

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, April 22, 2013 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, C Milano, L Seguin, S Baker, R Durick, C Black and M Larson

Members Absent: None

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion: Seguin Second: Baker Vote: 7-0

3. Program Review - Extended Field Trip Request, Mr. Fitzer

Mr. Fitzer gave a presentation on all the sites and field trips the students would take in Madrid. For most of the trip, the students will stay in Madrid or within 100 miles of Madrid. Mr. Fitzer also shared that the students would be staying in a hotel with chaperones for 3 days and with a host family for 5 days. C. Milano asked about the sizes of the groups that have gone to Spain in the past. 15 students is the smallest and 28 is the largest. A. Johnson asked if this was a yearly trip. No, students travel to Spain every other year. The prerequisites for going to Spain are students have to be in Spanish, be in 11th or 12th grade, and are able to participate in fundraisers. Mr. Fitzer added that it is a wonderful opportunity for him as well.

Motion: Milano Second: Seguin Vote: 7-0

4. Program Review - Special Services Ms. Swartz

Ms. Swartz gave an overview of the Special Education Program. 12.4% of Delano schools students need special services. Delano has the smallest percentage across the MAWSECO Cooperative. All districts have increasing needs for social services, but Delano is still the lowest. Speech and language impairment are the highest services used. Delano serves seven non-public students. Ms. Swartz shared that there are seven school districts in the cooperative to contain costs.

5. Consent Agenda

Motion: Durick Second: Larson Vote: 7-0

A. School Board Minutes

1. March 18, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting

B. Financial Affairs

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

2. Investment Transactions

3. Wire Transfers

4. Minnesota 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

6. Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts

A. Resolution Accepting Donations for Ted May Language Arts Scholarship

Mary Reeder reported on the Ted May Scholarship and all the gifts that are listed in the resolution.
A. Johnson accepted the resolution.

Motion: Milano Second: Baker Vote: 7-0

B. Resolution for Acceptance of Other Gifts Received by the District

Motion: Baker Second: Durick Vote: 7-0

7. Personnel Matters: Acknowledged contract/lane changes as they show our teachers furthering their education for the betterment of our students. Congratulated all staff for furthering their education.

Motion: Baker Second: Larson Vote: 7-0

A. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

1. Gayle Litfin, DMS Paraprofessional, retirement effective 07-31-13. In Delano Schools for 29 years.
2. Claire Austin, DMS Special Education Teacher, resignation effective 06-05-13.
3. Natasha Goudy, DMS Special Education Teacher, resignation effective 06-05-13.
4. Caroline McCoy, DHS Math Teacher, on family leave during 2012-13 school year, resignation effective 03-15-13.
5. Jessica Paul, DMS Special Education Teacher, resignation effective 06-05-13.
6. Mary Zelko, DES Health Office Professional, resignation effective 04-12-13.
7. Ryan Hayes, Tiger Activity Center, resignation effective 04-28-13.
8. Jessica Nelson, Tiger Activity Center, resignation effective 04-22-13.
9. Sean Roff, DHS JV Boys Soccer Coach, resignation effective at the end of the 2012-13 season.

B. Recommendations for Employment

1. Amy Buth, DHS Special Education Teacher, effective 08-27-13. Replaces Kristine Cruikshank who resigned.

2. Amanda Roff, DMS Mathematics Teacher, effective 08-27-13. Replaces Desiree Helstrom who was on family leave during 2012-13 and resigned on 03-03-13.
3. Alex Mankowski, Tiger Activity Center, effective 04-13-13. Replaces Ryan Hayes and Jessica Nelson who resigned.
4. Sean Roff, DHS Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, effective for the 2013-14 school year. Replaces Amy Glitsos who resigned.
5. Todd York, DMS 7th Grade Softball, effective 04-01-13. Replaces Jake Dorsey who resigned.

C. Contract Changes/Approvals

1. Claire Austin, DMS Special Education, Lane Change from BA+30 to BA+45, effective 03-20-13.
2. Katherine Berggren, DES Grade 4, Lane Change from BA+15 to BA+30, effective 03-20-13.
3. Amy Glitsos, DHS Special Education, Lane Change from BA+45 to BA+60, effective 03-20-13.
4. Kiz Gorham, DMS Grade 7 Mathematics, Lane Change from BA+30 to BA+45, effective 03-20-13.
5. Rachel Kunde, DMS Language Arts, Lane Change from BA+15 to BA+30, effective 03-20-13.
6. Rob Luke, DHS Language Arts, Lane Change from MA to MA+15, effective 03-20-13.
7. Jeremy Wenzel, DHS Social Studies, Lane Change from BA+30 to MA, effective 03-20-13.

