

# **SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

Monday, April 27, 2015 5:48 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, C. Milano, L. Seguin, S. Baker, R. Durick, and M. Larson

Members Absent: C. Black

### **2. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by M. Larson, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed.

### **3. Work Session**

**R. Kunde shared information about the 2015-16 Washington D.C./New York trip that is offered for 8th graders at Delano Middle School. Currently there are 16 families interested in the trip and four students that are registered. M. Schoen added that information is being shared early in preparation for next year's trip. S. Heil and J. Vieau shared proposed changes for the DHS 2015-16 Student Handbook. M. Schoen reviewed changes to Policies 532, 709, 205, 406, 421, and 618. M. Schoen reviewed plans for special school board meeting on Thursday, April 30. He asked that the board sharpen their focus on specific details for the fall bond referendum. He added that Vaughn Dierks and Peter Leatherman will be in attendance. Vaughn will provide cost specific details for facility plans and bond referendum question(s) will be discussed. M. Schoen shared information regarding his conversation with Wally Johnson regarding the Delano Gun Club. M. Schoen and the Board discussed transparency with all information for district stakeholders. M. Reeder shared information regarding the Health Insurance Transparency Act (HITA). She added that district office staff members and teacher's union representatives opened health insurance bids on Friday, April 24. On Monday, May 11, district representatives will do a cost comparison with M. Beltz, and make a decision on health insurance provider.**

Upon motion by M. Larson, seconded by R. Durick, the Board of Education called the meeting to recess at 6:47 p.m. Motion passed.

A. Johnson called the meeting out of recess and to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **5. Program Review - SciTech (Steve Heil)**

**S. Heil shared a video highlighting SciTech 2015. There were 1200+ attendees, 26 companies, 16 post secondary institutions, and Delano teachers and students who helped make SciTech successful. In addition, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted schools joined SciTech this year. S. Heil shared that some companies in attendance hired summer interns and spoke to students about opportunities during the school year and educational benefits. Post secondary schools in attendance were able to share the broad scope of degrees that supported student interests. Sil-Pro prepared food for attendees and there were donated prizes given away to registered guests. S. Heil spoke about the impact guest speaker, Jo**

**Reinhardt, made on students as she shared her trials and triumphs as a female in business. He added that they are in the planning stages for the 2016 SciTech Showcase.**

**6. Consent Agenda**

**Upon motion by R. Durick, seconded by S. Baker, the Board of Education approved the consent agenda. Motion passed.**

**A. School Board Minutes**

1. March 16, 2015
2. March 19, 2015
3. April 8, 2015
4. April 14, 2015

**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

**7. Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts**

**Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by C. Milano, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for the Acceptance of Gifts. Motion passed.**

**8. Personnel Matters:**

**Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by M. Larson, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Matters. Motion passed.**

**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.**

**Rachel Depa - parent  
524 W. River Road  
Delano**

**R. Depa shared statistics and facts about class size and how it affects student learning. She asked Board the procedure of hiring an extra teacher and who is in charge of this decision. She expressed that large class sizes stretch teachers beyond their capabilities in the classroom and affects instruction and discipline. A. Johnson explained the staffing process. M. Schoen also explained the process and offered to meet with parents individually to discuss all aspects of decisions regarding teacher staffing and budgetary constraints.**

**Brad Felknor - Parent  
638 Country Lane  
Delano**

**Brad expressed concern with his 3rd grader's progress this year and asked if the Board and M. Schoen had looked at the test scores. He then asked who made the final decisions with staffing issues.**

**Steve Rogers  
196 Raymond Ave.  
Delano**

**S. Rogers expressed that he is the parent of a 2nd grader. He believes that when there are deficits in a school's system, parents would like the opportunity to help. S. Rogers stated that schools and parents need to work together to accomplish goals.**

## **10. Administrative Reports**

### **A. Superintendent**

M. Schoen expressed disappointment in legislative budget proposals. He shared that the state of Minnesota has a 1.9 billion surplus, and approximately 157 million or less than 1% is being allotted for education. He added that schools need more money for the general fund and less categorical aid. M. Schoen asked parents and community members to contact legislators, senators and state representatives to encourage equitable funding for school districts.

