

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, 5:45 p.m.
Delano High School Tiger Den
Delano Public Schools
Independent School District #879, Delano, Minnesota

1. Call to order at 5:49 p.m.

A. Record of members present or absent

Members present: R. Depa, L. Seguin, C. Black, J. Gierke, S. Roeser. J. Rosenow arrived at 5:50 p.m. A. Johnson arrived at 5:55 p.m.

Members absent: None

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by S. Roeser, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Work Session

No public comment debrief.

Board members discussed committee assignments and representative positions for 2023. Board members questioned if they should continue to attend professional development committee meetings and site base meetings. Superintendent Matt Schoen will seek input from those groups on the question, and report back to board members in January.

M. Schoen introduced a new policy from the Minnesota School Boards Association governing public data and data subject requests. He explained that data requests to school districts have become more prevalent in recent times, and that the policy clarifies how requests can be made, along with what is and what is not public. He also explained that the policy does not require the district to change anything it currently does, or require anything it isn't already willing to do.

There was brief discussion of the levy certification process. Each year the board authorizes maximum authority to levy property taxes in September. The only difference in the final levy from the preliminary levy approved in September was an adjustment from the Department of Education in the area of school age care, as well as adjusted levy amounts due to the passage of Question 1 on the school district's levy referendum in November.

There was brief discussion on a resolution designating polling places for 2023, which the board is required to do each year even if no elections are planned. The resolution designates Delano City Hall as the combined polling place for all of the school district's precincts with the exception of the city of Independence. According to the resolution, voters in the Independence city limits will vote at Independence City Hall.

Student School Board Representative Lila Ford reported that intermediate school students were enjoying their rotating schedules and that they were excited for their band concert. Intermediate school students also reported feeling well prepared for their FAST testing, and were excited for the holiday break. Student School Board Representative Willy Sorenson reported that elementary students were enjoying math but disliked FAST testing, and were excited about the upcoming school-wide sing-along.

Upon motion by J. Gierke, seconded by S. Roeser, the Board of Education called the meeting to recess at 6:40 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Vice Chair A. Johnson called the meeting out of recess and to order at 7 p.m. Board chair R. Depa left the meeting during the recess period.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Program Review

Business Manager Mary Reeder presented levy information in the annual Truth in Taxation hearing. There were no comments from the public.

6. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by J. Rosenow, seconded by J. Gierke, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

A. School Board Minutes

1. Nov. 28, 2022

B. Financial Affairs

1. Current Budget Status with Year-to-Date Adjustments
2. Investment Transactions
3. CARES Act Budgets
4. Wire Transfers
5. Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund
6. Cash Report
7. Revenue Report by Fund
8. Expense Report by Fund
9. Expense Report by Program
10. Expense Report by Object
11. List of Bills Presented for Payment

7. Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by S. Roeser, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Motion passed 6-0.

8. Personnel Matters

Upon motion by J. Rosenow, seconded by J. Gierke, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Matters. Motion passed 6-0.

9. Public Comment

School patrons are given the opportunity to address the school board regarding items that are not on the agenda. All patrons will be asked to state their name and address for the record.

No comment.

S. Roeser left the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

10. Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent

M. Schoen reported that the Office of Civil Rights is investigating a complaint filed against the district, which includes surveys of students and coaches and an upcoming site visit. M. Schoen said he believes the complaint is baseless, as does the district's legal counsel. He said that the district will fully cooperate in investigation of the district's facilities from the standpoint of gender. M. Schoen also reported that the district is making additional budget adjustments for the next fiscal year to account for the state's funding formula and per pupil funding. The school board's Finance Committee will meet once the budget reduction task force finishes its work. From a preliminary standpoint, M. Schoen said that reductions needed for the next school year may be a little less than originally thought due to some positive adjustments. In closing, M. Schoen presented bells of service to board members J. Rosenow and L. Seguin, who are leaving the board at the turn of the year.

B. Principals

1. Katie Thompson

K. Thompson reported on band and music concerts, and said that band director Mike Dailey and choir director Sandy Meyerson do a great job with their students. She also thanked the other teachers who are involved with helping students get to rehearsals. K. Thompson reported that the theme for the month was Respect, and that the door decorating contest held by Student Council was fun for everyone. The second of three rounds of FAST testing was recently completed, and adjustments will be made in January. Results showed small declines in overall student performance. The school's Student Success Team will review every student who did not meet standards and discuss necessary adjustments. Despite the decline, K. Thompson said overall performance remained good and that she has strong confidence in the teachers and interventionists.

