

**SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**  
Monday, December 17, 2012 7:00 PM  
**Delano Public Schools**  
Independent School District #879, Delano Minnesota

**1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance**

A. Record of members present or absent:

Members present: A Johnson, P Brasket, C Milano, L Seguin, S Baker, R Durick and C Black

Members absent: None

**2. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

**Motion: Brasket Second: Seguin Vote: 7-0**

**3. Truth in Taxation Hearing and Certification of Final Levy**

Mary Reeder presented an analysis and levy certification recommendation for the 2012 Pay 2013 tax levy, as well as, the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 budget summaries. The levy was certified at \$4,995,715.87, which is \$372,450.91 or 8.06% more than the amount certified last year. This increase was due to the additional \$325 operating levy referendum that was approved during the November 6, 2012 election.

**Motion: Milano Second: Durick Vote: 7-0**

**4. Consent Agenda**

**Motion: Seguin Second: Baker Vote: 7-0**

A. School Board Minutes

1. November 26, 2012 Minutes

B. Financial Affairs

1. Current Budget Status with Year-to-Date Adjustments

2. Investment Transactions

3. Wire Transfers

4. MN Liquid Asset Fund

5. Cash Report

6. Revenue Report by Fund

7. Expense Report by Fund

8. Expense Report by Program

9. Expense Report by Object

10. List of Bills Presented for Payment

11. Donations: 50 - 4 x 6' Whiteboards from Jesi Wytonick-Vaddio; New York Life Foundation Matching Grant for Sonja Schlosser-\$70

A Johnson thanked Jesi Wytonick-Vaddio for the whiteboards, which are already being put up in the Elementary School.

**5. Personnel Matters:**

**Motion: Durick Second: Brasket Vote: 7-0**

A. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

B. Recommendations for Employment

1. Laura Halonen, Community Education TKC Student Aide, effective 12/11/12.
2. Heather LeDoux, Community Education TAC Gymnastics Teacher, effective 11/19/12. New program.
3. Sophie Luoma, Community Education TAC Lifeguard, effective 12/4/12.
4. Bridget Pinoniemi, Community Education TKC Student Aide, effective 12/11/12.
5. Kayla Stevens, Community Education TAC Lifeguard, effective 12/1/12.
6. Amelia Sutherland, Community Education TAC Gymnastics Aide, effective 11/12/12. New program.

C. Contract Changes/Approvals

1. Naomi Stelzer, Community Education Pool Manager, effective 1/1/13 through 5/31/13.
2. Averil Shrode, Community Education Gymnastics Program Coordinator and Coordinator for Midwest Amature Gymnastics Association (MAGA), effective 01/01/13 through 05/31/13. New program.
3. Christy Branes, Districtwide ELL Teacher, increase in FTE to .495 from .38 due to increase student numbers in ELL Program. Effective 11/26/12.

D. Leaves of Absence

**6. 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.**

**7. Administrative Reports**

A. Superintendent

Mr. Schoen noted that this is the final school board meeting for the calendar year and that six board members will be sworn in at the January 7, 2013, organizational meeting that will be held at Delano City Hall. Mr. Schoen reported that a Legislative Forum will be held on January 3, 2013, at 7 PM at the Discovery Center in Buffalo. This forum is a joint effort between cities and schools with a focus on educational issues. Mr. Schoen encouraged all citizens to attend.

B. Principals:

1. Middle School

Mr. Haas reported that the Targeted Services program has started; this program is by invite only and is to help students improve certain math and language arts skills. This program is different from the Homework Help program. Mr. Haas reported that attendance has been good so far. Mr. Haas also reported that last week between 8 AM and 10 AM, the Middle School had Exploratory Time, which is a time they are using to build a feeling of community within the Middle School. The Exploratory Time was used for a Service Project - each teacher led a group made up students from all four grades; some of the projects were making fleece blankets, gathering coats, mittens and scarves for Love Inc, door decorating in the building, letters to veterans and Birthday Party in a Bag for families who are in need of supplies for their child's birthday party. WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) activities this year so far have included an orientation of 5th Graders with 8th Graders, these students occasionally have lunch together, the 8th Grade WEB leaders send encouraging notes to the 5th Graders, and a they saw a movie together.

## 2. High School

Mr. Heil reported that the fire lane has been clear since the signs have been posted. Mr. Heil wanted to personally thank the residents of Delano for no longer parking in the fire lane, as well as, Mike Lindquist, Marty Kittok, Dennis Hanson and Bev Buesgen-Beehler for getting the signs put up. Mr. Heil also reported that the district safety inspector went through the Auditorium and found 12 violations. The district is working on correcting the violations. In addition, Mr. Heil and Mr. Lindquist are meeting with users to set up procedures so that there is a systematic way for all groups to use the auditorium, which will also mean greater accountability for the care of the Auditorium. The Jingle Run is scheduled for Friday at 1:50; anyone who wishes to run can participate with the donation of an unwrapped toy. Mr. Heil stated that the High School staff would like to wish everyone a safe holiday.

