

**HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 294
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, November 3, 2022
6:00 PM
Minutes**

- I. Call to Order Chair Tom Stilin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members present were Gene Lundak, Josh Norlien, Mark Swenson, Tom Stilin, Mimi Carlson, Superintendent Morem, and student representatives Priya Kingsley and Ashtyn Meyer. Absent was Richard Erdmann and Arlin Peterson.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Agenda Approval – A motion was made by Lundak to approve the agenda. Seconded by Swenson. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment - None
- V. Consent Items – A motion was made by Norlien to approve the agenda. Seconded by Lundak. Motion passed unanimously.
 1. Minutes
 1. Approval of October 6, 2022 Minutes
 2. Payment of Bills
 3. Personnel
 1. Contracts
 2. Hiring Memos
- VI. Discussion Items
 1. Student School Board Report – Priya Kingsley & Ashtyn Meyer – Superintendent Morem introduced the two new student school board representatives, Priya Kingsley and Ashtyn Meyer. She stated she is looking forward to them sharing things from a student’s perspective.
 2. Hurricane Heroes – Superintendent Morem introduced this month’s Hurricane Hero, Hannah Weichert, for being a student doing great things in our community. Ms. Weichert is very involved with playing volleyball, participating in the musical, and is currently involved in dance team. Superintendent Morem highlighted her for setting an example and being someone others can aspire to be.
 3. Celebration of Experience Map – Superintendent Morem presented on behalf of Gina Meinertz, Rebecca Swedberg, and herself. The school board started working on this information last year with study sessions. Together the board developed the 4 pillars (Connection & Relationships, Growth, Student Achievement, and Partnerships & Real-World Learning) that were discussed as a school board. This information was brought to the teachers to discuss celebrating their achievements based on their beliefs. It became evident that time wasn’t being taken to celebrate those successes. This presentation is done from the teachers’ perspective. The students’ perspective will be the next step. Teacher’s experienced success through Connection & Relationship through community day. Superintendent Morem took a group of students down to the preschool and did activities with the students. Also, connections & relationships were built during the Back to School event for all staff where onsite staff and MNVA staff were able to learn and collaborate in one location. Staff also connected with students and families during the schools Assessment Days held at the beginning of the school year. Superintendent Morem presented that the Growth pillar was being addressed through work with MTSS and Unity Day being held in the schools. Superintendent Morem invited the student representatives to speak to any of the pictures presented in the slides. Ashtyn Meyer added that she like the speaker who presented during Homecoming week. She stated that she felt like the students connected to the speaker

and stayed engaged with the presentation. Board member Richard Erdmann joined the meeting at 6:06 PM. Superintendent Morem continued with student achievements with F.O.R.C.E. (Focus Ourselves on Respect for Community Excellence) Friday at the Elementary as well as being proud of being a National Blue Ribbon school and celebrating that all over the community. The school is continuing to grow partnerships to increase real world learning for all students. Getting out into the community and making those connections, like at the AMES event. *Superintendent Morem stated the next step was to conduct empathy interviews with the students as well as parents to gather their feedback and gain their perspective on the four pillars.* Upon conclusion of the presentation the school board members were given the opportunity to share their views on what the school board has to celebrate from this last year. *Board member Lundak stated that he enjoyed meeting all of the teachers at the back-to-school picnic, being able to get to know them outside the classroom. Board member Carlson stated she was proud of the buildings the district has acquired as well as the Hurricane Hub being utilized for the community. Board member Swenson stated he was proud of the resilience of the students, teachers and staff since COVID and trying to get back to normal. Board member Norlien stated he was proud of how much we offer to the students for the size of school we have, the musical, and the Cross-Country team going to state. Board member Erdmann stated that he was proud of everyone working together through COVID and make changes as we move forward, working to keep the standards we have set as a school district. Student board member Kingsley stated that, since COVID, teachers are a lot more real and more open to creating connections and sharing their personal lives more with students. Student board member Meyer agreed with Kingsley. Chair Stilin stated how we are fortunate as a school, the buildings we have that are being utilized, and opportunities provided by our community and school district. Board member Lundak stated that he noticed how the grounds are always clean and well maintained by our maintenance staff and that they deserve a big hand. Community member Amy Kulas stated that as a parent she appreciates the coaches' and teachers' support of students in the community (i.e., attending the Eagle Scouts banquet, letting athletes or students leave early for other community activities such as church suppers or confirmation). She stated that they aren't just teachers and staff, but part of the community and supportive of the students.* [Upon the conclusion of the presentation Board members were given the opportunity to share their views on what the school board has to celebrate for the last year.