### **B. Principals:**

#### **1. Ms. Klinkner**

Ms. Klinkner reported that students are taking MCA tests, although MCA shut down testing for a day, fixed the problems, and extended the testing window. She added that the DMS Student Council and advisor Mr. Schramel should be commended for all the accomplishments they have achieved during the 2014-15 school year. DMS PIE, through fundraising efforts has provided support through donated chromebooks, winter activity day funds, sound systems, staff meals, a water fountain, and Destination ImagiNation funds. R. Klinkner stated that volunteering in the middle school is geared towards events, not individual classroom help. She added that the year will finish with the 5th grade LLCC field trip and band/choir concerts.

#### **2. Dr. Heil**

Dr. Heil reported that 11th graders will take the ACT test on April 28. Students should receive the results of their ACT test in 5-6 weeks. This is a state mandated test in MN and 11 other states require this as well. In addition, students are beginning to take MCA tests, and AP tests will take place in May. Dr. Heil added that Senior Honors Night will be on Wednesday, May 6. In addition, choir and band concerts will culminate in May. Dr. Heil stated that Prom was successful and the Mock Car Crash that preceded Prom helped educate students about distracted driving due to alcohol use and texting. It also helped students see the number of first responders who attend to car accidents. He expressed that this presentation helped open communication lines about this subject at home.

#### **3. Mr. Schuler**

Mr. Schuler reported 3rd and 4th graders are on week three of MCA testing. He added that the Adventure Club meets every Monday afternoon for 1st through 4th graders. Adventure Club provides academic help, social time and the curriculum corresponds to summer school. Mr. Schuler shared that the DES Art Fair was on Thursday, April 23. There were 304 projects, 11 Awards of Merit and 14 Best in Show awards presented. He thanked staff for organizing and judging this event. Mr. Schuler shared school wide student Earth Day activities that centered around recycling. Mr. Schuler encouraged parents and students to sign up for the Tiger Dash, which will be held on May 30. He added that year-end 1st and 2nd grade concerts will be held in the Delano Performing Arts Center in May and the classes will be split up into two performances. Mr. Schuler stated that Mr. Lahr has taken a principal job in St. Michael-Albertville and they have begun the process of looking for his replacement. There are 51 applicants thus far and site interviews will take place on May 18.

C. Business Manager

Ms. Reeder reported that the district is in the final stages of the HITA process. Members of the district staff and teachers union opened insurance bids on Friday, April 24. She added that on Monday, May 11, the insurance committee, Mark Beltz, and individual union representatives will meet to compare bids and bring plan to the Board for approval. Ms. Reeder added that Bread and Milk bids will also be presented to the Board for approval in May.

D. Community Education Director

Ms. Johnson reported that the summer brochure was mailed April 17. She added that registration is open for summer programming and Tiger Kids Club is filling up. Ms. Johnson stated that Cherub Corner is closing and families looking for childcare is impacting enrollment at community education. She added that Destination ImagiNation sent 10 teams to the state tournament and five teams qualified for Global Finals in Knoxville, TN. Ms. Johnson shared that Reading Corps benchmarking has began at ECFE and Early Childhood Education Screening is completed for 2014-15. Ms. Johnson expressed concern for the state's pre-k early learning scholarship program because Delano only qualifies for pathway one which families can only access through the state, this differs from pathway two, where money goes directly to school district. She stated that a child's access to education should not be determined by where they live in the state, but it currently does due to inequality in educational funding.