Amy Johnson, Board Chair, also congratulated Joe Vieau on his Assistant Principal of the Year nomination.

## 3. Elementary School

Mr. Schuler thanked Jesi, who has a 1st Grade student, and the Vaddio Company for their donations to the Elementary School. Last year, the company donated four teaching podiums to the school and 50 - 4' x 6' whiteboards this year. The whiteboards are being put in the 1st and 2nd Grade classrooms, which still had chalkboards. Mr. Schuler reported that a staff meeting was held at 7:30 AM regarding how to address the Newtown, CT shooting with students if questions arose. Teachers reported to Mr. Schuler that the 3rd and 4th Grade had some conversations, and Ms. Scott, Mr. Lahr, and Mr. Schuler were available to meet with students. The staff will continue to have conversations about safety. Mr. Schuler reported that in the spirit of giving and giving back to the community, the Kindergarten students collected 3,045 diapers and 4,372 wipe, which went to Love Inc to be distributed to moms; the 1st Grade held a Toy Drive, and the toys were given to YAR, who brought them to West Pointe Church in Delano; the 3rd Grade sent Happy Grams to important people in our community and created a Veterans Day Ribbons of Honor to honor the veterans; 2nd Grade held a food drive at Thanksgiving and donated 500 pounds of food and toiletry items to Helping Hands here in Delano. The United Way Campaign was held - 100 employees donated \$8,910 to the Delano-Loretto United Way; some of those funds come back to our schools in the way of grants. The High School raised the most money and will receive a pizza luncheon. Delano Elementary staff also gave gifts to seven families in need; money is raised through a silent auction and those funds are used to purchase clothing and toys for the families.

C. Business Manager

Ms. Reeder reported that due to an improvement in the state's budget outlook during the November forecast, school districts will start to receive 82.5% of their state aid instead of 64.3% in the current year on December 15, 2012; this is retroactive back to July 1, 2012. Ms. Reeder stated that the schools will continue to receive 82.5% even if the February forecast is not favorable for the current and next biennium, unless that is changed by the legislature. If the February forecast is favorable, the state could again increase the state aid shift for schools, which would take effect sometime in March.

D. Community Education Director

Ms. Johnson reported that the final proofing of the brochure is being done and the brochure will be mailed out after Christmas. Old-fashioned Christmas was very successful - over 700 people were counted, but it was thought that actual attendance was higher. Ms. Johnson thanked all of the school groups that were involved. Mixed Blood Theatre will be coming on February 4th at 7 PM to present Dr. King's Dream. Ms. Johnson reported that Tiger Kids Club Family Fun Night was a success; proceeds will be used to purchase additional gym equipment. Tiger Kids Club will be open December 26th through December 28th. ECFE fall classes are coming to an end and winter classes will resume the week of January 7th. YAR hosted a toy drive at the Elementary, High School and Community Ed; all toys will be donated to Love Inc. Adult volunteers are still needed for Destination Imagination; if interested, contact Carley Boll. Officer Eldred presented on Winter Driving Tips to the SHARP students. The Tiger Activity Center will be hosting a Healthy Delano event, and Ms. Johnson thanked all of the athletes who are donating their time. Starting in January, the TAC will open at 7:30 on Saturday mornings.

## 8. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO

A Johnson reported that a meeting was held on November 27th. There was a staffing presentation and a presentation on a Wright Technical Center initiative called PAES Lab. This initiative will focus on junior and senior students; 10 students per class will be offered assessment labs to help determine if students are eligible for employment in areas such as computer technology, construction, and business and marketing. The teacher evaluation process was discussed; trying to

determine what does that process look like for the coop.

**B. Wright Technical Center**

R Durick reported that Dr. Sweet gave a presentation on the Director search. Applications are due on January 31st; the Executive Committee will meet to review applications, interviews will be held on February 20th and 21st; and Board action at the April meeting for a new hire. Mr. Durick noted that the 10th Grade tours were done on December 7th, and that Wright Tech Center is considering bringing back Graphic Arts.

**C. Community Education Advisory Council**

L Seguin reported that there was a meeting on December 6th; a large portion of the meeting was spent on the overview of the audit report. Referendum results were discussed, as well as an update on SEE. The council ended the evening with a cookie exchange.