D. Leaves of Absence

1. Heidi O'Donnell, DMS Language Arts, requesting family leave beginning 09-03-13 through 10-16-13.
2. Tammy Mathiowetz, DES Special Education, requesting family leave beginning 09-09-13 through 12-20-13.

8. 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.

9. Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent

Mr. Schoen reported that the Minnesota Legislature is in high gear. The house education bill represents a 500 million dollar increase in state funding for public schools. He also reported that all the bills before the House and Senate must be passed by May 20, which is the constitutional deadline. Mr. Schoen is hoping for passage of a bill that would benefit all students in the state of Minnesota. SEE is still working on equalizing funding for all schools across the state in which Mr. Schoen and board members are a part of. Mr. Schoen reported that there was a Strategic Planning meeting on Monday, April 22, and all the survey responses were calculated and presented to the Strategic Planning Committee. He also announced that on Wednesday, May 15, there will be a Strategic Planning Parent/Community meeting at Delano City Hall beginning at 6 pm and he asked that all individuals in the community attend and bring suggestions for the betterment of Delano

B. Principals:

1. Ms. Klinkner

Ms. Klinkner reported that it was Volunteer Appreciation Week and that she wanted to thank all those individuals that give their time and talents to Delano Middle School. She reported that the middle school held a Welcome Meeting for 4th grade parents, preparing them for what their student can expect when they come to 5th grade next year. Ms. Klinkner also reported that the DARE graduation was held for 5th graders and all students received a certificate showing their completion of the program and their pledge to stay drug-free. DMS will be holding pre-registration for 7th and 8th graders to take self-enrichment courses instead of music classes. This is an action research project as the middle school investigates different ways of scheduling.

2. Dr. Heil

Dr. Heil reported that the high school will be re-tooling school committees for the 2013-14 school year and the Site Base Committee will take over management of these committees. He is working on enhancing school leadership through the use of students in each grade. The current STEM program will be evolving to STEAM, which will include the Arts. Mr. Heil also reported on the Curriculum Committee and their move to making curriculum a "living document" instead of revisiting curriculum every few years. He wants to keep curriculum completely aligned with tests and staff. The Technology Committee is working on determining what technology our schools need and what teachers need to implement it. Activities Director, Mike Lindquist, has been working on rescheduling spring sports, with safety being the top concern. Mr. Heil noted that academics and the well-rounded child is our focus. Teachers are behind in their classes this year because of snow days, and other activities that pull students out of class. Due to this situation, seniors will be in school May 28 and 29.

3. Mr. Schuler

Mr. Schuler reported that DMS held Kindergarten Round-Up and 160 students attended with their parents. Conferences were held in March and 98% of parents attended conferences. He thanked the parents for their attendance. Mr. Schuler stated that MCA Math and Reading tests are beginning, and they feel despite the loss of a few days due to snow, the students are prepared. He continued to share that the Tiger Fun Fair had the largest attendance in history, and that Jennifer Grant and her family are looking to pass the torch to head up this event. There were over 200 volunteers including parents, NHS students, and athletes from DHS having a great time. Mr. Schuler offered a big thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered. A. Johnson interjected that this all helps with the spirit of Delano Public Schools. On April 13, Paul Ludwig and Darren Schuler visited Watertown Schools to observe and learn about their one-to-one iPad initiative. In a report from Mr. Lahr, the Art Fair wrapped up, there were 150 pieces of art, and there was good attendance. In addition, DES students celebrated Earth Day and each of the students received an herb garden compliments of Landscape Structures. DES Nurse Mary Zelko resigned and a new ES nurse was hired and the board still needs to approve this new hire. Mr. Schuler expressed that Mary had a special talent working with students and parents and we would like to thank her for her seven years of service and wish her well in her future endeavors.

C. Business Manager

M. Reeder reported that Delano Public Schools received the 2013 Finance Award from the Minnesota Department of Education. Out of 511 school districts that were up for this award, 414 received it. The budget for FY13-14 is presently being discussed by the school board.

