

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

The special meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

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

Joel Roberts, Student Representative
Abigail Enquist, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was offered by Jeff Lind, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to approve the agenda.

PREVIEW OF AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT TIM LUTZ

AGENDA

Potential Budget and Program Changes

Identified Goals for the Meeting:

Superintendent Lutz presented the Budget Reduction Recommendations totaling \$4,163,000.00 which included reductions in the following areas: BHS one year “patch”; enrollment driven section adjustments; attrition in FY 21 SY; move early childhood programs to elementary buildings; closing Community Education building; vacating Midway property; closing Central Elementary; participation in Students First Programming; restructuring Oshki program; hiring delay for audio technician; absorb existing staff into Title IV positions; reduction in supply, equipment, and classroom budgets; elimination of Accelerated Reader program; and Staff Development one-time transfer.

Additional Considerations for Future Discussion:

Superintendent Lutz presented Other Considerations for Budget Reductions totaling \$1,615,000.00 which included the following reductions: restructure of BHS schedule; re-allocation of grade levels; elimination of JROTC program at BHS; Career Academy support staff; Transportation support staff; Custodial staff; Special Education para positions; Bemidji Middle School extracurricular programs; Media Specialist position; fifth grade orchestra; tech device replacement delay; reduction of number of extracurricular contests; reduction of School Board salaries; and include a contract pay freeze for FY 2021-2022.

Next Steps for February School Board Meeting:

Superintendent Lutz will provide School Board Members with a document that will allow them to score and rate their budget reduction priorities. The results of this survey will be shared at the next School Board Meeting.

A discussion regarding moving Early Childhood classes from Paul Bunyan to area elementary schools and the process for closing elementary schools will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

The motion was offered by Sarah Young, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by attendance to adjourn. Time: 7:27 p.m.

Sarah Young, Clerk

Date Approved

Ann Long Voelkner, Chair

Date Approved