

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, August 27, 2018 5:45 PM

Delano Public Schools

Independent School District #879, Delano Minnesota

1. Call to order

A. Record of members present or absent

Members present: A. Johnson, A. Briesemeister, R. Depa, M. Larson, C. Milano and L. Seguin. C. Black arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Members absent: None.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by R. Depa, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Work Session

After discussion at the previous work session about Tiger Activity Center fees, including access for students on free and reduced lunch, D. Johnson shared adjusted rates for those students in grades seven through 12. D. Johnson also shared information about how other districts handle access for students on free and reduced lunch, though she noted that comparisons are difficult because of variations in the facilities. C. Milano thanked D. Johnson for re-examining rates for those students and said she liked the revised proposal. A. Johnson asked why there was a \$20 summer fee for free-and-reduced-lunch students. D. Johnson explained that if students are in a summer program in the TAC they don't pay the membership fee, and use is typically down during the summer. R. Depa asked about accessibility, saying some people have had trouble getting gym space. D. Johnson said activities take priority, and space has been constrained due to the circuit and weight equipment on the courts during the past year. M. Schoen added that a new gym in the intermediate will help increase available space. C. Milano said the track and turf fields are still in lockdown mode. She added that there were too many hoops to jump through in order for students, community members and TAC members to use those spaces. D. Johnson said some students have jumped the fence and avoided security cameras, and the concern is the potential for vandalism. She pointed out that all the other fields are still open, but the turf fields must be kept in good condition. The track is open during specified hours, and there is the potential to expand those hours. A. Briesemeister explained that the committee wanted the track available when other activities associated with the TAC were open, and Sunday was a question mark that depended on tennis or other activities. He said the philosophy was to start slow, gather feedback and see how expansion could occur going forward. C. Milano said she has received feedback from constituents that they are not able to use the facilities after helping to pay for them. D. Johnson said that now the facilities have gone through their first summer, it would be a good time to regather the committee and look at access again. A. Johnson asked what feedback had been received on new TAC rates. D. Johnson said there was none yet, but the rates had just come out.

L. Seguin reported in the POC update that the last item on the wish list, the sound shell for the auditorium, had been approved and would hopefully be ready for the grand opening in November. Discussion on bids for the fire road repairs had begun, and funding options were available. Work could start this fall and finish in the spring. There had been a great deal of talk with the contractor about punch list items at the intermediate building, and landscaping was still being finished. A. Johnson asked if there were any major punch list items. M. Schoen said the student space would be ready. L. Seguin

said there would be some training on the operable walls. M. Schoen said the project budget would be at zero by the end of construction, but punch list items and checks like 11-month walk-throughs would continue well after official construction was complete. In all, he said the project was in good shape and contingency items were accounted for.

M. Schoen also provided a safety update. He explained that each school is applying for state safety grant funds, which could help with projects like the secured vestibules. Each building will operate as it did last year until everything is in place in terms of equipment and protocols. The process would take time, but M. Schoen said it would be best to make sure all was done right. Another safety item is that the Wright County Sheriff's Office is looking at placing an office location at Delano High School, which will increase the security presence before and after school hours. That model is something that could spread countywide and statewide, and M. Schoen said the district is excited about the possibility. Beyond secured vestibules and police presence, M. Schoen said the most effective safety measure is to cultivate strong relationships between students and staff so students feel comfortable talking about issues. R. Depa asked if parents would be notified about the presence of police in the school. M. Schoen said there would be notification after Wright County formally agrees to the arrangement.

M. Schoen briefly discussed research on school board listening sessions. In some cases schools have held listening sessions in conjunction with outside partners, such as the sheriff's office cooperating with Monticello schools on the topic of safety. Such an arrangement might be a good way to first test listening sessions in Delano. Discussion will continue on the matter.

M. Schoen informed the board that action would be needed to finalize the easement for the fiber project. An easement release would also be needed for a foot path that no longer exists. A. Johnson asked about the expense of the fiber cable. M. Schoen said the cost was just under \$100,000 and two or three bids were received. Charter Cable came in with a very reasonable number. M. Larson clarified that the fiber is outside the bond project and the board did not act on it. M. Schoen said the current service is not meeting the needs of the Community Education building, and the cost of installing fiber will be covered within six years. The installation will also allow the use of one phone system for the whole district.

