

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2021

7:30 p.m. Jr. High School Library

CALL REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.

President Chad Ruppert called the regular board meeting to order and roll call was taken with seven board members present. Board members present were Janssen, Ruppert, Eisenbarth, Bauman, Fesser, Tarter, and Gasparich. Also present were Superintendent Doerr, Principal McDowell, Assistant Principal McDonald, and Principal Reedy.

Guests present included Jodi Reynolds, Andrea Ruppert, Melissa Shalter and Ellen Christner. Also present remotely was Tammy Mashaw.

A Thank You note was read aloud from the family of Barbara Johnson.

Jodi Reynolds addressed the Board regarding a program called QPR program, which is part of the Crossover Ministries in providing resources, services, and programming for Suicide Prevention. Dr. Doerr will meet with Jodi and others to develop a program and provide next steps.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR JANUARY 19, 2021 AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Janssen seconded by Eisenbarth to approve the Board Meeting Agenda for January 19, 2021 as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

The Consent Agenda included the December 15, 2020 Truth in Taxation hearing minutes, regular and closed minutes, bills, payroll, and Treasurer's Report for approval. Additionally, included for approval were semi-annual review of fund balances in all Activity Accounts – North School and Nokomis Jr/Sr High School, destruction of Audio Tapes prior to December 31, 2018, approval to keep all closed session minutes closed prior to December 31, 2020, and review of Certified (Licensed) Seniority list and Non-Certified (Full-time and Part-time) Seniority List.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 19, 2021 CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Tarter, seconded by Janssen to approve the January 19, 2021 Consent Agenda as presented.

Ruppert – YEA, Eisenbarth – YEA, Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA, Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – YEA, Janssen – YEA. Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Our monthly spreadsheet indicates that the State owes the District \$89,225.77 in the usual accounts – Transportation, Early Childhood, and other 2nd quarterly mandated categorical payments. The Governor's budget address will be in February, where it is expected that he will seek at 5 – 10% cut in the current state budget, but we do not know where education fits into those cuts. We have advised of the second federal stimulus and grants should be available next month. In addition, President-elect Biden will be rolling out a third stimulus package; however, at this point, we do not know if education will be included in that package. The lame-duck General Assembly passed an education omnibus bill before adjournment. The Black Caucus that introduced the 600 page bill, which was messy and expensive, was negotiated down to about 250 pages. This bill, which is

expected to be signed by the Governor is designed to increase educational access and opportunities for students of color, English learners, and those from low-income households. The bill includes several measures intended to strengthen the state's early care and education system. This bill included the following requirements:

- Increase equity in early childhood education
- Codifies the KIDS assessment, which is a readiness assessment for Kindergartners.
- Increases mental health education, training, and diagnosis abilities.
- Students and parents have access to college requirements and districts must provide entrance requirements.
- By FY 25, graduate requirements are increase to include 2 years of "laboratory sciences."
- By FY 29, all students must have 2 years of a foreign language to graduate.
- By FY 24, all students must have a computer science class to graduate.
- By FY 24, Districts must enroll all students, who qualify, in dual credit, AP, or advanced classes. Students may opt out if another class fits their goals.
- Creates panels to research a long school year, teacher training programs, and changes in EBF funding to give more money to schools with larger populations of "diversity."
- The remained of the bills deals with teacher licensure and higher education.

We received one FOIA request from Kaza Rhan of LocalLabs for information pertaining to the names, terms, and salaries of school Board members. This was received on December 14 and replied on December 15.

As of January 19, 2021, the data for remote learners:

- North School: 10 full-time remote learners and 8 temporary remote learners.
- JH: 10 full-time remote learners and 16 temporary remote learners.
- HS: 10 full-time remote learners and 34 temporary remote learners.

Letters went out to all faculty and staff (1-14-2021) that the Montgomery County Health Department is ready to move forward with Phase IB of the COVID-19 vaccine, which includes educators. As of right now, we are going to run a clinic style vaccine distribution, which will be held on January 23.

