

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, January 22, 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, C. Black, A. Briesemeister, C. Milano and L. Seguin. R. Depa arrived at 5:47 p.m.

Members Absent: M. Larson

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda after removing the Student Board Representatives Report and adding a Schools for Equity in Education board report. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Work Session

Superintendent M. Schoen shared information about the Q-Comp memorandum of understanding, explaining that it was bringing language up to date with current practice. The MOA had mostly not been updated since the program began in 2006. Teacher M. Gibas also shared about some of the changes made. M. Schoen explained the internal review process.

Board members also discussed the open enrollment resolution. M. Schoen said the district's demographic study was accurate, and the new building will be close to capacity next year. Grades five and six will be full, and fourth grade will have seven sections. M. Schoen said that due to space the district keeps enrollment fairly tight, at two students per grade or 1 percent, but that the district has traditionally kept kindergarten and preschool open. He explained that the resolution was the same language as in the past, with a few updates. C. Black said a perception is that Delano has hundreds of open enrolled students. M. Schoen said about 14 percent of the student population is open enrolled, and that some resident families go elsewhere. Delano brings in about 150 more students than go out, roughly 400 to 250. M. Reeder said that tax revenue follows the students. C. Black asked if students within the district are the priority, and M. Schoen said that is the case, and that the district allows what it can in terms of open enrollment.

L. Seguin reported that the POC Committee did not meet over the holidays. She said the soil borings for the diving well came out the way it was hoped they would, and as a result the higher quality flooring will be used in the high school. C. Black clarified that the flooring type had to be determined in December, so the decision had to be made at that time. A. Briesemeister asked if some contingency funds remained, and L. Seguin said there were still funds available that are looked at every month. There is also a list of priorities for what can be done with available funds. M. Schoen said work at the secondary building will likely proceed right to the end of August, and work on non-essential facilities like the weight room might be slightly delayed in order to make sure priorities are ready for the new school year. He said the new floor areas would be closed in portions over the summer to maintain access to the Tiger Activity Center, and that remaining contingency funds will be utilized carefully. He added that the district office staff members are now working out of their new location.

Board members discussed the DASA lease agreement. M. Schoen explained that the lease agreement had to be amended to run a gas pipe from the front of the ice arena to the new locker rooms in the back of the building. The gas service was already operational, but the action was needed for proper documentation. A. Johnson explained that the agreement was in place to protect DASA and its interests, because there had been a verbal agreement that if the line ever had to be moved the district would pay for it. The amendment to the agreement put that into writing so the matter does not become a problem in future years if the people who negotiated the agreement are no longer involved.

Board members discussed support for a pair of special education funding resolutions. L. Seguin said the resolutions would increase the chances of special education being fully funded. A. Johnson said she represents the area on a delegate assembly and said the assembly has made a big push for the special education resolutions this year. A. Johnson also said the assembly has pushed for support of the land trust issue and shared background information about the appointment of a director to lead that effort.

L. Seguin suggested possible changes to the role of the board's student representatives, saying she heard a number of ideas on the topic at a conference. She said student representatives for other boards have participated in work sessions and special meetings to gain a greater understanding of the issues, and were better able to make their voices heard in those settings. She asked if other board members had opinions about inviting Delano's student representatives to the workshops. C. Milano said she was in favor of the idea. C. Black said he was open to it, but said he would like to hear a proposal from the students on how their participation on the board could evolve. L. Seguin said that instead of simply hearing their formal presentation during each board meeting she would like to invite the students to have a voice in workshop meetings, which she said would be more valuable to the students and board members alike. A. Johnson said a previous concern of students was that they would not be able to commit much time outside of the actual meeting, but said the opportunity could be offered. M. Schoen said the language of the student representative policy could be reviewed and was probably due for an update. A. Briesemeister said the opportunity would better promote lifelong learning and said it could spark an interest in government. L. Seguin said students could also be asked if they had suggestions for the workshop agenda.

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by R. Depa, the Board of Education called the meeting to recess at 6:40 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Program Review - Activities Update (Activities Administrator)

Activities Administrator Mike Lindquist presented information on activities at Delano Public Schools. Last year included nearly 30,000 bus miles and 400 games. This year he conducted a student survey to look at what is offered and what students might be interested in adding. Students in grades 7-12 took the survey, and 372 students completed it. Of the students completing the survey, 59 percent were girls and 40 percent were boys. M. Lindquist told the board that about 84 percent of students said they were involved in at least one activity throughout the year. Not as many participated during the winter season because the teams are smaller. There was significant interest in starting a volleyball team for boys, and also in starting a Nordic or Alpine skiing program. M. Lindquist said there is significant value in participation because the activities are an extension of the classroom. He said that more important than wins and losses are the life lessons students learn in perseverance, how to work together, planning, time management and more.

