

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS  
DECEMBER 21, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, December 21, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., in the District Office Board Room.

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

Joel Roberts, Student Representative  
Abigail Enquist, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:30 p.m.)

PREVIEW OF AGENDA – SUPERINTENDENT TIM LUTZ

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by consent to approve the following items:

- A. Meeting Minutes from the November 13, 2020 & November 16, 2020 School Board Meetings
- B. Current Bills & Special Checks Totaling: \$4,230,930.87
- C. Noncertified Staff Resignations
- D. Release from Contract Request
- E. Teacher Seniority List
- F. Request to Submit Grant
- G. Request to Accept Grant

COVID UPDATES

**COVID Updates**

Superintendent Lutz provided an update on COVID and the new guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education regarding in-person schooling. He highlighted the voluntary COVID testing for staff who have contact with students. Staff who work directly with students will now wear face masks and face shields. Meals may be eaten in the cafeteria if students can stay six feet away from each other. Students must wear masks for indoor phy ed.

The district will begin discussing bringing secondary students back into school. No date has been set.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Joel Roberts and Abigail Enquist reported on Bemidji High School activities including: Student council activities, a student voice initiative, and a band recording project.

## DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Ann Long Voelkner, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to accept the following donations: 11 HuddleCam HD Conferencing Cameras valued at \$4741.22 and \$6864.00 of advertising from HBI Radio Bemidji LLC.

## HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

### **Approval for Online Learning**

The motion was offered by Jeff Lind, seconded by Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to approve the request to explore the creation of an Online Learning Program.

### **First Reading of Revised SBR 500-10-1: Transportation – Student Transportation Safety Policy**

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Ann Long Voelkner, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of revised SBR 500-10-1: Transportation – Student Transportation Safety Policy.

### **Potential Reduction in Programs and Positions**

Jeff Haack introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

#### RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFORE

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district may dictate that the School Board must consider a possible reduction in expenditures, and

WHEREAS, shifts in elementary and secondary student participation might cause discontinuance of positions and/or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made concerning which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed, and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 31: That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economics in the school district and reduce expenditures, and make recommendations to the School Board for discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Jeff Lind, Ann Long Voelkner, Sarah Young, Carol L. Johnson, Jeff Haack, and John Gonzalez  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, said resolution was declared passed and adopted.

## **Budget Projection Update**

Krisi Fenner, Director of Business Services, presented FY21 and FY22 Budget Projections Assuming Flat Enrollment and No Hold Harmless Legislation. No action was taken.

## **2020 Payable 2021 Levy Limit Certification**

The motion was offered by Jeff Haack, seconded by Jeff Lind, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2020 Pay 2021 Levy Limit at \$11,054,514.83.

## **Resolution of School Board Supporting Form A Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation**

Carol L. Johnson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

### **RESOLUTION OF SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTING FORM A APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts.

WHEREAS, the Bemidji Area Schools School Board recognizes the value of student participation in extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist school districts in recognizing, promoting, and funding extracurricular participation by high school students in athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bemidji Area Schools School Board supports the district's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM A grant to offset student activity fees.

The motion for the foregoing resolution was seconded by Jeff Haack, and a tabulation of votes is as follows:

AYES: Jeff Haack, Carol L. Johnson, Jeff Lind, Ann Long Voelkner, Sarah Young,  
and John Gonzalez  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 14, 21, 28, 2021 – MSBA Virtual Leadership Conference  
January Meeting – Monday, January 25, 2021, 6:30 p.m., (*Date change due to Martin Luther King Jr holiday observance.*)

## **OTHER**

### **Once Around the Table**

School Board Members shared their observations of events in the district.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was offered by Sarah Young, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 8:47 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved