizing our second grade students who exemplify positive character traits.

Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Board Report:

District & Statewide Assessments

- NWEA testing complete
- ACCESS testing underway

Curriculum Updates

- ELA - Demo Presentations with 3 companies

- PreK Curriculum
- Elementary social studies K-4 (5th grade subscription prepaid through 2025-26)
- Full implementation 2026-2027 school year

Shifts in Mathematical Standards Webinar

- Math focus starting 2025-26 school year
- Overview of how standards are changing and the suggested timeline for the implementation of the 2022 standards.
- Crosswalk document shows correlation of 2007 to 2022 benchmarks
- 8 Mathematical Standards
- focus on developing reasoning & building mathematical communication
- empower students to think mathematically

Recommended timeline:

- 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 transition years
- 2027-2028 full implementation
- MCA IV

Unfinished Business

Board Action

First Reading of Policy 409 - Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations: Non-action.

Approve Policies 103, 201, 202, 203.5, 212, 301, 302, 407, 408, 412, 422, 477, 519, 520, 522, 612.1, 701, 721, and 751: Motion by DeBates, second by Taubert, approved the above listed policies. 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 high school activities as identified below:

Calumet Farms LLP	\$545.00	Donation to FFA
CHS	\$150.00	Donation to Little Arrow Wrestling (Community Ed)
First Bank & Trust	\$300.00	Donation to Little Arrow Wrestling (Community Ed)
Pipestone Building Materials	\$225.00	Donation to Robotics
Ludolph Bus Service, Inc	\$300.00	Donation to Robotics
Darveaux Foods of Pipestone	\$250.00	Donation to Robotics
Everett Tire & Auto	\$100.00	Donation to Robotics
Christensen Broadcasting	\$150.00	Donation to Robotics
Taya DeRycke Bole More Lanes	\$1,000.00	Donation to Robotics
PASBA	\$13,081.49	Donation of Batting Cage for Softball

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: Carson, Wiese, Hiniker, Taubert, Likness, Fruechte, and DeBates.

and the following voted against the same: None.

The foregoing resolution was approved 7-0 this 24th day of February, 2025

Approve Obsolete Items: Motion by Likness, second by Hiniker, to approve 4 radios, 3 vacuums and a water dispenser as obsolete items. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Contracts with SWWC Service Cooperative: Motion by Wiese, second by Hiniker, to approve the contracts with SWWC Service Cooperative. Motion carried unanimously.

READ Act MOU: Motion by Taubert, second by Fruechte, to approve the READ Act MOU. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Builder's Risk Insurance Policy: Motion by Hiniker, second by Wiese, to approved the Builder's Risk insurance policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Set Special Board Meeting on March 20, 2025, for Knowledge Works: Motion by Hiniker, second by Wiese, to set a special school board meeting on March 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the MSHS Commons for Knowledge Works. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn: Motion by Wiese, second by DeBates, to adjourn the meeting (7:47 p.m.) Motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Brad Carson
Brad Carson, Chairman

/s/ Christina DeBates
Christina DeBates, Clerk

Approved and dated by the board March 24, 2025.
Submitted, Deb Peschon, Recording Secretary