4. MSBA Leadership Conference Registration Open – Superintendent Morem stated that those interested in attending should reach out to Anna Botcher to be registered for the conference. Superintendent Morem will be presenting on behalf of the work and finance to acquire the new buildings for the district as well as on behalf of MNVA. MNVA will be hosting a booth at the MSBA Leadership Conference in January. Board members Carlson and Swenson indicated their intent on attending the conference.
5. Update on Community Engagement Team – Superintendent Morem stated that the Community Engagement Team was hosting their third meeting concurrently with this meeting at the Elementary School to continue to gather feedback on the needs of our buildings and facilities. The Team is moving forward and continuing to put ideas together. Superintendent Morem invited anyone interested to join their meeting following the school board meeting. Tom Weber from SiteLogiq has been organizing and gathering the data and feedback. Chair Stilin asked if the information collected by the Community Engagement Team was being brought to facilities or finance. Superintendent Morem stated that the team is still at the information gathering stage, but the team will come to the School Board in the future and present the information that was gathered.

VII. Old Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)

1. Policies for Second Reading – A motion was made by Lundak to approve policies 509, 512, 526, 528, 531, and 533. Seconded by Norlien. Motion passed unanimously. Lundak inquired who the wellness coordinator was. Superintendent Morem confirmed that it is Deb Jergenson.
 1. Policy 509 – Enrollment of Nonresident Students
 2. Policy 512 – School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities
 3. Policy 526 – Hazing Prohibition
 4. Policy 528 – Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination
 5. Policy 531 – The Pledge of Allegiance
 6. Policy 533 – Wellness

VIII. New Business (Items for Discussion and Approval)

1. Resolution Accepting Donations – Board member Norlien introduced a resolution accepting donations from the DLC in the amount of \$1,100.00, River Neuharth in the amount of \$40.00, the Knights of Columbus in the amount of \$1,125.00, Darrell R Ives in the amount of \$200.00, the American Legion Post 423 in the amount of \$1,250.00 and \$4,100.00, and Kathleen Nelson in the amount of \$14.00. Seconded by Lundak. A roll call vote was taken, and the resolution passed unanimously. Board members extended their gratitude to the donors for their generous donations.
2. Reminder – Special Board Meeting November 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM to Canvass the Election – Superintendent Morem shared that the school board would be Canvassing the Election at this meeting.
3. Policies for First Reading – Board members should review for approval at the December meeting.
 1. Policy 304 – Superintendent Contract, Duties, and Evaluation
 2. Policy 306 – Administrator Code of Ethics

IX. Announcements

1. Important Events – Superintendent Morem stated that High School would hold parent/teacher conferences on November 10, 2022 and the Minnesota Honor Society Induction and Lettering Ceremony would be held on November 7, 2022. She also mentioned that today was the end of the first quarter, winter sports and activities will be starting soon, musical was fantastic, the Houston High School Fall Music Concert was November 1, 2022 featuring the band and choir.
2. Board/Superintendent Feedback/Thank You's/Future Agenda Items – Superintendent Morem read a thank you note from Anne Warner for her retirement gift. Pastor Jeff Forbes from Cross of Christ also wrote a thank you letter for the generous donation for the meet up and eat up program.
3. Meeting and Committee Updates – HVED Meeting – Board member Lundak shared updates from a recent HVED Meeting. He stated that it was announced that the school district would be bowing out of HVED after the 2023-2024 school year. Hiawatha Valley Education is concerned with some school districts managing students with increased dangerous behaviors, hurting staff and effecting other students. HVED is looking to hire more staff to try to remedy the situation. Lundak also mentioned that the individuals with the backpack program are putting together about 35 bundles each week for students to take home over the weekend. Board member Lundak thanked them for the work they do for keeping the students fed. Superintendent Morem also stated that there will be an Online Schools Committee meeting on December 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM, prior to the regular board meeting. MNVA high school is working with Southeast Tech. Fourteen students will be starting the education pathway. Southeast Tech, in conjunction with MNVA, will be offering three courses. They have finished negotiations and what that will look like and then we want to lay it out for the next 2 years and how does that transition work with the educational pathway. This will start second semester and is available to any student through an online platform.

Superintendent Morem stated that it worked out well to pair up with Southeast Tech because the MNVA program was already developed. Board member Carlson clarified that as a high schooler you could take MNVA courses and graduate from high school with a 2-year degree in education. Superintendent Morem confirmed and added that the graduate could then work for a daycare, be an early childhood assistant, go on to further their degree in education as options. Superintendent Morem also brought this information up to Legislation at the State Capital earlier in the month.

- X. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made by Norlien and seconded by Swenson. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.