M. Lindquist said it has been a challenge attracting coaches and officials to open positions. The Minnesota State High School League offers professional development opportunities and requirements

for all coaches, which helps to create a common language and philosophy. M. Lindquist said there is a need for younger people to get involved in coaching and officiating because those groups are currently an aging population. M. Lindquist also gave an overview of the Wright County Conference, explaining that there are 14 total schools and in certain sports the larger and smaller schools separate into East and West divisions. Sports medicine and training services were also highlighted. Professional trainers only covered football and boys' hockey in the past, but that has changed so that injury care and management are now available on a general basis.

An overview of the fall sports season and the new outdoor facilities was included. M. Lindquist said the turf fields changed the landscape of practices and games, and said he wanted to express gratitude and excitement about the facilities because players and coaches knew they would have a good, safe playing surface regardless of the weather. M. Lindquist said there were many compliments from visiting teams on the new facilities, and that the natural surface fields also improved this year because they did not sustain as much wear and tear as in the past. M. Lindquist said that in the previous year it took 10 days to make up girls soccer games because of wet field conditions, but no games were moved or canceled this year due to wet fields.

C. Black said it was good to acknowledge the new facilities that taxpayers have provided, and said the facilities did turn out very well. He asked how a new sport would get started. M. Lindquist said there was an administrative procedure that involved starting a club team first, then answering questions about whether the conference offered the sport, what numbers there are, and if it is sustainable. He said lacrosse was a club sport for eight years before it became a school sport. At present there are about 40 boys volleyball teams in the metro and a club league is going to start with the plan of eventually bringing the sport to the Minnesota State High School League.

C. Black also asked if the school is gaining ground on the shortage of coaches. M. Lindquist said the coaching shortage was likely due to more than questionable fan behavior, and may be more of an overall cultural shift. He said school sports now have to compete with various other leagues and traveling teams, and students might start younger and quit earlier due to burnout. In addition, he said there was no shortage of officials when the economy was bad because people were looking to earn extra money.

6. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

A. School Board Minutes

1. December 18, 2017
2. January 8, 2018 Organizational Meeting

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 C. Black, seconded by C. Milano, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Motion passed 6-0.

8. Personnel Matters:

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the consent portion of the Personnel Matters. Motion passed 6-0.

- 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 shared a brief update on building projects, saying that the district offices have moved to the southeast portion of the middle school. The new location provides a secure entrance, and M. Schoen said everything is now operational in the new office. While some adjustments were needed, M. Schoen said other teachers and administrators have handled the transitions very well this school year.

B. Principals:

1. Mr. Voight

B. Voight reported that a second round of FAST testing, a monitoring tool for reading and math, was recently completed and will provide data for planning student supports and for identifying students who are ready for advancement. B. Voight said the screening is done three times a year to assess progress and provide data before MCA testing. This is the second year that FAST testing has been used. Results are given in four achievement levels, with the College Pathway level indicating that students will be ready for college when the time comes. While administrators are still learning the nuances of how the FAST scores relate to the MCAs, he said those students in the low risk or College Pathway areas generally do quite well. In terms of reading, B. Voight said that about 89 percent of the students who took the FAST assessment were on track to meet the standard in the MCA test. In math, B. Voight said students in advanced math are not assessed, but 84.5 percent of students in grades five through eight still were on track to meet the MCA standard in the spring.

B. Voight also explained that signups for Winter Activity Day were completed, and efforts were taken to make sure no student was going to hold back from a trip or be overly selective due to financial cost. He said it was strongly emphasized that scholarships were available, but did not know how many scholarships had been awarded. B. Voight also said the rest of the school year should be relatively stable from a construction standpoint in the middle school, and that preparation for Delano Intermediate School is entering its home stretch. Parents and community members can expect that another information meeting will be held at the end of March or in early April. Parent presentations for every grade level in the intermediate school will be held at the August open house that will explain all that the intermediate has to offer.

A. Briesemeister asked if the FAST testing is done within regular classrooms. B. Voight said it is an efficient test and that reading and math both only take around 25 minutes. Teachers are able to administer the test during the course of their regular day.

2. Dr. Heil

S. Heil reported that registration season would be beginning soon, and that advisories were planned to help students get started. He said about 80 percent of incoming ninth-graders attended the information meetings. S. Heil also said that work was underway to build the schedule for grades seven and eight, which will be separate from the schedule for grades 9-12. A full-time art teacher will be added for grades seven and eight, and there will be additional opportunities. S. Heil said that a goal is to increase the number of students taking different electives over time in order to provide a well-rounded education. Efforts were also being made to finalize the 7-12 handbook and make it cohesive so the building functions well as a 7-12 space.

