

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting Pipestone Area Schools

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pipestone Area Schools was held Monday, November 25, 2024 beginning at 7:00PM in Conference Room 1148, MS/HS.

Members Present: Chairman Bard Carson; Directors Katie Wiese, Mark Hiniker, Tyler Fruechte, Chrissy DeBates, and Daphne Likness. Absent: Lance Oye. Also present: Jacque Kennedy, Klint Willert, Sonja Ortman, Lisa Pease, Jennifer Moravetz, and Deb Peschon.

Visitors Present: Rachel Rudebusch, Deb Melby, Patti Johnson, Marlene Arens, Trinidad Garcia, Angel Garcia, Nancy Stiles, Kyle Kuphal, Rebekah Noel, Andrea Gorter, Jodi Swenson, Stephanie Backer, Kristie Weinkauf, Heidi Williams, Melissa Hansen, Shauna Kuehl, Kathy Hachman, Sharon Blom, Carrie Backer, Brittany Wentzel, Priscilla Smidt, Amber Przybys, and Tami Taubert.

Call to Order: Chairman Carson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Motion by DeBates, second by Likness, approved the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Forum: Trinidad Garcia spoke of a bussing issue with her child, Brittany Wentzel spoke on support for paraprofessionals, and Rebekah Noel spoke on behalf of paraprofessionals.

Presentation/Hearing

Combined Summary of the 2023-2024 World's Best Workforce and Achievement and Integration Report:

Pease presented the combined summary of the 2023-2024 World's Best Workforce and Achievement and Integration report. Action will take place later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Approve Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of October 28, 2024:

Approve Minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of November 12, 2024:

Personnel Report: Action Required (new subs, contracts, resignations, volunteers):

Miguel Acevedo Mercado, night custodian; new paraprofessional subs - Christopher Garcia, Laurie Erickson, and Amy Hamann; resignations - Dave Dulas, head volleyball coach, Lori Goelz, attendance secretary. Motion by Hiniker, second by Wiese, approved the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Financials

Review of Budget Year-to-Date: The budget year-to-date shows expenditures as of November 20, 2024 at \$5,433,163.33 or 32%. This was non-action.

Approve Treasurer's Report for October 31, 2024: The treasurer's report for month ended October 31, 2024 shows a cash balance of \$10,634,304.88. Motion by Likness, second by DeBates, approved the treasurer's report for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve 2023A Bonds Treasurer's Report for October 2024: The MN Trust 2023A Bonds treasurer's report for month ended October 31, 2024 has a cash balance of \$2,776,187.65. Motion by Wiese, second by Likness, approved the 2023A bonds treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Regular Bills for November: Regular bills paid through November 19, 2024 totaled \$718,793.21. Motion by DeBates, second by Fruechte, approved payment of the regular bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve High School Activity Bills for November: High school activity bills paid through November 19, 2024 totaled \$15,208.07. Motion by Hiniker, second by Wiese, approved payment of the high school activity bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Forum/Information

Board Reports and Updates:

Administrator's Report

Superintendent's Board Report: November enrollment is 1095.

1. Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) Fall Conference - Brad and I attended the MREA conference in Brainerd. The event had several outstanding sessions where we learned about teacher staffing solutions with teachers from overseas, artificial intelligence, staff development, school culture/climate, and the MREA legislative platform. I have included the draft legislative platform for you to review as we look to what should be a very interesting legislative session. The Minnesota House of Representatives is evenly divided, so even picking a speaker may be a challenge! Stay tuned and watch for more details as the session gets underway in St. Paul.
2. Tremco Roofing Contract - We have received an AIA agreement/contract from Tremco for the roofing project. I have asked legal counsel to review the agreement to ensure the district interests are covered and protected throughout the project. It appears the contract review will be complete by the first week of December. Following the review and comment by legal counsel, we will present the contract to the board for approval.