## 11. Student Board Representatives Report

A. Abbey Hutchins and Thomas Grover

Abbey Hutchins reported that the ES Art Fair was successful and the students were proud of presenting their artwork to the community. She added that elementary students she spoke with were nervous for MCA testing, but felt the teachers prepared them well. A. Hutchins expressed that the high school Mock Car Crash, which happens every two years, brings awareness to students about distracted driving and the student body was thankful for the individuals who organized and performed in the event. She also stated that students in high school are at different maturity levels, so each student reacts differently to an event like this. Overall, she said it made an important impact on the students. A. Hutchins shared that band and choir had ensemble contests and one Delano singer, Eliza Elwood, achieved a Best in Contest Award. She added that the Take Note Boosters Night helped raise funds for Delano's Music Boosters and supports music initiatives in the district. This event also gives students a chance to perform the piece they performed at contest to a larger group. A. Hutchins reported that the DHS musical Urinetown was well attended. T. Grover reported on SciTech and how it is a great opportunity for those students looking to go to a two year or technical school. He shared information about the Germany and China student trips. This year's China trip had a new itinerary which exposed students to more of the country to experience more diversity. T. Grover suggested that DHS organize more activities for the Chinese students when they visit

Delano. This would expose them to more of Delano and surrounding areas to help students expand their knowledge of America. He shared that middle school MCA testing is beginning, a Rubik's Cube Tournament was held, and recruitment for WEB leaders has begun. T. Grover reported that students preferred MCA testing on computers vs. pencil/paper because the process is faster.

## **12. Board Reports**

### **A. MAWSECO**

A. Johnson reported Board met on April 24. They discussed special education contracts, health insurance, HITA process and reviewed policies. She added that bids are back for facility upgrades and will be discussed at April 28 meeting.

### **B. Wright Technical Center**

R. Durick reported Board met on April 7. He shared the center created an acronym, The RIGHT Way, for marketing the center. R. Durick shared that WTC is accepting applications for CEO class, the Board is looking to include students from each member district, but the applications will be chosen blindly. He stated that WTC is refinancing their building lease and the Youth Apprenticeship Program is growing with seven students from five districts and one is from Delano. R. Durick shared that WTC offers nine programs, and credits earned are for high school and accepted by most post secondary institutions.

### **C. Schools for Equity in Education (SEE)**

C. Milano reported their meeting was on April 24. She stated the legislature is looking at less than a 1% increase in school funding and there is a disparity in opportunity and funding statewide. C. Milano shared that educational economics were discussed, demographics were analyzed and statewide trends were exposed. She expressed that the demographics show growth in the third tier surrounding Minneapolis, which tends to include districts that are underfunded. C. Milano asked parents and community members to contact legislators and encourage them to increase educational funding this bienium to 3%.

### **D. Delano Area Sports Arena (DASA)**

M. Larson reported Board met week of April 20. He shared they focused on the status of the summer rental of facility and how this will impact the revenue for DASA.

### **E. Safe Schools**

S. Baker reported they met on April 16. She shared membership of Safe Schools Committee. S. Baker expressed that focus of Safe Schools is mental health concerns and how it impacts students school experience. She added that committee members are seeing children under the age of 10 impacted by mental health issues which is younger than seen in the past. S. Baker stated that this impacts school attendance. She added that law enforcement is looking at revising childhood protection laws and how they pertain to schools.

### **F. Professional Development**

C. Milano reported they met on April 21. She shared they discussed the allotment and allocation of professional development time during the 2015-16 school year. C. Milano also stated they talked about Google Education training and technology.

## **13. Old Business**

## **14. New Business**

- A. First and only read of policies due to non-substantive and/or legal reference changes: Policy 532-Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds and Policy 709-Student Transportation Safety Policy.

**Upon motion by R. Durick, seconded by S. Baker, the first and only read of Policy 532 and Policy 709 due to non-substantive and/or legal reference changes was approved. Motion passed.**

- B. First read of policies due to substantive and/or legal reference changes: Policy 205-Open Meetings and Closed Meetings, Policy 406-Public and Private Personnel Data, Policy 421-Gifts to Employees and School Board Members, and Policy 618-Assessment of Student Achievement.

**Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by M. Larson, the first read of Policy 205, Policy 406, Policy 421 and Policy 618 due to substantive and/or legal reference changes was approved. Motion passed.**

**15. Adjournment**

**Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by S. Baker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.**