

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, February 26, 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, M. Larson, C. Milano and L. Seguin.

Members absent: R. Depa (arrived at 5:55 p.m.)

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Upon motion by A. Briesemeister, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Work Session

Community Ed. Director Diane Johnson introduced a draft splash pad agreement with the city of Delano. She explained some of the details, saying CE employees may staff the site, which would give more hours to existing lifeguard staff and allow Tiger Activity Center staff to have more work available for high school students. A city intern was expected to do most of the organization, collection of money and training for staff. An exhibit referred to in the agreement was not yet ready, but was essentially expected to be a job description. The anticipated opening of the splash pad is Memorial Day weekend. The splash pad is expected to be open seven days a week between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Further discussion was needed to clarify details about injury coverage, expenses, pay schedules, evaluations and more. Board action may be taken at the March 20 meeting. A decision should be made relatively soon to allow Community Ed. the opportunity to arrange staffing, or to allow the city to make alternate plans if the district chooses not to participate.

Superintendent Matt Schoen introduced a water use agreement with the Delano Area Youth Hockey Association. He explained that when the new locker rooms were added to the ice arena there was an opportunity to give DAYHA access to water to maintain the outdoor rink. The agreement will be in place for the duration of the lease agreement for the rink. The city owns the rink and had flooded it in previous years, but giving the association water access will allow volunteers to maintain the rink to their own standards. The association will pay for the water it uses to maintain the rink. There were few other POC updates. L. Seguin said contingency funds are being managed, but there have not been any issues recently. C. Black said the project is largely on schedule and on budget, though the PAC won't be ready for the start of school. It will be ready in October or November. M. Schoen the new intermediate building is still on schedule to be ready by the end of the current school year. An updated phasing schedule will be provided to board members. A. Briesemeister said the PAC was always scheduled to be completed last, but now it is just a little later than originally thought. C. Black pointed out that the district already has the existing auditorium as a performance space, so the PAC's later opening will not affect events. A. Johnson suggested that updated renderings of the PAC space be put in the high school commons.

Board members discussed the addition of a staff development day to the 2018-19 school calendar. M. Schoen said the current year has been difficult with few days off, and adding an extra PD day met with the approval of teachers, administrators and staff members. The additional day will be Friday, Feb. 15.

C. Milano clarified that the day would not be affected if there was a weather cancellation. A weather day is built in on April 22, and after that any additional makeup days will be added to the end of the school year.

In light of the upcoming move to the new intermediate school, M. Schoen asked if the board had any interest in making the final day of the current school year a half day on May 23. The extra half day off would give students and staff closure for the year, and the following teacher work day could be dedicated entirely to moving. Teachers who aren't changing locations directly can help those who are. If the board was willing to pursue the idea, a special meeting could be held to give families maximum notice of the change. Anticipated complications were the elementary school lunch schedule, and possible high school final exams. There has been strong interest in the change from teachers. A. Johnson asked if it was possible to simply have no student contact that day. M. Schoen said the district needed to be careful about its Average Daily Membership numbers. Additional questions followed, but in general the board felt it was a good idea and agreed to hold a special meeting to make the calendar amendment.