3. Roofing Financing - We had a conversation at the MREA conference with PMA regarding the financing of our roofing project. PMA shared our best strategy at this time would be to wait until the upcoming legislative session is complete and then move forward with the LTFM bonds. The rationale for waiting until the conclusion of the 2025 legislative session goes back to recent legislative discussions about adding school district levy authority through LTFM for roof replacement projects. There is some anticipation the roofing discussion will occur at the session again this year and may present some options for school districts.
4. Mediation Process - The board negotiations subcommittee has worked diligently through the negotiations process with the Education Support Professionals (ESP group) on contract negotiations. While the two parties have tentative agreements on many elements of the contract, the groups have reached impasse with the rate of pay amount and increase. Therefore, the parties have agreed to enter into a facilitated mediation process. The two parties will conduct mediation in December. I am hopeful the process will go well and will result in a final agreement that the ESP group and the board can ratify in December.
5. Aurora Institute Symposium - We had a great trip to the Aurora Institute Symposium. At the event, the district leaders learned a great deal about transitioning school districts, schools, and classrooms to be a more student/child-centered model of teaching and learning. While this may sound simple, it is actually a significant shift in mindset and practice by educational leaders, teachers, and community. Shifting to a more learner-centered system requires changes in student assessment (not all work is done via paper and pencil through worksheets, workbooks, or answering written questions). It also requires a shift in focus on recognizing what students learn, where students learn, and how students learn. As we continue this discussion and work in the district, the place we need to begin is with a shift in our strategic plan to a Profile of a Graduate. In this work, we focus on what are the skills, attributes, and knowledge as well as the durable skills our community wants graduates from Pipestone Area Schools to have. We are working through a partnership agreement with an organization called "KnowledgeWorks". Here is what KnowledgeWorks has to share about this student-centered approach to teaching and learning: "Personalized, competency-based learning represents the true purpose of schooling: to meet students where they are, connect to their interests and help them deepen their learning, addressing gaps along the way. There is a substantial and growing body of literature on student-centered approaches that speak to how its major tenets - learner and educator agency, engagement and motivation, authentic assessments of learning and connection to real-world learning - lead to better outcomes for all students, particularly those not being served by the current system." Here is an image as well as a link to learn more about the Profile of a Graduate as well. LINK: [Portrait of a Graduate and the Promise Behind a Diploma - KnowledgeWorks](#)
6. Curriculum alignment - I want to applaud the work of Lisa Pease as she has been working to address curriculum needs in the district. We are discovering we have a great deal of work to do to better align curriculum and instruction within the district both horizontally (at grade levels) and vertically (grade to grade within a given content area). There will be some hard work to be done in this area to ensure the district adopted curriculum is being taught with fidelity and aligned to the state standards. Through our partnership with KnowledgeWorks, we are gathering advice on how to select curriculum that is student centered and provides a level of student agency in student work.
7. Transportation - I had a brief conversation with Ludolph, our transportation provider in the district. They are interested in beginning contract negotiations. I am in the process of gathering some data and reviewing the existing agreement with the help of Watson Consulting. I believe having this additional perspective will ensure we can negotiate a mutually beneficial contract with Ludolph. As we met with Ludolph, the principals did ask and suggest that camera systems be added to all of the buses to help support student management and help with investigations of student disciplinary matters. We are hopeful that can be part of the discussion and solution as we go forward.
8. Christmas Party - The district administrative team will once again host a staff Christmas Party. The date of the party is set as well as the location. Watch for additional details to come!
9. Quiver Quips - If you are not aware, I have started a monthly internal staff newsletter called Quiver Quips. I have received positive feedback from staff regarding the additional communication and information share.
10. Pipestone Christmas Care - This year the Pipestone Area Schools is partnering with the Pipestone County Christmas Care program. We have placed drop boxes in each of the staff work rooms for toy donations.

Principal's Board Report:

Sonja Ortman: Pipestone Area Middle and High School held its recent parent/teacher conferences with an excellent turnout. We are pleased to report that the participation rate from parents and guardians was higher than anticipated, reflecting strong engagement in our school community.

This event provided valuable opportunities for parents to meet with teachers, discuss their child's progress, and collaborate on strategies for continued academic and personal growth. The conferences were held in both in-person and virtual formats, accommodating the diverse needs of our families, and ensuring accessibility for all.

Feedback from both parents and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. Teachers reported meaningful conversations with parents, and many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school. Several parents noted the usefulness of the meetings in understanding their child's achievements and areas for improvement, and the collaborative atmosphere was well-received.

Overall, the success of these conferences reinforces the importance of continued communication between home and school, and we look forward to maintaining and building upon this positive engagement as we move forward in the school year.

The traditional "one-size-fits-all" model of instruction no longer meets the needs of today's diverse learners. Moving towards a student-centered, competency-based education system will ensure that our students are not only ready for graduation but are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and mindset needed for success in their careers and lives. By embracing this shift, we can provide a more equitable, engaging, and effective educational experience for every student in our district.

Jennifer Moravetz:

Our first TERRIFIC Kid program for second grade students took place on Friday, November 1st. A big thank you to our generous Pipestone Community sponsors for making this special event possible.

The Aurora Institute Symposium took place in New Orleans from November 3rd to 5th, providing an incredible opportunity for our admin team to explore innovative ideas and best practices in education. We returned energized and excited to share with our staff the valuable knowledge we learned to support student success.

On Friday, November 8th, we held our very first Arrow Way Parade. This is a time for our elementary school to celebrate students who demonstrate outstanding character. Two students from each classroom were recognized for demonstrating excellence in being respectful, responsible, safe, and secure. This is a great event we hold at the end of each quarter to highlight the values we strive to uphold as an elementary school community.

