

Regular School Board Meeting, November 25, 2024

The Board of Independent School District 308 met on Monday, November 25, 2024, in the Media Center and via Zoom. Chair Andy Lindow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included Andy Lindow, Karrin Lindow, Dave McGee, Tara Wolff, and student representative Adeline Bjorklund. Jen McNamee and Aimee Plumley were absent.

Ms. Sara Niemala, of Brady Martz Certified Public Accountants, presented via Zoom the preliminary summary of the audited financial statements of the District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This preliminary report indicated total revenues reported for the District of \$9,651,180.00 and total expenditures at \$8,818,833.00. The district had a general fund unassigned balance of \$1,339,143.00.

Motion by Tara Wolff, second by Dave McGee to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Blair Stoltman, representing ICS, described to the Board the next steps with the Nevis Forward project. The 'review and comment' will need to be finalized by Superintendent Parks and submitted to the Commissioner of Education by December 11. The Commissioner of Education then has 60 days to respond. Within 20 days of the response, the District needs to publish its intentions through the District's legal newspaper. A target date of April 8, 2025, for the election has been set with ballot language coming from Ehlers, Inc.

Motion by Karrin Lindow, second by Andy Lindow to approve the financial reports as presented by Superintendent Parks with a cash balance at the end of October of \$2,138,608.40. The Payment Register and payment of claims were approved in the amount of \$286,968.43. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Tara Wolff, second by Dave McGee to approve the following consent agenda items: donations as follows -

to <i>Meal Donation</i>	
Elizabeth Terwee	\$ 100.00
to <i>Robotics</i>	
3M	\$ 6,000.00
Argosy Foundation	1,000.00
Gene Haas Foundation	2,750.00
St. Cloud State University	3,000.00
St. Cloud State University (grant)	1,000.00
from <i>Itasca-Mantrap Operation Round Up</i>	
Indigenous Student Book Club	\$ 300.00
First Grade Library	250.00
First Grade Math Supplies	250.00
PBIS	150.00
Life Skills - Cooking in the Classroom	150.00
Flexible Seating 3 rd Grade	500.00

Special Olympics - Leisure & Recreation	150.00
Middle School Book Club	200.00
Early Literacy Crates (Speech)	350.00
Decodable Books Lending Library (3 rd Grade)	500.00
Classroom Library	400.00
Hope Squad	500.00
Softball Program Sound System	200.00
Classroom Art/Reading/Snack Supplies (3 rd Gr)	300.00
Math Manipulatives (5 th Grade)	300.00
Flexible Classroom Seating (5 th Grade)	350.00
3102 Nevis Tech-No Tigers	400.00

for a total of \$19,100.00; minutes of the October 28, 2024 regular school board meeting; minutes of the November 12, 2024 special school board meeting; retirement of Shawn Klimek - Head Football Coach, Mike DeWulf - Assistant Football Coach, and Matt Schmidt - Assistant Football Coach effective November 25, 2024; a resolution supporting the District's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a Form A grant to offset student activity costs; lane change for Cassy Smith, Title I and ADSIS teacher, from BA Step 7 to BA10 Step 7; recognize the Nevis School Agriculture Club as a Nevis School activity with the advisors of the former FFA program continuing to provide an agriculture-related club as an outlet for students interested in continuing their involvement in FFA. Students will meet monthly to prepare for university-sponsored regional agricultural contests. Students in good standing may attend the FFA State Convention as observers. There will be two co-advisors who will provide guidance and logistical support for contest preparation and while traveling. All students will be required to follow the MSHSL rules and regulations; and, approve the 2023-2024 World's Best Workforce Report as presented by Principal Michaelson. Motion carried unanimously. Activities/Athletic Director Bryan Wormley thanked the football coaches for their years of commitment to the program and was appreciative for all they have done to build character in the young men whose lives they have had the opportunity to coach.

Motion by Karrin Lindow, second by Tara Wolff to authorize Superintendent Parks to submit all required information to the Commissioner of Education to request Review and Comment for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities. The project would be financed through the issuance of School Building bonds, if approved by the voters. On a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Motion by Dave McGee, second by Tara Wolff to approve the 2024 audit as presented by Sara Neimala of Brady Martz. On a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Student representative, Adeline Bjorklund, reported herself, Paisleigh Brakke, and Grace McNamee traveled to Shakopee October 29 to attend the 2024 Student School Board Development Event.

Board members were in attendance at the Student Council meeting held November 7 at 7:30 a.m. to observe the meeting and hear concerns from members. On November 25, Student Council members peeled 90 pounds of potatoes for the students and staff to enjoy 'made from scratch' mashed potatoes for the turkey dinner prepared and served by the kitchen staff November 26. Members also cut 500 slices of pumpkin pie for that dinner.

Board members reported attending the Student Council and Wellness Committee meetings. Dave McGee requested administrative clarification of the policy of not transporting 6th grade students who want to participate in the wrestling program to Walker-Hackensack-Akeley High School for practice and meets. At this time, only students in grades 7-12 participating in the co-op wrestling program are transported to W-H-A. Tara Wolff thanked the Board members and Superintendent Parks for the opportunity to serve as a Board member. Mrs. Wolff did not run for re-election and her term will end December 31.

Principal Michaelson's report included the grades K-3 Winter Concert coming up December 2 at 6:30 p.m. Mid-quarter 2 is December 6. The winter concerts for students in grades 7-12 and 4-6 will be held December 9 and 10, respectively. There will be a late start at 10:30 a.m., December 11, for students in grades PreK-12 with no classes scheduled for the School Readiness students. December 12, students in grades K-12 will take part in a presentation by an indigenous storyteller and flutist called *Tales of Laughing Fox*. The last day of school before the winter break is December 20 with classes resuming January 2.

Certified staff representative, Olaf Netteberg updated the Board regarding high school classroom activities including Mrs. Carrier's 8th grade English classes who are reading *Flowers for Algernon*. Through that story, students are making their own ink blot paintings and composing poems based on their paintings. The sophomore Know Your Home class went to Wahpeton, North Dakota, to tour the North Dakota State College of Science. By invitation, Robotics mentors Kay Netteberg and Hannah DeLaHunt took students who participate in the Robotics program to the IEM Inspire Conference held at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities where they got hands-on demonstrations using surgical robots. The Lego Robotics team, comprised of 7th and 8th graders, will compete at the Sanford Center in Bemidji December 6. North Dakota State University will be hosting a robotics training for high school students December 7. And, students in the housing classes recently had an opportunity to walk through two of the completely finished houses they had built. In her update of elementary activities, Hannah DeLaHunt gave a shout out to Cassy Smith, Title I teacher, applauding her insight with reading tips and tricks she has been sharing with classrooms teachers. Michelle Haldeman, 5th grade teacher, has formed an

elementary Student Council, which among other things, read the elementary daily announcements over the PA each morning.

Superintendent Parks extended appreciation to the community and stake holders of the proposed Nevis Forward project, as well as Kathy Edwards, Tom Haldeman, and Theresa McBrady for their efforts and diligence in assisting the auditors. Any Board member interested in applying to the Region I Joint Powers board should see Dr. Parks for an application. And, newly elected Board member, Ben Hass and Dr. Parks will be attending Phase I School Board training soon.

Motion by Tara Wolff, second by Andy Lindow to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The Truth-in-Taxation and next regular school board meeting is scheduled for December 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Plumley, Clerk