

# **SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

Monday, March 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, R. Depa, M. Larson and L. Seguin

Members Absent: C. Milano, A. Briesemeister

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

Upon motion by C. Black, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

### **3. Work Session**

L. Seguin gave an update from the Project Oversight Committee. She said much progress has been made and many projects are down to the fine details. A facility tour was scheduled for the same week. Operable walls were starting to go up in the intermediate school, and options for playspace, furniture and technology were coming in under budget. L. Seguin said there is very good technology going into the intermediate. Community Education had asked about having access to the intermediate school before the building officially opens to alleviate space issues. The POC decided it was best to wait so it is clear who is liable for any imperfections when the building is handed over around mid-May. L. Seguin said efforts were underway to clarify phasing in the high school building, and that the budget and schedule were being monitored closely. Concrete benches will be installed in front of the high school that will be aesthetically pleasing and provide a safety barrier to keep vehicles from hitting the glass. Chris Rear of ICS said there will be plantings in front of the high school, but no trees. L. Seguin said the wall between the pool and diving area is coming down. Roadwork on Tiger Drive and potholes in front of the high school were also discussed.

Student board representative Alex Moe reported on his efforts, along with student board representative Lydia Ramstad, to assess how students are feeling about school right now. At the elementary level, students talked about physical education and said they wanted to have track and field day again since last year's event was limited due to work on the track. They also said they would like to do more units like Mall Madness that are not limited to one subject like reading or math. Students also said they appreciated hands-on projects, especially in science, that included experiments or displays. Elementary students also expressed a desire to have work time outside rather than just recess.

At the middle school level, A. Moe said students are missing their commons area, that they don't have anywhere to hang out in the middle school, and that it has been inconvenient getting from one side of the school to the other due to the media center construction. Students have enjoyed the new science rooms in the high school area, however. In terms of curriculum, middle school students said they would like to see world language classes at an earlier age, which would allow them to speak and listen in a foreign language rather than translating that language to English in their minds. Students also discussed having a wider variety than just French, German and Spanish, but acknowledged that could be a staffing issue. Middle school students also discussed the school start time and generally said they like it where it is because it allows more time after school to do homework and activities. Other feedback was that students prefer tables rather than desks, which they feel are too small and confining, in the middle

**school and high school.**

**In the high school, A. Moe reported that students said they would prefer to start later, and that they also had some complaints about the lunch food. High schoolers also commented on the limited number of lockers in the locker rooms and the need for overall improvement, and said they would like more interactive pep fests similar to the Jingle Run. Students also discussed the icy path down from the upper parking lot, saying it was a safety issue, and said they would like more classes that give culturally diverse experiences.**

**After some discussion about lunch room seating, A. Moe asked if there was anything the board would like the student reps to ask students in the next month. Superintendent M. Schoen said he would like to hear more about how students feel in the area of safety. Building relationships with students and listening to their concerns, he said, is more effective than other security measures.**

**In other business, the board discussed transportation bids. M. Schoen explained that the district is going out for bids, as it is required to do every five years. C. Black asked if Stahlke was aware that the district was seeking proposals. Business Manager M. Reeder said the matter was discussed when the district and company negotiated the one-year contract. The last few times the district has advertised for bids there were no bids from other companies. A. Johnson asked what was budgeted in terms of an increase. M. Reeder said an extra \$100,000 or so was included, but inequities between regular and special education routes needed to be addressed. She added that the opening of the intermediate school might cause some students who currently walk to school to become bus riders. M. Schoen said the logistics of the bus flow among buildings needed to be worked out, and then Stahlke would have its parameters to put together proposals.**

**Board members discussed a ballpark agreement that would formalize the current use of the city's facilities by school teams. Activities Administrator M. Lindquist and City Administrator P. Kern have worked on the agreement along with the local association. M. Schoen clarified that the district will not be doing field maintenance, but the agreement will formally allow use of the field. M. Schoen reported that his information from M. Lindquist indicated that other districts in the area have agreements that involve some type of fee to use the facility, but that may only apply to the varsity or other specific teams. M. Schoen said the amount would likely be around \$7,000 annually and the agreement would last for about 10 years. C. Black asked for clarification on the field maintenance. M. Schoen said custodians will go down to prep the fields for games, but that is already current practice. The fee is only to pay for use; the city is responsible for maintaining the field. M. Schoen said almost all baseball teams for grades 7-12 play at Central Park.**