M. Schoen shared information about a bond issue for Wright Tech Center. He said problems were discovered with the Wright Tech building after a minor tuck pointing project was planned. A paint layer had been applied about 10 years ago to deal with a moisture issue in the building, but the paint didn't allow the building to breathe and moisture was trapped within the walls. As a result, steel within the walls was beginning to corrode, especially in the 1972 portion of the building. Repairs are planned, but an original bid of \$170,000 had grown to more than \$650,000 due to the extent of the problem. M. Schoen said the member districts agree that repairs are needed, but funding will be difficult. Wright Tech could deplete its fund balance, or could spend down some savings and also bond. A committee of member districts advised Wright Tech not to spend down its savings completely, but to bond for some of the dollars. The bond won't change the contributions the districts make. Wright Tech will craft resolutions for the districts to allow the bond, which will give authorization up to \$750,000. M. Schoen said that while the district's contribution won't change, Wright Tech will now need to budget for debt service and pay the bond off over the next decade. R. Depa asked if there would be an impact on taxpayers. M. Schoen said there would not, but Wright Tech would have less money available for other projects. A. Johnson asked about safety for the students in the meantime. When the problem was first discovered students were kept out of the building for a week, but Wright Tech has started the school year as planned.

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education called the meeting to recess at 6:26 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Chair M. Larson called the meeting out of recess and to order at 7 p.m.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Program Review - Wellness Committee Update (Steve Schauberger)

S. Schauberger provided a review of the work done by the district's Wellness Committee. In one area, the committee gathered information to see how well the district was complying with Policy 533 and the Hunger Free Kids Act. The main tenants of the policy, he said, were to abide by the Hunger Free Kids Act, nutritional education and promotion, physical activity, and the effective communication of the results. S. Schauberger said the district excelled in food service, nutrition promotion and awareness, and physical activity. There is a healthy absence of gratuitous food and beverage marketing. One action the district took last year was to cut ties with a vending machine provider that did not meet guidelines for healthy snacks. S. Schauberger explained that the committee of 16 members met three times during the year and also discussed mental health and social media, and peer conflict. Each building has developed goals for the next two or three years, and will hope to see progress this year. The elementary, for example, wants to put a wellness tip in each of its newsletters and communicate with parents the choices of snacks that meet the federal guidelines. Another goal was to promote healthy snacks. The intermediate intends to provide activities for students to join on Wednesday mornings that talk about relationships, peer conflict and how to make good choices on social media. The high school is considering health challenges and incentives for students to accomplish healthy tasks, and wants to acknowledge and reward healthy accomplishments. Another idea was a staff incentive program to recognize staff who attend fine arts and sports activities that help build relationships with students.

Milano recommended a wording change and said she loved the creating thinking, and awareness of mental health and social media components. She asked what methods were used to gather data. S. Schauberger said Google Docs were used, as well as conversations with staff. A scope of activities was examined ranging from physical education, Community Education and the Minnesota Department of Education. He added that volunteer groups are filling the vending machine gap until a suitable replacement is found. A. Briesemeister asked why the intermediate's goal included social media, but the high school's did not. S. Schauberger said the high school was aware of that as an issue, but other factors became higher priorities across the range of grades seven to 12.

6. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

A. School Board Minutes

- 1. July 23, 2018**

B. Financial Affairs

- 1. Current Budget Status with Year-to-Date Adjustments**
- 2. Investment Transactions**
- 3. Construction Bond Investment Transactions**
- 4. Wire Transfers**
- 5. Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund**
- 6. Cash Report**
- 7. Revenue Report by Fund**

8. Expense Report by Fund
9. Expense Report by Program
10. Expense Report by Object
11. List of Bills Presented for Payment

7. Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Motion passed 7-0.

8. Personnel Matters

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the consent portion of the Personnel Matters. Motion passed 7-0.

- 9. Public Comment: School patrons are given the opportunity to address the school board regarding items that are not on the agenda. All patrons will be asked to state their name and address for the record. No comments.**

10. Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent

M. Schoen provided an update on the building project. Construction was complete on the intermediate school, and the final projects were underway in the high school and on target to finish by the end of 2018. All bond dollars will be spent when the project is done, but consultants and members of the construction team will remain on site in the months following December to close out the project. Most work has a one-year warranty, so there is an 11-month walk-through planned. M. Schoen said the priority is getting academic areas in use, then focusing on auxiliary sites. M. Schoen said a related item was safety, and that the district is aiming to strike a balance to be both safe and welcoming. A project to create secured vestibules will take time to do right, but is underway. He added that the Wright County Sheriff's Office deputies who patrol Delano are looking at having their office in the high school to increase police presence, a model that could become widespread. M. Schoen reiterated that the best way to ensure safety is for adults in the schools and students to have strong relationships and have conversations before bad situations arise. M. Schoen also explained that the district is entering the fifth year of its five-year Strategic Plan. During the second half of this year administrators will take a look at what is working, what needs to be changed, and what is completed in terms of the four pillars in order to outline the way forward for the next five years. That process, and the completion of the physical building projects, offers an opportunity to study the best ways to continue and create opportunities for students.