Aaron Vande Linde, director for the Office of Minnesota School Trust Lands, attended the meeting to share more information about a proposed resolution supporting the purchase and exchange of school trust lands in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The board had tabled the matter at a previous meeting to get more information. A. Vande Linde explained that school trust lands were granted to states in the 1800s. All revenue from the lands goes to the permanent school fund. School districts receive funds in September and March from the school endowment fund. In the late 1800s he said there was a total of 8.1 million acres, and 5.5 million acres have since been sold off, including all the land in the south and metro area. Money has been generated since 1858, and the fund is worth \$1.3 billion. The actual assets of the trust, including mineral value, are \$5 or \$6 billion. A. Vande Linde explained that the resolution should be important to any school board in the state because 86,000 acres of school trust land are currently locked in the Boundary Waters, and have generated no income since 1964. He said it was important for school districts to voice their support because other groups are fighting against the resolution, including environmental groups. The Wilderness Act requires that the land be bought out, but nothing has been done in 50 years because there has been disagreement about total buyout or not. In 2009 a hybrid model was developed that would involve a two-thirds land sale and a one-third land exchange for lands outside the Boundary Waters. An issue right now is how the land will be appraised. C. Black if the Boundary Waters would still be protected. A. Vande Linde said it would, through the Forest Service. A. Vande Linde said there also has not been a unified voice in Washington, D.C. to push the matter forward, and congressional people are looking for that voice. They want to know what local governments and people are saying. A. Johnson asked how long it would be before the hybrid model could be pushed through. A. Vande Linde said the project started in 2012, and a decision is expected at the end of this year.

L. Seguin introduced discussion on the role of student school board representatives. Both representatives, Lydia Ramstad and Alex Moe, agreed that they would be interested in expanded roles, and would attend workshops as their schedules would permit. L. Ramstad said that instead of giving presentations each month, student representatives could bring more ideas than recaps of the previous month's events. She said the reps have talks with other students and could bring some of the beneficial ideas to the board. The students may also attend agenda review sessions. A. Briesemeister said students could have more control over what they brought to the board each month. A. Johnson asked if there would still be a component of their representation that would include the elementary and middle school students. L. Ramstad said she did enjoy visiting with the younger students and would hope to continue that aspect of the position.

Board members heard a report from the Turf Task Force, which was tasked with examining how the district could most effectively use its new facilities on campus. Members spoke with other districts that have turf fields and presented their findings. Chris Runke said the task force learned that turf fields in

other communities have been popular targets for vandalism and are expensive to repair. A number of proposed administrative procedures were also presented. For the track, the task force recommended that the facility be open to the general public with no membership required, but with the requirement that users complete a waiver. Proposed hours did not include time on the weekends due to lack of supervision, but C. Runke said that the procedure can be revisited if necessary in the future. He added that the natural fields will still be available, and that there are soccer nets located on the football field. Use of the soccer field and Tiger Stadium were also discussed. The purpose of the waiver will be to educate potential users. The tennis courts will not be locked.

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education called the meeting to recess at 6:58 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Chair M. Larson called the meeting out of recess and to order at 7:03 p.m.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Program Review

A group of first-graders from Dianne Pohlmann's class read to the board members in celebration of I Love to Read Month.

6. Consent Agenda

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

A. School Board Minutes

1. Jan. 22, 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 L. Seguin, seconded by C. Milano, 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 after recognizing Thomas Berggren for 42 years of service with the

district, and Jane Shaffer for 30 years with the district. 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 introduced A. Vande Linde, director of the Office of School Trust Lands. Vande Linde formally introduced himself to the board, explaining that he was appointed in September of 2015. He said the resolution before the board was requesting support for a project that started in 2012 to deal with 86,000 acres of school trust lands locked in the Boundary Waters since the 1964 Wilderness Act. A. Vande Linde said the lands have a constitutional requirement to produce funds for schools, and have been precluded from doing that. The resolution before the board, he said, supported a one-third land exchange and a two-thirds sale of the land. The exchange will be for federal lands outside the Boundary Waters that have equal value, and can be managed for the benefit of school districts. The two-thirds sale will be dependent on federal acquisition, and A. Vande Linde said it has not been until recently that congress people were convinced that this was a priority. Now, however, the project is ranked third nationally for federal funding. The first phase of the project could begin in 2018, and it will be a five-phase acquisition process.