**Board members discussed updates to Policy 602 – Organization of School Calendar and School Day. M. Schoen explained that there are a minimum number of hours for K-12 students, and now because the governor has started a voluntary pre-kindergarten program there are a minimum number of hours for pre-kindergarten instruction too. M. Schoen said for the most part the policy did not change, but the amendments would cover the district if it does offer voluntary pre-kindergarten.**

**Finally, board members discussed lawn mowing bids. The current contractor, 4.0 Services, did not offer a bid because it was looking to expand and do extra services in addition to mowing such as weed control, tree trimming, fertilization, etc. That would have resulted in a considerable increase for services the district is currently doing in-house. C. Black said that there is an opportunity to improve the district's natural turf fields now that the artificial turf fields are in use. A. Johnson asked if 4.0 would continue to do snow removal. Bids for that service will be taken in the fall. R. Depa asked if a playground has been purchased for the intermediate school, citing an email circulating among parents. M. Schoen said the district is having discussions with Landscape Structures for a demo playground, but nothing has been purchased.**

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education called the meeting to recess at 6:43 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Board Chair M. Larson called the meeting out of recess and to order at 7:01 p.m.

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

**5. Program Review - Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day COMPASS Program**

M. Techam and S. Tordeur presented information on the high school's Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day organized by the COMPASS students. About two months of planning go into the event, and students take charge of different events. The focus is on mental health, which they said is not talked about enough in school. Speakers attended from the Bounce Back Project to share about resiliency and standing up for oneself, and Txt4Life, which shared tools about how to talk with people experiencing mental health issues. Students signed a banner saying "You're Irreplaceable" along with their fingerprints, a feature middle school students participated in as well. Middle school students did not attend the speaker sessions. Board members also learned about a "We Will" video, which shared clips of classes and students talking about what they can do to end the stigma around mental health, or to talk to a friend about problems. Students also received temporary semicolon tattoos and wrist bands with information. M. Techam said one focus of the day is to raise awareness and teach students how to reach out and give or get help, but another is to give the COMPASS students a sense of belonging. COMPASS also sold T-shirts, and almost all staff members wanted them. Tordeur said it is gratifying to see how many kids want to be involved in the day who aren't a part of COMPASS as well. As a result of the event, some students outside of COMPASS came and talked with M. Techam about issues they were having, and other parents emailed and said their students had come home and talked to them. As a result, M. Techam said she observed specific, powerful ways that the event helped students. COMPASS students are already discussing next year's event, which will need to incorporate seventh- and eighth-graders in age-appropriate ways.

**6. Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

A. School Board Minutes

1. Feb. 26, 2018
2. March 12, 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 R. Depa, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Motion passed 5-0.**

**8. Personnel Matters:**

**Upon motion by C. Black, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Matters after voicing special appreciation for ECFE teacher G. Triplett and Activities Administrator M. Lindquist, who are retiring later this year after 29 years and 31 years with the district, respectively. Motion passed 5-0.**

- 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 provided an update on the legislative session. He said the budget and economic forecast is looking much better. In November the Office of Management and Budget released a deficit of \$188 million; the February forecast showed a budget surplus of \$329 million for the fiscal year of 2018-19. The most significant contributors to the improved outlook were higher than expected revenue for the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a short term stimulus from federal tax law changes, and reduced spending. So the forecast shows that spending in E-12 budget is expected to be about \$54 million less, largely due to lower forecasted special education compensatory aid spending. M. Schoen also said the governor came out with his proposed budget recommendations. In his proposal, funding for school safety was at the top of the list. He wanted to increase it by \$15.8 million to improve student and school safety for one year only. Subsequent years provide for an increase in the Safe Schools levy. Special education aid would be increased by \$16.9 million. The governor also has funding for school readiness plans. The governor also wanted to increase school-linked mental health grants, increase the cap of the Q Comp program for levy authority for districts, and reduce student testing time by reducing the number of questions on the state's standardized assessments. Senate and House input is still needed. M. Schoen also shared committee deadlines and said the session is about halfway complete.

**B. Principals:**

1. Mr. Voight

B. Voight congratulated the DHS boys' basketball team on its state championship, saying everyone in the middle school caught the excitement of their state tournament run. B. Voight also expressed gratitude to M. Lindquist for his work for the district, saying all have benefitted greatly from his service. B. Voight also shared about preparations for the MCA tests and said parents would be notified of test schedules soon. He added that the spring school climate survey was going out, and that parents and staff have had time to take the survey along with about half of the students. B. Voight said the last parent-teacher conference was planned for April 16, and that an information night for the intermediate school was planned for April 18. A slideshow and audio recording of the meeting will also be posted on the district website.

