

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
JUNE 21, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, Bemidji Area Schools, Bemidji, Beltrami/Hubbard Counties, Minnesota, was held on Monday, June 21, 2021, at 6:30 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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: (Time: 6:31 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 Jeff Haack, and carried by consent to approve the following items:

- A. Minutes from the May 17, 2021 School Board Meeting
- B. Current Bills & Special Checks Totaling: \$3,063,517.79
- C. Noncertified Staff Resignations
- D. Request for Part-Time Teacher Program: Angela Dahlberg
- E. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised SBR 600-30-1: Facility and Equipment Use Policy

SPECIAL TOPICS

School Perceptions –Bill Foster

Bill Foster, President of School Perceptions, shared the results of the Bemidji Area Schools Community Survey. There were 3,193 total responses from the survey mailed to constituents in May 2021. When asked if they would support a tax increase (levy), 36% of respondents supported a \$560 per student tax increase, 25% of respondents supported a \$460 per student tax increase, 8% of respondents supported a \$360 per student tax increase, 13% of respondents would only support a levy that does not increase taxes, 10% of respondents would not support any levy, and 8% of respondents were not sure or needed more information. No action was taken.

Bemidji Middle School and Bemidji High School Activities Reports – Troy Hendricks, Ryan Aylesworth, Kristen McRae, Kyle Fodness, and Andra Vaughn

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID Updates for Summer Programs – Tim Lutz, Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Lutz indicated summer programs are underway and following CDC, MDH and MDE COVID protocols.

School sites are maintaining cohorts over the summer, continuing hygiene practices and strategies, and we are keeping our buildings clean and disinfected.

Everything could change and we will continue to be flexible and adaptable.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Superintendent Lutz indicated we have one Student Representative on board for the fall and will continue to recruit another student member.

DONATIONS

The motion was offered by Jeff Lind, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to accept the donation of \$9,000 of HVAC equipment from Explore the Trades to the Bemidji High School Construction Trades classes.

EQUITABLE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

First Reading of Revised SBR 700-40-4: Code of Conduct

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of revised SBR 700-40-4: Code of Conduct.

HIGH QUALITY DISTRICT

Safe Learning Plan Summary of Public Comment

Superintendent Lutz indicated pandemic numbers are declining but continues to affect our work educating students. A Safe Learning Plan for SY 2021-2022 was developed to teach our students in a safe environment. General health and safety considerations include: masking for unvaccinated people, people on buses must wear masks until we receive different guidance. We will continue with cohorts, building hygiene, and will provide meals at no charge for all students. Parents may continue to transport their children to school if they chose. We will continue extracurricular activities. The 2021-2022 Safe Learning Plan is available on the district website. The public can provide comments about the learning plan on the website. No action was taken.

Federal Funding Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Krisi Fenner, Director of Business Services provided an update on funding from three Federal Acts including the award amounts, spending periods, and potential uses.

The first act of federal relief is Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Securities Act (CARES). From this came the CRF, ESSER I, GEER I funding streams. Uses of these funds included purchasing PPE and cleaning supplies, addressing air quality, upgrading to touchless fountains/faucets, purchasing technology and other supplies, and funding staffing costs related to distance learning.

The second act of federal relief is the Coronavirus Relief and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). From this came the ESSER II funding. Uses of these funds addressed revenue shortfalls created by the pandemic included enrollment driven state funding, Compensatory Revenue, registration and participation fees, and food service revenue. This funding has filled the gap between that lost revenue and the further reductions needed to offset it. This funding buys us the time needed to answer the unknowns around enrollment, future state and federal funding, and district needs as we continue to address budgetary imbalance.

The third and most recent act of federal relief is the American Recovery Plan Act (ARP). From this came ESSER III and various small streams of one-time funding. Uses of these

funds focus on continued recovery and reform. 20% of this funding is required to be set aside for learning recovery and the remaining 80% to address other needs including long-standing health needs, strengthening connections to school, addressing needs of students, and making long-term changes to curriculum and instruction based on lessons learned during the pandemic.

This funding will not replace state educational funding or the support of our local community. We must continue to strive to balance our budget or we will find ourselves on the edge of a fiscal cliff once the federal relief funding is gone. No action was taken.

ARP Steering Committee Update

Superintendent Tim Lutz provided an update on the newly formed American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Steering Committee and its purpose. The ARP Steering Committee met on June 9. The membership consists of staff, administration, community members, and parents. The first meeting agenda included introductions and a primer and history of the funding. The committee's role is to identify needs, create a plan, and provide consultation and recommendations to the School Board. No action was taken.

COVID-19 Recovery Plan

Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, provided an update on the COVID Summer Recovery Plan which included:

Components of the Plan – Summer Programming, Professional Development and Ongoing Data Analysis.

Summer Programming which focuses on extra time and support – K-8 Targeted Services, Lumberjack High School and AEC credit recovery program, McKinney-Vento Collaboration with Boys & Girls Club, Bemidji Area Schools programming and tutoring services.

Professional Development - Elementary Science Training, Catalyst, Multi-Tiered System of Support, Responsive Classroom, Secondary Science Training, and Ongoing Curriculum Writing.

Ongoing Data Analysis - Student Achievement: Social Emotional, Student Growth, Engagement, Attendance, MCA, NWEA Map, Graduation Rate, DIRS.

Next Steps: ESSER III Discussion, Preparing and Enhancing Afterschool Programs, Enrich Summer Programming, Continue to Analyze Data, Ongoing Professional Development, SEL and Mental Health Discussions.

Graduation Rates

Colleen Cardenuto, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, shared the Bemidji Area Schools Four-Year Graduation Rates for American Indian and All Students from 2016 - 2020. The American Indian Four-Year Graduate Rates for the State of Minnesota, Beltrami County, Bemidji District, and Bemidji High School all increased. The All Students Four-Year Graduation Rates for State of Minnesota, Beltrami County, Bemidji District, and Bemidji High School all increased.

First Reading of SBR 900-90-2: COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Policy

The motion was offered by Sarah Young, seconded by Carol L. Johnson, and carried by all in attendance to approve the first reading of SBR 900-90-2: COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Policy.

2021-22 Budget Book and Adoption of Preliminary Operating Budget

The motion was offered by Gabriel Warren, seconded by Sarah Young, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2021-22 Operating Budget as presented.

Student Handbooks Approval

The motion was offered by Carol L. Johnson, seconded by Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to approve the 2021-2022 student handbooks as presented.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July Meeting – Monday, July 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

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 Jeff Haack, and carried by all in attendance to adjourn. Time: 8:59 p.m.

Sarah Young, Clerk

Date Approved

Ann Long Voelkner, Chair

Date Approved