Mrs. Hilgert, Mrs. DeWerff, Mrs. McDowell, and I have been working on a suicide prevention program for high school students for about 2 months. We are now ready to roll it out. This is a universal screening program that will be assessed by our school psychologist and counselor with parent's permission. A baseline will be established. If during the screening a student shows signs of suicidal or depressive states, they will referred to professional assistance after further assessment, such as the health department. Of course, parents will be notified and be part of the process the entire time. This is part of our social, emotional, and mental health strategies.

Dr. Doerr indicated that he has met with the vocational teachers to start creating a Career Pathways program for some of our career and technical programs in consultation with Lincoln Land

Community College. More information will be provided as it becomes available. He stated that this will give our students additional opportunities in the future.

Dr. Doerr also attended the Nokomis Chamber of Commerce last week and indicated that he received compliments on our in-person learning.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principals provided the Board with written reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. McDonald provided an update on extra-curricular activities since Region 3 as moved into Phase 4 without any tier mitigations. Extra-curricular activities other than athletics can begin immediately. For Athletics, IESA volleyball can begin this week. The IHSA will be meeting on the 27th to determine sport seasons for the rest of the year with a promise for a full season for spring season. High-risks winter sports can start team practices on January 25. This information is constantly changing, so coaches are being kept up-to-date as information arrives.

NEW BUSINESS

The NPT Board of Directors has approved an amendment to our Joint Agreement. This will require 2 of the 3 Boards of Education to approve to take effect on July 1, 2021. This amendment makes changes in the joint agreement regarding removing Taylorville as our fiscal agent and NPT will become an independent entity, it creates a Governor Board (1 Board member from each District to meet 2-3 times a year), codifies additional duties for the Executive Director, codifies the FACeS/CBI program as our own program, changes the withdrawal process (does not affect current situation), and makes other minor changes. I recommend approval.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE AMENDED NPT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE JOINT AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021 AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Gasparich, seconded by Fesser to approve the Amended NPT Special Education Cooperative Joint Agreement effective July 1, 2021 as presented.

Eisenbarth – YEA, Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA, Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – YEA, Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA. Motion passed.

Taylorville has submitted their formal petition to withdraw and have presented the NPT Board with their resolution of intent to withdrawal. However, I have provided you a copy of the resolution. I think this would be a good time to discuss. The Board assisted in developing a list of set of questions that the Nokomis Board will be sending to the Taylorville Board to answer before we actually make that decision, since their Resolution was vague and inaccurate in some instances. The lawyers for Taylorville has reached out to each of us to discuss the withdrawal options, which is set for the last week of January. No action on this item.

I MOVE TO APPROVE THE TRANSITIONAL MATH PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH LLCC EFFECTIVE THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

Motion by Janssen, seconded by Fesser to approve the Transitional Math Partnership Agreement with LLCC effective the 2021-2022 school year.

Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA, Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – YEA, Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA, Eisenbarth – YEA. Motion passed.

I MOVE TO APPROVE JOHNSON CONTROLS TO CONDUCT HVAC WORK AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Gasparich seconded by Tarter to approve Johnson Controls to conduct HVAC work as presented.

Fesser – YEA, Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – YEA, Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA, Eisenbarth – YEA, Bauman – YEA. Motion passed.

I MOVE TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:53 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATIONS, COMPENSATION, APPOINTMENT AND DISCIPLINE OF PERSONNEL.

Motion by Fesser seconded by Eisenbarth to enter into closed session at 8:53 p.m. for the purpose of employment, evaluations, compensation, appointment and discipline of personnel.

Tarter – YEA, Gasparich – YEA, Janssen – YEA, Ruppert – YEA, Eisenbarth – YEA, Bauman – YEA, Fesser – YEA. Motion passed.

I MOVE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 9:38 P.M.

Motion by Janssen seconded by Fesser to re-enter regular session from closed session at 9:38 p.m. Motion passed by voice vote.

I MOVE TO ADJOURN

Motion by Gasparich seconded by Fesser to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote.

Chad Ruppert, President

Denny Bauman, Secretary