B. Principals:

1. Mr. Voight

B. Voight recognized Mr. Berggren for his long tenure at the middle school, noting that he arrived in the year the middle school opened, and will be leaving in the year it closes. He said that everyone who has learned from Mr. Berggren and worked with him has benefitted. B. Voight also recognized Project Lead The Way instructor Tory Spanier for being a master teacher who will have the opportunity to work with other master teachers to redesign the curriculum. In doing so, he will leave his mark on both present and future PLTW work. B. Voight also shared about a partnership with DES this year to provide Alternative Delivery for Specialized Instruction and Services (ADSIS). Through a grant opportunity, he said the schools have been able to provide services for students at need in reading and math, and also to provide services for learning behaviors in general – disruptive behaviors, time management, etc. A para provided through that grant has been instrumental in growing students’ skills in those areas. B. Voight said that while early results are mixed with some students, this is an opportunity that 30 students have not had before. In terms of the transition to the intermediate school, B. Voight said the student handbook was recently finished with the input of classroom teachers and support staff from all levels. He said the school is also moving forward with a Life Skills curriculum, elective offerings or specials in topics like character education, study skills, time management, online safety, digital citizenship and more. At present, he said staff members are coming together to devise units for all grade levels and working in department teams to do curriculum mapping. B. Voight said it is getting to the time of year where everyone is anxiously awaiting the transition.

2. Dr. Heil

S. Heil reported on Suicide Prevention Awareness and Prevention Day, which was coming up later in the week. He said it was a day to talk with students and make a topic that is taboo in society open for discussion. He also said students and staff would learn about things they could do if they notice warning signs in others, and that the day tends to be a busy one for counselors and social workers. He said the day is organized by the COMPASS class, which started for mental health and anxieties, and thanked Ms. Techam and others involved for their work. S. Heil also reported on an upcoming showing of "Screenagers" at 7 p.m. on April 5 in the auditorium. He said the documentary from a physician explores how 6.5 hours per day of screen time affects children. The documentary does not take a position on whether that screen time is positive or negative, but provides information and creates conversation. The showing is open to the public, and a shorter version will be shown to high school and possibly middle school students during the school day. The showing will be free. S. Heil also reported on the implementation of blue bag organics recycling in the high school and middle school building. He said the goal is to keep the environmental footprint of the school as small as possible, and that a large percentage of trash is usually recyclable. The change also is an opportunity to teach students how to be good stewards of the environment and the community. S. Heil also reported on the ACT test day, which would involve about 50 students. He said there has been a big decrease in the number of students taking the test because the state is no longer paying for students unless they are on free and reduced lunch programs. Other students said they did not want to take the test during school and miss class time, so they planned to take it on a future Saturday. S. Heil added that parent-student meetings for incoming seventh- and eighth-graders would be held on March 12. C. Milano thanked S. Heil for "Screenager," which she said sounded impactful and relevant.

3. Mr. Schuler

D. Schuler reported on I Love to Read Month. Students were divided between Team Hinker and Team Schuler for a reading competition, and an author in residency program was sponsored by the DES PIE group. D. Schuler said students really enjoyed the authors, who used movement and music in literacy for grades K-2 and lessons on inventing characters, problems and conclusions in grades 3-4. He added that the Reading Corps program, in its 12th year in Delano, recently completed its application for another year. This year the program has three instructors who are well trained and take a lot of pride in their work. The K-3 program is overseen by Lisa Downer, and will be applying for three new members next year. D. Schuler said the theme of the month is sportsmanship in the classroom, as well as in physical education and recess. Students have learned to never put down teammates, to treat others as they want to be treated, to respect officials' decisions, to cheer on teammates, to play by the rules and to have fun. D. Schuler also reported on FRED night, which stands for Fathers Reading Every Day. D. Schuler there was very good turnout, with over 150 dads and 160 students filling the new cafeteria. Participants created a small book for their family, and Scholastic Books donated two free books for each student who was there. Finally, D. Schuler said there was very good turnout for the Tiger Fun Fair the preceding weekend, and thanked the PIE group, headed by R. Depa and Nicole Jensen, for organizing it.