B. Principals:

1. Mr. Voight

B. Voight said there was a great deal of excitement surrounding the start of the year at Delano Intermediate, which has been two years in the making, and that there are a lot of things to discover in the months ahead. He said the theme for the staff workshop week has been “Embrace the Discovery.” While staff has been working hard to prepare, he said there are inevitably things will arise that have not been planned for, and that some plans may need to be adjusted in practice. He expected big crowds for the upcoming open house. He thanked the people who have made the school a possibility, and the community for its financial support. He also thanked those who have served on planning committees and consultants from ICS. In particular he thanked staff members Melissa Koch, Debbie Findley and Joe Hitchings for their work in getting the new building running.

2. Dr. Heil

S. Heil said the high school staff is having fun in the midst of challenges to create the new 7-12 high school. Part of the process is creating a new Tiger Way philosophy: Teamwork, Inclusion, Grit, Excellence and Respect. S. Heil said the renovated high school is a beautiful building, and care must be taken to keep it that way. Fall activities had started and S. Heil encouraged people to come out and watch. Big crowds were expected for the open house because of teacher relocations within the high school. In general, S. Heil said students in grades seven through nine were located on the east side of the building, with mixed spaces in the middle and grades 10-12 on the west side. In closing, S. Heil said he was looking forward to a fun year of transition in the high school.

3. Mr. Schuler

D. Schuler said staff has returned to prepare for the year with a great deal of enthusiasm. The departure of fourth grade has allowed staff to purge unused items from their 28-year-old building, and he said that coming back to a re-organized building had been refreshing. D. Schuler said enrollment is currently at about 674 students. Kindergarten and first grade have about 153 students each, while there are around 185 in grades two and three. Grades that have recently departed were in the 200s. From the numbers, D. Schuler said 27 students have moved into the elementary and 22 have left, and the five-student net gain was lower than usual. D. Schuler thanked Lucas Esler and his custodial staff for their work in maintaining the building over the summer months. While there was no construction, the building did host summer school, which included 120 students and 20 staff members. This year every summer school teacher was from the Delano district, which D. Schuler said was very valuable. He also shared about some staff development efforts over the summer.

C. Business Manager

M. Reeder reported that five candidates had filed for four open school board positions. She also said the ad for snowplowing proposals was scheduled for release, and that the preliminary levy will be presented for approval at the September board meeting.

D. Community Education Director

D. Johnson reported that the fall brochure went to the post office earlier in the day, and registration was also open. She said swimming lessons would not be held in the fall because there were not enough teachers during the girls swim season. All efforts were made to secure teachers, she said, including inquiring with other districts. Lessons will begin again in January. She highlighted the middle school play, and the early childhood kick-off event, which is Sept. 24. That event will include a llama petting zoo and llama-related activities. ECFE classes start the next day, on Set. 25. The Baby and Me class will be free this year, and will be taught by Dawn Hilgers. The intent is to introduce more people to the early childhood program early on. Tiger Kids Club and other summer events had concluded. Some of the summer highlights included time at the splash pad and other field trips. In other areas, D. Johnson said fall events like gymnastics and football were getting started, and equipment had been delivered for the weight room and circuit room in the TAC.

11. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO (July 24 minutes)

A. Johnson referred board members to the minutes for a recap of the most recent meeting.

B. Wright Technical Center (August 7 minutes)

A. Briesemeister referred board members to the attached minutes.

12. Old Business

- A. Second read of Policy 613 - Graduation Requirements due to substantive and legal reference changes
Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by C. Milano, the Board of Education approved the second read of Policy 613 – Graduation Requirements. Motion passed 7-0.

13. New Business

- A. Approve resolution for membership in the Minnesota State High School League for 2018-19
Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the resolution for membership in the Minnesota State High School League for 2018-19. Motion passed 7-0.
- B. Approve spring 2019 trip for music students
Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by C. Milano, the Board of Education approved the spring 2019 trip for music students. Motion passed 7-0.
- C. Approve 2018-19 Tiger Activity Center fees
Upon motion by A. Briesemeister, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the 2018-19 Tiger Activity Center fees. Motion passed 4-3. Voted for: A. Briesemeister, L. Seguin, M. Larson, C. Black. Voted against: A. Johnson, C. Milano, R. Depa.

14. Closed session to discuss contract negotiations strategy

Upon motion by M. Larson, seconded by R. Depa, the Board of Education approved closing the meeting to discuss contract negotiations strategy at 7:55 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

15. Adjournment

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by C. Black, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.