On Monday, November 11th, we held an all-school Veteran's Day program to honor and celebrate the service of our veterans. This heartfelt event brought our school community together.

Miss Davis hosted a Veteran's Day concert featuring our 4th grade students on Thursday, November 7th, at 6:30 PM. This was a fantastic program showcasing the hard work and musical talent of our students.

Parent/Teacher conferences took place on Thursday, November 14th, and Tuesday, November 19th, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. Conferences were highly successful, with a strong turnout from families. I received plenty of positive feedback from families and staff. Teachers and parents/guardians engaged in meaningful conversations, fostering strong partnerships to support our students' growth and success.

As part of our School Improvement Plan, the elementary school will prioritize two key areas of focus: one academic goal and one non-academic goal.

Academic Goal: 80% of students in grades K-5 will demonstrate measurable growth in their NWEA reading scores from the fall of 2024 to the spring of 2025.

Non-Academic Goal: By the end of the 2024 - 2025 school year, 91% of students in grades JK-5 will achieve an attendance rate of 90% or higher.

American Education Week was November 18th - 22nd. I want to extend my gratitude to all the educators at PAS for their exceptional dedication to shaping the hearts, minds, and futures of our students. All of your hard work, passion, and commitment to excellence does not go unnoticed. We truly have the best PAS team!

There is a significant need for both certified and classified substitute staff at the elementary level.

Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Board Report:

Aurora Institute - I am excited to begin our work on establishing our Profile of a Graduate where we focus on empowering students to be critical thinkers, collaborators, effective communicators, and empathetic citizens. This begins when the students walk in our doors as preschoolers. What skills should we be working on at each grade level so that our students leave our district as a well-rounded individual. Another takeaway is that AI has the potential to transform education. We as educators need to figure out how to carefully integrate AI into our educational system so that it is beneficial for both our teachers and our students. This may, in the future, require some professional development for our educators and support for our students.

READ Act Update - Phase 1 (July 1, 2024): We have seven teachers beginning Volume 1 of LETRS for Educators, one teacher beginning EarlyLETRS (preschool), and the four administrators are completing LETRS for Administrators. Ryan Wielenberg is finishing up Volume 2 and will have his training completed by the end of the school year. Phase 2 (July 1, 2027): Next year our MS/HS Language Arts teachers will be completing their professional development with the CAREIALL program through the University of Minnesota.

Standards/Curriculum Purchase Timeline:

Science - Full implementation of the 2019 standards is the 2024-25 School Year

- New Curriculum Purchased: Grades 6-8 FY22; Grades 3-5 FY23; Grades K-2 FY24

Language Arts - Full implementation of the 2020 Standards is the 2025-26 School Year

- Received samples from several companies that will be narrowed down to 4 at the elementary level. Only received samples from a few companies for gr. 6-12. We will be purchasing a new curriculum for the 2025-26 school year.

Social Studies - Full implementation of the 2021 standards is the 2026-27 School Year

- Next year we will be looking at new curriculum to purchase for 2026-27 School Year

Math - Full implementation of the 2022 standards in the 2027-28 School Year

- Purchase for 2027-28 School Year

Discussion Items: None

Board Action

Resolution Accepting Donations:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 6 provides: "The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education.", and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: "Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full." and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Pipestone Area Schools, ISD 2689, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

Peace United Methodist	\$297.23	Elem Help Fund for mittens and gloves
Knights of Columbus	\$400.00	Donation to Wellness Room
Pipestone Publishing Co	\$1,425.00	Activity Help Fund from Winter Poster

The motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution made by Member Wiese, and duly seconded by Member Likness, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Carson, Wiese, Hiniker, DeBates, Likness, and DeBates.

and the following voted against the same: None.

The foregoing resolution was approved this 25th day of November, 2024

Approve Combined Summary of the 2023-2024 World's Best Workforce and Achievement and Integration Report: Motion by Wiese, second by Hiniker, approved the combined summary of the 2023-2024 World's Best Workforce and Achievement and Integration report. Motion carried unanimously.

Declare Items Obsolete: Motion by Likness, second by Fruechte, approved to declare 2 Yamaha subwoofer speakers and 2 Yamaha treble speakers obsolete. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Variance Request for Dr. Klint Willert for Community Ed Director: Motion by Wiese, second by Hiniker, approved the variance request for Dr. Willert for Community Ed Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion by Hiniker, second by Fruechte, to adjourn the meeting (8:05 PM). Motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Brad Carson _____
Brad Carson, Chairman

/s/ Katie Wiese _____
Katie Wiese, Clerk

Approved and dated by the board December 16, 2024
Submitted, Deb Peschon