C. Business Manager

Mary Reeder reported that the food service administrative review was completed at the end of January. There were a few items that required corrective action plans to be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education, but overall the review went very well. M. Reeder congratulated Kris Larson and all the food service staff. She added that specifications for lawn mowing bids were still being finalized.

D. Community Education Director

D. Johnson made a point to thank Jane Shaffer for her work with Community Education. She reported that there were about 80 people at the Twinkle Twinkle Dance. D. Johnson presented Reading Corps information on school readiness among preschool students. She said there were strong improvements shown among participating students, and that this is the fourth year Reading Corps has been done at the preschool level. D. Johnson also reported on an upcoming open house and registration night for Tiger Kids Club. She also highlighted a number of activities, including more than 100 participants in the next gymnastics session, good turnout at the Girl to Engineering night, the Orange Crush robotics team going to Iowa for competition in March, and the Destination Imagine program.

1. School Readiness graph

11. Student Board Representatives Report

A. Alex Moe and Lydia Ramstad

L. Ramstad reported that elementary school students have been happy about getting 15 minutes per day to read for I Love to Read Month, and have enjoyed competition between teams. She also reported on the carnival, dress up days and Tiger Fun Fair, all of which went well. In the middle school, sixth-graders enjoyed hands-on experiences at the Science Museum. Middle school students also want to have some sort of Valentine's Day events in the future. In the high school, the music groups have been busy, and Winterfest involved fun competitions, a talent show, and more. L. Ramstad said the question of the month asked students how tutoring services in the fifth-grade commons could be improved. She said most elementary and middle school students were not even aware of the service, and that many students asked that information be posted or announced so there is more exposure. The primary conclusion was that more needs to be done to publicize the tutoring program.

12. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO (Jan. 23, 2018 Minutes)

A. Johnson reported on the January organizational meeting. The director shared with the group that she is attending an upcoming psychologist conference to try to fill two school psychologist positions. Child counts are happening in February. A pay equity study is also taking place.

B. Wright Technical Center (Feb. 6, 2018 Minutes)

A. Briesemeister reported on the organizational meeting, where the board agreed to keep assignments the way they were. Two teachers retired, so candidates are being sought. The principal's report included students of the quarter for second quarter, and included three Delano students. They were Ben Bersie in automotive technology, Dan Moonen in law enforcement and Ethan Bratvold in construction technology. All were commended for their work ethic and model approach to learning. Technology needs are being considered, including the addition of a CNC plasma table and CNC mill. The 2018-19 calendar will be presented at the March meeting. Facilities upgrades are being studied that include cost savings ideas.

C. District Advisory Committee

R. Depa said the group did not meet.

D. Safe Schools

R. Depa explained what the group is, a collaboration of law enforcement and other groups in Delano and from around Wright County as a whole. She said the parochial schools in Delano have joined the group, and that vaping is a problem that has extended down to the middle school. R. Depa encouraged people with concerns about school safety to contact the district rather than taking to social media.

E. Professional Development (Feb. 20 meeting)

A. Johnson said the main topic from the most recent meeting was setting the calendar for next year. It included speakers and other items. The budget process was also discussed to make sure there were available funds when professional training is available.

13. Old Business

A. School Trust Lands Resolution

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the resolution supporting the purchase and exchange of school trust lands in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness proceeding in tandem. Motion passed 7-0.

14. New Business

A. 2018-19 School Calendar

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the 2018-19 School Calendar. Motion passed 7-0.

B. 2018-19 Open Enrollment Resolution

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the 2018-19 Open Enrollment Resolution. Motion passed 7-0.

C. Q Comp MOA

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the Q Comp MOA. Motion passed 7-0.

D. Water Use Agreement with DAYHA

Upon motion by A. Briesemeister, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the Water Use Agreement with DAYHA. Motion passed 7-0.

E. MOA for Additional Staff Development Day

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by C. Milano, the Board of Education approved the MOA for Additional Staff Development Day. Motion passed 7-0.

15. Adjournment

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.