R. Depa rejoined the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

2. Barry Voight

B. Voight reported that DHS has partnered with CESO to get a better understanding of school climate through surveys of students and staff, along with focus groups. CESO will aggregate feedback from surveys and focus groups to help facilitate a community conversation, possibly at the end of January. In regard to Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, B. Voight said the Student Success Team will re-kick off its work on Jan. 31. B. Voight said he is proud of the investment the entire DHS staff makes in working to meet individual needs. In response to a question about how members of focus groups were chosen, B. Voight said staff members did some brainstorming on students who would be comfortable talking about the topics in order to get as much balance in the groups as possible.

3. Rachel Schultz

R. Schultz reported that winter FAST testing was scheduled to begin on Jan. 9. The January professional development day was scheduled to be a mini conference within the district. All 10 Kids Hope mentors have now been matched with a student, and R. Schultz said the need and mutual enjoyment has been evident. DES has received 135 responses to the kindergarten survey. The all-school sing-along and readathon were scheduled for later in the week, and students were excited for that event to return to the media center with participation from everyone. R. Schultz also reported that a long-term substitute has been secured to cover the departure of elementary music teacher Ms. Dake.

C. Business Manager

M. Reeder had departed the meeting after the Truth in Taxation hearing, and no further report was given.

D. Community Education/Activities Director

Eric Erlandson reported that Community Education is seeing high participation rates well above previous highs recorded in 2019, which is good news because the majority of Community Education's budget comes from user fees. He also reported that about 91% of registrations are now done online, and that it may be possible to market programs differently than with the traditional print brochure. E. Erlandson also recognized Bella Molitor and John Otto for winning Triple A honors.

11. Student School Board Representatives

L. Ford reported that DIS students' responses about the FAST test were a testament to teachers, and that students felt well prepared even if they didn't perform quite as well as hoped. She noted that History Day had begun and was a popular event for sixth-graders. DIS students also reported excitement for band and choir concerts, as well as the upcoming holiday break. W. Sorenson reported that he was concerned about how much dislike elementary students expressed for the FAST testing, but said Holiday Helpers was a hit and the students were excited about the upcoming sing-along. In the high school, W. Sorenson said that many students commented on how helpful teachers have been, but that there was some negative feedback regarding the re-take policy.

12. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO

A. Johnson said the most recent meeting was routine and referred board members to the linked minutes.

B. Wright Technical Center

J. Gierke referred other board members to the minutes, and reported that students will do a Habitat for Humanity build. Wright Tech is also adding a no-cost heavy equipment program. Board members also approved recommendations for reductions.

C. Activities Advisory Committee

C. Black reported that the committee discussed Triple A awards and the co-op agreements policy, which could use some updates to answer questions about joining and leaving co-ops. There was also discussion about the lettering policy for activities that are not traditional Delano activities.

D. Safe Schools

R. Depa reported that the most recent meeting covered services available to communities and schools. There was also discussion of social media and how to encourage students to report concerning things they see on social media to their parents.

E. Schools for Equity in Education

R. Depa reported that the most recent meeting included discussion about funding special education in schools and indexing funding to inflation. There was also discussion about how non-renewable funding is not true education funding because it doesn't last. M. Schoen added that MASA's platform is asking 5% on the formula for each of the next two years.

13. Old Business

- A. Approve the second read of Policy 414 - Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse, due to substantive and legal reference changes
Upon motion by A. Johnson, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the second read of Policy 414. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. Approve the second read of Policy 415 - Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults, due to substantive and legal reference changes
Upon motion by J. Gierke, seconded by R. Depa, the Board of Education approved the second read of Policy 415. Motion passed 6-0.

14. New Business

- A. Certify 2022 Pay 2023 Final Property Tax Levy
Upon motion by C. Black, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved certification of the 2022 Pay 2023 Final Property Tax Levy. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. Approve Resolution Designating Polling Places for the 2023 Calendar Year
Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by J. Gierke, the Board of Education approved the polling places for the 2023 calendar year. Motion passed 6-0.
- C. Approve location change for the Jan. 9, 2023, organizational meeting from the Delano Public Schools District Office Conference Room to Delano High School Room 204
Upon motion by J. Rosenow, seconded by A. Johnson, the Board of Education approved the meeting location change. Motion passed 6-0.
- D. Approve the first read of Policy 722 - Public Data and Data Subject Requests, a new policy
Upon motion by A. Johnson, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the first read of Policy 722. Motion passed 6-0.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

CLERK

RECORDER