S. Heil also shared concerns about an uptick in vaping infractions. He said that when students are confronted they say vaping, even with nicotine, is not at all like a cigarette, and feel that it does not have the same health risks. A community health nurse was working to start a vaping group for students who want to quit but are finding it hard to stop. S. Heil said he is also working with health professionals within the school, and that the age of users continues to get younger. S. Heil said it is important to get resources to parents who may not know what is happening with their students. A. Johnson asked if vaping was occurring on campus in general or inside school buildings during class hours. S. Heil said it has happened everywhere, including buses and vehicles, inside and outside buildings, and on the athletic fields. S. Heil said vaping is an MSHSL infraction, and the practice is becoming more popular.

C. Black asked if there is any energy building around use of the new Performing Arts Center. S. Heil said a number of community members have approached M. Schoen, but a formal group has not yet been formed to set up its opening with a multi-use series of shows to demonstrate its flexibility. M. Schoen said the district would like to see sustainability in groups coming in to do concerts, and that there are people in the community with good connections. He said the plan is to look at doing a weekend of multiple types of programs. C. Black said he would like to see high-quality events for all ages in the community.

3. Mr. Schuler

D. Schuler reported that the elementary school recently finished its winter conferences, and that it is always nice to connect to the parent community and set the tone for the second half of the year. He said FAST testing and other assessments have been done that provide good data to inform interventions in grades one through four. D. Schuler said the theme for January was grit, which has been a popular theme for teachers over the years, but is now translating to classrooms as a whole. D. Schuler said February is “I Love to Read” Month, which will culminate with a reading carnival put on by the physical education staff and language arts community. Other events during the month include the Olympics Opening Ceremony, which is something most students only get to do once in their elementary career. D. Schuler closed by noting that it was Paraprofessional Appreciation Week. He said paras at the elementary do an outstanding job of working with challenging students and make a tremendous impact.

C. Business Manager

M. Reeder reported that the district will be going out for lawn mowing proposals for the next two years, and will update the specifications to account for the two turf fields. Proposals were expected for the March board meeting.

D. Community Education Director

D. Johnson reported that registration has been strong for winter and spring events, and that a grant has been received for the concerts in the park. ECFE classes resumed on Jan. 8. Daytime classes were

at capacity, but some evening classes were canceled. She said Reading Corps benchmarks had been completed, and new benchmarks were being set for spring. Voluntary preschool registration was underway. An open house and registration for Wee Tiger Preschool was scheduled for Feb. 5. Tiger Kids Club registration was scheduled for Feb. 27. School-age children could register on March 13. D. Johnson said that on Jan. 15 a partnership with the Timberwolves and Lynx to offer basketball sessions resulted in participation from 75 children. D. Johnson added that the Orange Crush robotics program has started its build season, and competitions begin in March. She said there were five teams for Destination Imagination, and that a regional tournament will occur March 24. A first fitness sampler course at the Tiger Activity Center had 12 participants rotate through and sample all of the fitness classes that are available. D. Johnson said she was very happy with how that program went and that several new registrations were obtained. She said youth basketball starts at the end of January and runs through May.

11. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO (Dec. 19, 2017 minutes)

A. Johnson reported that the audit was completed with no substantial findings. Board members also received an update on staff and programs, as well as the pay equity report.

B. Wright Technical Center (Jan. 2, 2018 minutes)

R. Depa attended the meeting in place of A. Briesemeister. She said it was essentially an organizational meeting and that infrastructure was discussed.

C. Professional Development

R. Depa reported that members looked at data storage for the future.

D. SEE

C. Milano reported that there have been no meetings recently, but every year visits to the Capitol are made to bring parents, community members and legislators together to talk about important issues. C. Milano said all students must have access to high-quality education regardless of where they live, and that Feb. 28 is Delano's day to visit the Capitol. She encouraged parents and community members to get involved with the opportunity by visiting www.schoolsforequity.org or contacting the district office for information about the Capitol visit.

12. New Business

A. Special ed. funding resolution (state)

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the state special education funding resolution. Motion passed 6-0.

B. Special ed. funding resolution (federal)

Upon motion by A. Johnson, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the federal special education funding resolution. Motion passed 6-0.

C. School Trust Land Resolution

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education tabled the School Trust Land resolution. Motion passed 6-0.

D. Amendment to DASA lease agreement

Upon motion by A. Johnson, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the amendment to the DASA lease agreement. Motion passed 6-0.

13. Adjournment

Upon motion by A. Briesemeister, seconded by C. Milano, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.