

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT #2342
WEST CENTRAL AREA SECONDARY SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
January 15, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Nessman. Members present per roll call: Ulrich, Sabolik, Christenson, Grosz, Beuckens, Nessman, and Strunk. Members Absent: None Administration present: Hogie, Powers, Prasch, Knutson, Amundson, and Moerke. Administration Absent: Foslien and McNamara

Visitors: Chris Ray, Tony Lien, John Kreft, Troop 318, Steve Bergman, Brenda Exe, Michelle St. Martin, Kari House, Ellis Holl, Kelly Haack

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Christenson to adopt the agenda as written. MCU

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Christenson, to approve the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on December 18th, 2019. MCU

Motion by Sabolik seconded by Strunk, to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$517,017.26. MCU

Mr. Grosz commented that Lexi Bright hit 1000 points in Ashby on Tuesday during the basketball game.

Mr. Sabolik gave the PR committee report Kari Kreft has been working on a grant from NEA, where we have been and where we are going. Facebook posts have averaged 2-3 a day. Ms. Nessman commented that Ms. Kreft is relooking at goals and brainstorming to see if there is any other print materials or other avenues of communication that we should be using.

Technology Coordinator: (Kevin McNamara) – Mr. McNamara reported on E-Rate: Category 1 - request for bids have been posted and Category 2 - evaluating current needs and plan to post by the end of January. Category 1 is for internet connection and data transportation and Category 2 is for internal network and infrastructure. We have added a Network Access Storage server to backup critical files and data. We are currently reviewing student device needs for 2020-2021 school year and exploring replacement options for Junior & Senior Windows laptops. We have 4 theatrical lights in the auditorium that are not functioning properly. A warranty claim has been filed. The new Aruba wireless access points have been installed in the Secondary School gym and have been working well. Will expand testing to North elementary later this month before full installation during the summer.

Community Education: (Naomi Moerke) – Ms. Moerke reported that STEAM classes are being held at both elementary buildings, Little Knights Basketball will be starting in Feb., open gym will be starting in Barrett and Elbow Lake is currently running on Sundays from 4-6. AARP Defensive Driving class is being offered in Elbow Lake on January 21st from 1-5pm and Hoffman on April 14th from 1-5pm. Other upcoming classes are CPR/First Aid, Babysitting course, Prairie Fire and walking for adults in the mornings from 6:30-8am at all buildings. Preschool screenings at North will be April 2nd and South is March 27th.

Activities Director: (Jacob Foslien) – None

Buildings & Grounds Director: (Pete Amundson) - Mr. Amundson reported custodians are very busy with Saturday events. Organic recycling is working well for the most part, Continued warranty issues for the heat pumps at Secondary School, another coat of finish applied to the gym floor at Secondary School. Some of the roofs at North and South are showing their age, especially the roof around the gym at North which is 31 years old and in poor shape, looking into options to extend it's life.

Elementary School Principal: (Natalie Prasch) – Ms. Prasch reported the end of quarter is January 17 and report cards will go home with students on the 24th. Our pilot of the new math resource has started. Jake Allen is piloting in 2nd grade and Vanessa McNamara is piloting in 7th grade. If the pilot is successful, we will be making a new math purchase for next school year. The second round of non-tenured teacher observations has begun. The district staff development day will focus on peer observation and vertical alignment for the first half of the day. The second half of the day will be for teachers in their classrooms.

Secondary School Principal: (Ms. Knutson) - Ms. Knutson reported the 1st semester has went well. We have been adding students on a regular basis and working daily to meet all of their needs whether they are a student that excels or one that needs extra supports. We will wrap up the semester on the 17th with grades 5-8 on their annual ski trip to Andes and grades 9-12 participating in team activities including a service project to feed the

hungry. We still have no applicants for the Special Education position but will open the position to applicants with an elementary or middle school endorsement. This way the new staff member can take over some of the instruction which will allow for some due process time for our Special Education Teachers. We also are aware that our current math staff will not be able to handle the needs of the students next year without filling the void created by the loss of Mr. Elliott. All grades, other than 11th, will be 3 sections next year. Ms. Knutson also provided a handout with more information on possible changes to grading, failure, eligibility policy.