D. Community Education Director

D. Johnson began by thanking the Delano-Loretto United Way for their generous support of CE programs. She went on to say that the CE summer brochure will be mailed the week of April 22. D. Johnson shared that summer registration for Tiger Kids Club is now open and early bird registration ends April 25. Fall registration is also open, with the Fall Information and Registration Night on May 7. ECFE classes resumed the week of April 1, and CE is marketing to families with new babies in hopes they will participate in the parent-child class in May. The open house, information and registration night for the 2013-14 school year was held March 12 and there was a good turn out with 75 children registered to date. The Wee Tiger Preschool and School Readiness programs received a 4 Star Parent Aware ranking by MDE and the Department of Human Services. This was achieved after a year-long process of training staff, documenting and writing the program application. These are grant monies from Wright County that are available in 2014 and will follow the child. D. Johnson shared that the 2013-15 School Readiness Plan was written and submitted to the MDE and DHS. D. Johnson stated that the final dates for Early Childhood Health and Development Screening for the 2012-2013 school year were held on April 4 and 5. She also shared that Youth as Resources (YAR) received a \$1,000 grant from Delano-Loretto United Way. YAR is holding a highway clean-up on May 15 for Randy's Sanitation and they also granted \$190.00 to Allison Warne for a fleece blanket project. D. Johnson reported that 7 of the 10 Destination ImagiNation teams advanced to the state competition, and four of those teams are going to Global Finals at the end of May. In addition, 11 SHARP students completed the Teens Against Tobacco Use training in March. CE Swimming Lessons have 173 students enrolled this spring and the Beverly Folk Dancing Group added Delano as a new location for our residents to participate.

10. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO

A. Johnson was unable to attend. They discussed Trek program and she will receive more information about Trek.

B. Wright Technical Center

R. Durick reported that WTC has a preliminary budget for next year. They will be replacing the administrative finance position and there will be some reorganization with positions. Recommendation from superintendent is to post position and get the director an assistant. New director will begin in July. Delano projecting 58 students to use WTC during the 2013-14 school year. Began looking at budget for next year and their goal is to spend down fund balance to match their 2010-11 balance. M. Schoen added that more students utilized WTC because of the addition of Certified Programs.

C. Curriculum Advisory Council

Meeting is Thursday, April 25

D. Schools for Equity in Education (SEE)

M. Schoen, S. Baker, H. Lewis and J. Sweet represented Delano Schools at SEE Day at the Capitol. Representatives from Dassal-Cokato and Kassen-Manorville were also in attendance. They spoke to

legislators about the inequity in funding in the state of Minnesota and were advocating for equalized funding for public schools in Minnesota. S. Baker stated that their voices will be heard in the next 2-3 weeks, so please write to your legislators. S. Baker quoted M. Schoen from his recent superintendent's letter in the Delano Herald Journal that the annual tax in property wealthy districts is three times higher than in Delano, which is property poor. S. Baker stated that this inequity can impact students vying for college and job placement. This issue impacts students as well as every tax paying citizen. C. Milano provided the SEE website to patrons with additional questions. She also shared that we always hear about the achievement gap, but not about the opportunity gap. SEE fights for the opportunity gap and the SCOY language represents equalization in funding. 1993 was the last time funding was equalized in the state of Minnesota.

E. Delano Area Sports Arena (DASA)

Election of officers took place and Kevin Voss will stay on as President. A listing of projects will be brought to the next meeting.

F. Safe Schools

S. Baker reported that truancy is up in Delano and usually goes up in the spring. Law enforcement from Wright County, city representatives and school officials work collaboratively to promote and increase safety for students.

G. Staff Development

C. Milano reported that an additional staff development day is being investigated for next year. How we train and support our teachers is important, as great teachers create great students. She believes that teachers need to continue to work together to come up with the best practices for our district.

H. City/School

L. Seguin reported that the task force recommends better managing of our facilities due to growth in facility use. Changes to our scheduling practices, fee schedule and the movement of our process to online system to help take some of the emotion out of the process. She stated that they recommend changing from a tier to a priority system and also base scheduling on seasonal activities. Fees should allow for out-of-pocket expenses and maintenance fees. To offset this change, there will not be any new activities added. L. Seguin also shared that they are evaluating street assessments for Tiger Drive with the City of Delano.

11. Old Business

12. New Business

A. Surplus Property

J. Strobl - recumbant bike and will recycle.

Canoe - in need of repair, will go out for bids per Marty Kittok.

Motion: Baker Second: Milano Vote: 7-0

B. Approve New District Dental Insurance Carrier

Representatives from all groups in the district who have dental insurance were invited to meet and discuss dental quotes from three carriers. Employees will save just under \$200 for changing to Delta Dental. The coverage for employees will remain exactly the same.

Motion: Durick Second: Larson Vote: 7-0

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Motion: Seguin Second: Baker Vote: 7-0