

Minutes of Regular School Board Meeting
School District of La Farge
Monday, December 21, 2020
6:00 pm
HS Library

Present were Board members Aaron Nemec, Holly Franks, Curt Parr, Dr. Shawn Sedgwick, and Chad Wirts; School staff Meaghan Gustafson, Mark Dubey, Josh Hansen, and Todd Camlek; Kickapoo Valley Forest School representatives Julia Buckingham and Barb Sarnowski; RW Baird representative Kevin Mullen; and media representatives Bonnie Sherman and Lonnie Muller.

Nemec called the meeting to order at 6:00.

Gustafson confirmed compliance with Open Meeting law.

Nemec requested a motion to approve the agenda. Motion and second by Parr/Sedgwick. Motion carried.

Nemec requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion and second by Sedgwick/Wirts. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: Barb Sarnowski appreciated the staff's rendition of the 12 Days of Virtual Learning posted online today.

Discussion Agenda:

Kevin Mullen of R.W Baird presented to the Board a plan of finance for the referendum project.

Julia Buckingham and Barb Sarnowski of the Kickapoo Valley Forest School presented to the Board a draft of a Charter contract.

Todd Camlek reviewed details of the annual evacuation and soft lock down drills for students. In January students in 6-12 will participate in a barricade drill.

Information Agenda

Gustafson shared an update about the progress on the referendum project(s) to date. Aaron Nemec (primary) and Holly Franks (alternate) will participate in the weekly Referendum Working Group.

Action Agenda

Nemec requested a motion to suspend stipulations in PO 6320 for Referendum/Project purposes. Motion and second by Parr/Wirts. Motion carried.

Nemec requested a motion to adopt the Temporary District-Sponsored Paid COVID-19 Leave Program. Motion and second by Parr/Wirts. Motion carried.

Gustafson acknowledged and thanked recent donors to the District.

Reports of the Principals

Elementary Principal Josh Hansen

1. COVID Updates
 - a. Virtual Weeks - our two weeks of virtual instruction after Thanksgiving went well. We had the majority of students complete work at home. For a few who struggled with this, we were able to bring them in to get work done.
 - b. We are sending home materials this week for our virtual week after break.
2. Literacy
 - a. Phonics Instruction - more and more studies are coming out about the importance of phonics in reading instruction. Most recently, the Madison School District has made a shift toward more explicit phonics instruction in the lower grades. As an elementary, we made this shift last year and are finding that it is improving our students' reading abilities. I look forward to seeing what we can do as we continue to improve in this area.
3. Training and Professional Development
 - a. PBIS Tier 1 Training - 7 Staff members participated in this training last Tuesday. We have one more training day left to be tier 1 certified.
4. Technology
 - a. TV's - All of our TV's have been installed to replace the old smartboards. This includes an Apple TV box for each room. This gives us the ability to screen share from phones and I pads. The teachers also have the ability to use an Ipad and an Apple Pencil to write on the "board". These new TV's make it much easier for students to see and allows the teacher to move around the room while using the board.
5. Evacuation Drill
 - a. The drill went well for the elementary. The students walked from school down to the church and back.
 - b. Students were informed that if we had to evacuate, the church would be our reunification point.

MS/HS Principal and AD Todd Camlek

Forensics has started! There are 16 students signed up so far, but there is still time for students to join. It is a completely virtual competition this year, so we just submit videos of student performances. This allows for the wholly virtual students to still compete, as well. Our first competition is in February.

We had another amazing outpouring from our community for the NHS giving tree even doing it virtually this year! We have been able to provide for 52 students and 3 families all within our district. They have been given extra gifts and supplies for the Holiday Season!

Mr. Steinmetz donated some money to go towards conference championship banners in the gym (3 girls CC, 1 boys CC, 1 boys track and 1 VB)

Ms. Lund is having a student teacher for the 2nd semester

Superintendent's Report

Revisiting strategic plan and alignment with Redefining Ready.

Review of SAA legislative and flex agenda.

Board Member Concerns

Parr: appreciated the Twelve Days of Virtual Learning and thanked staff for making the best of a difficult situation.

Wirts: none

Franks: thanked teachers and staff for everything they do during the pandemic. Also appreciated video put out by staff.

Nemec: thanked entire staff for all of the hard work through the pandemic- taking an awkward situation and making the best of it.

Nemec requested a motion to convene into closed session. Motion and second by Parr/Franks. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Nemec requested a motion to return to open session. Motion and second by Parr/Franks.

Nemec requested a motion to hire Josh Hansen as Middle School Girls Basketball Coach. Motion and second by Franks/Parr. Motion passed by roll call vote.

Nemec requested a motion to adjourn. Motion and second by Parr/Wirts.