Business Manager: (Diane Powers) - Ms. Powers reported that we are in year 5 of a 5 year lease for our postage machine. Our rep came to us in December with a proposal for a new lease on new machine. Prices were scheduled to go up again in January and if we signed the paperwork before the 1st of the year, our lease payments would only go up by about \$30/mo. The new machine is here and scheduled for installation on January 22nd. Also, Ms. Powers reported work has started on budget revision and will soon start on the 20-21 budget. Revenue and expenditure budget to actual through Dec 31st was provided and looks good.

Superintendent: (Dale Hogie) - Mr. Hogie reported on inclement weather decisions and mentioned a letter will be posted to our website and Facebook page discussing these decisions. Mr. Sawatzke continues to solicit funds for the construction of a Greenhouse for WCA. There is a greenhouse tour on February 14th at Chisago Lakes and Forest Lake and a representative from AJ Lauer Greenhouse Company will be attending. If interested please see Mr. Sawatzke. Alexandria Technical and Community College has been offering an Introduction to Education course since 2013. WCA has been asked to partner with ATCC and we have six instructors: Mr. Zdrasil, Ms. Nadgwick, Ms. McNamara, Mr. Hunter, and Ms. Engelbrecht that have volunteered. Applicant pools are no longer filled with as many qualified instructors as they previously were. Conversation with Sue Peterson from School Perceptions on January 9th: Major points: 1. Sue indicated there is potential for either Option 1 or 2 to be successful, 2. She stated that the tax impact response has her leaning toward the one-site option, 3. the community is really split, 4. more community work would be needed prior to another survey, 5. She relies more on survey data than on comments - data can be quantified and comments cannot, and 6. Lack of board unification presents a challenge. Mr. Grosz and I met with Zerr-Berg and Gehrtz Construction on January 13th. Brian Berg stressed the importance of providing more visuals that include more data, images, graphs, etc. to allow for comparison of options. Schematic designs of the facility options will be created by Tony Wolf and will lead to the most reliable cost projections and provide everyone an opportunity to see images of what sites may look like. Brian Berg and Steve Gehrtz question the thought of renovating any portion of South or constructing at that site. Administrative team meeting held on January 9th discussed Sue Peterson's presentation. A team consensus is that the School Perception survey was very favorable and provided a great amount of information. Administrative team comments: board members should use the information they have now and decided what direction to go with May election - decision to delay is not a good one, inflation cost will cause future project to cost more, survey respondents provided their perspective - another survey not beneficial, doing nothing is not an option, many things need attention now, administrative team indicated support of option the Board chooses and voters approve. Negotiations for non-teaching staff are set to begin later this month.

New Business:

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Beuckens to approve the leave of absence request for Kayleigh Odegaard. MCU

Motion by Beuckens, seconded by Christenson to approve the resolution accepting donations. Roll Call Vote - Yes 7. MCU

Motion by Sabolik, seconded by Christenson recognize the request from Richard Duncan to continue the leave of absence for the 2020-2021 school year. MCU

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Strunk to approve additional 10 days of summer Agriculture Program provided by West Central Area Schools is awarded an increase equal to 5 days of funding. MCU

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Ulrich to approve the Memorandum of Understanding to compensate teachers who agree to teach or supervise combined sections or classes at \$22.50 per hour. MCU

Discussion:

The Finance Committee meeting date was set for February 5th.

Date needs to be set for Superintendent evaluation & discuss the process.

Discussion was held regarding the building bond referendum and the survey results and comments. Election timeline was also discussed. Additional information needed for going out for a possible August election timeframe. After lengthy discussion it was determined that a special work meeting to discuss would be needed.

Motion by Sabolik, seconded by Christenson, to adjourn. MCU

Sara Strunk - Clerk