**D. Schools for Equity in Education (SEE)**

C Milano reported that there was a general membership meeting in November. The 2013 legislative platform was adopted: 1) Equity - need to increase property tax equity, increase equalization aid, re-establish the general ed levy, which was the single fairest levy and 2) Adequacy - Minnesota is failing in its constitutional duty to adequately fund public education. The Per Pupil Amount needs to more accurately reflect cost per pupil. Tom Melcher discussed the education finance taskforce recommendations, which will be presented to Governor Day and state legislators. Ms. Milano stated that the school finance system is broken; there is a great loss of buying power, and the response by the schools is to go out and ask for levies. Ms. Milano also stated that there needs to be geographical equity for students and taxpayer equity - tax burden needs to be uniform throughout the state. One of the taskforce recommendations is an increase to the basic formula - \$253 inflation adjustment and \$300 roll in for referendum revenue. The uniform general education levy would have the same tax effect for all districts and would require a four to six year transition. Ms. Milano urged everyone to go to SEE's website for information and to ask questions.

**E. Delano Area Sports Arena (DASA)**

P Brasket reported that there was a meeting on November 28th. All programs are doing great; new lockers are being built; the program is well run, but the financial reporting continues to suffer. Last Monday, a special meeting was held, and Mark Larson, a CPA and the new school board member, was asked to help get the financial reporting back on track. Mr. Brasket noted that DASA is financially in good shape.

**F. City/School**

C. Black reported there was a meeting with Phil Kern, Derek Schaunsberg and Dale Graunke to discuss student parking on streets because there had been a complaint. Phil suggested the city provide additional signage enforcing street parking restrictions. City street projects that are slotted to begin in the spring were also discussed. The Stahlke neighborhood project will impact the school and traffic flow, so it was decided to wait and start that project after graduation, but this will cause the project to continue into the fall with an anticipated completion date around October 15th. Phil is also working on a grant that would pay for a sidewalk on the trail from Elm Avenue to the school campuses on the east side of Delano Dental. It was also noted that the community is running out of field space, and that if the football field were more usable, it would free up space for other groups. A meeting regarding the parking issue will be held on December 19, 2012, at 7 PM at City Hall.

## **9. Old Business**

## **10. New Business**

A. Approve lease and maintenance agreement for new copiers

Ms. Reeder presented a comparison of copier proposals from four vendors. Ms. Reeder met with the key operators in each of the buildings to find out what their copier needs were and which copier they preferred. All of the operators at the meeting chose the Canon copiers. The board moved to approve the Loffler lease and maintenance agreement for new copiers.

Motion: Seguin Second: Milano Vote: 7-0

B. Lacrosse Agreement Contract & Recommendation

Mr. Lindquist presented information regarding starting Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse teams at Delano High School. The sport would start in the spring 2013 season. About four years ago, the Lacrosse Association presented a letter to Dr. Sweet asking that a state-sanctioned Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse program be started. Under the criteria at that time, it was cost prohibitive, so the association is going with a cost-neutral proposal. Mr. Lindquist did a Title IX survey, and there is a lot of student interest in Lacrosse. There is currently a strong Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse club in place. Mr. Lindquist recommends that in order to run, both programs have to be stable and run together. Due to Title IX constraints, the district cannot run the boys without the girls program. Lacrosse is a growing sport in Minnesota and most of the schools to the east already have teams in place. When the Lacrosse Club was started four years ago, there had been an equal number of teams in clubs and in the MSHSL, but for this spring, that number drops to 8 clubs for girls and 25 clubs for boys, which makes it difficult to schedule games. The association is currently renting space from the school for the sport, so there would not be any additional stress on current field space. The club members and members of the Delano Public Schools staff are interested in coaching the sport. The addition of the sport would be 100% cost neutral to the district; the association will be covering the entire cost of the program, yet it will run like a regular High School athletic program. A four-year contract will be signed on an annual basis. The program will be reviewed at the end of the four years to see whether it could be funded by the district or continue to be funded by the association. Both Mr. Schoen and Mr. Lindquist recommend adding both Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse to the 2012-2013 school year. Superintendent Schoen thanked Damon Kocina for his patience with the process and the thoroughness of the information that has been presented to the school. Mr. Schoen also thanked Mr. Lindquist for his thoroughness and due diligence in facilitating the process.

Motion: Brasket Second: Durick Vote: 7-0

**11. Recognition of Outgoing Board Member**

**Board Chair Amy Johnson presented outgoing board member, Peter Brasket, with a bell as recognition of his service to Delano Public Schools. Carolyn Milano spoke on the board's behalf to thank Peter for his 8 1/2 years of service, noting that Peter never backed down from any hard issues, that he was a strong leader and had strength of character.**

**12. Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

**Motion: Brasket Second: Milano Vote: 7-0**