2. Dr. Heil

S. Heil congratulated the boys' basketball team, school district and community on the state championship. He said stadium security people requested to work around the Delano section because they enjoyed the Delano students. S. Heil also shared plans for showing the "Screenagers" documentary on Thursday, April 5. He said it was a very important first step, because the use of technology is something he frequently talks with parents about. Additional steps could be showing the film again next year and simply continuing the discussion. S. Heil also discussed hiring, noting that next year's high school with grades 7-12 currently has 15 positions open. He shared about the hiring process, which involves demonstration lessons where candidates teach students. Feedback from the students is taken afterward. S. Heil also thanked M. Lindquist, calling him a pillar of the district. S. Heil shared about SciTech planned for April 10, noting that it will be smaller this year due to construction and less gym space. He also noted that the upcoming spring musical was the last directed by Barb Roy, and said a recognition event was planned.

3. Mr. Schuler

D. Schuler shared about a pep fest and celebration for the boys' basketball team that occurred the day before the championship game, and congratulated the team. He also shared about the March Tiger Way celebration, which included an appearance by Viktor the Viking and his bullying prevention presentation. D. Schuler noted the event was sponsored by PACER and Verizon Wireless, so there was no cost to the district. D. Schuler said students and staff members are looking forward to the Imagination Fair, and a kickoff event with local scientists Brian and Tara Mullen was an exciting experience for students in grades K-4. D. Schuler also shared about Kindergarten Round-Up, which welcomed the Class of 2031, and said enrollment was looking about the same for next year, meaning there would be seven sections. In addition, third- and fourth-graders were preparing for MCA testing in reading and messages were going out to parents about that. Finally, D. Schuler said the theme of the month was citizenship, and students reflected on nursing home and senior center visits; food, clothing and diaper drives, military support and more that they do throughout the year to contribute to their community.

C. Business Manager

M. Reeder reported that the district has received the school finance award again. Meal prices will be examined next month and set in May.

D. Community Education Director

D. Johnson congratulated the boys' basketball team and said the summer brochure was under construction. She said Delano United has organized a community book read on "Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family." In other business, she said early childhood screening has wrapped up for the year, but any children entering kindergarten will have an opportunity to complete the process in August. Wee Tiger Preschool held an open house, and some space remains available. Tiger Kids Club registration had also opened. D. Johnson said the Orange Crush robotics

team went 3-6 and ranked 41<sup>st</sup> at a tournament in Iowa, and would compete March 28-31 in the Medtronic Foundation regional tournament at Williams Arena in Minneapolis. She added that five Destination Imagine teams competed the previous weekend and at least one team placed first and will go to state. Complete results were not available. D. Johnson said new memberships and daily passes for the Tiger Activity Center were on the rise.

## **11. Student Board Representatives Report**

### **A. Alex Moe and Lydia Ramstad**

A. Moe summarized changes to the student representative board report and the topics he discussed with board members during the work session.

## **12. Board Reports**

### **A. MAWSECO (Feb. 27 Minutes)**

A. Johnson discussed child counts and said work is being done with the city of Howard Lake to figure out what to do with available green space, which could be the site of a park for MAWSECO students and be available for community use as well.

### **B. Wright Technical Center (March 6 Minutes)**

A. Johnson attended the most recent meeting in place of A. Briesemeister and said Wright Tech is figuring out priorities for facility projects. The industrial tech program needs substantial upgrades, and some sections need updates to exterior walls and roofing. As a result, A. Johnson said the price tag is rising substantially, and Wright Tech depends on member districts to help. Some projects may take place this spring and summer.

### **C. Professional Development**

A. Johnson covered for C. Milano. She said the gifted and talented program has received a grant for online professional development, which is a unique opportunity for staff in all district buildings.

## **13. Old Business**

**None.**

## **14. New Business**

### **A. Approve Lawn Mowing Contractor for summers of 2018 and 2019**

M. Reeder explained that the current contractor chose not to submit a proposal, and that Building and Grounds Coordinator M. LaBeau had met with each of the bidders to walk the grounds and discuss issues. The low bidder was the only one to discount areas that can't be mowed now because of construction. The cheapest bid was from Elliot's Lawn Service at \$25,890 for 2018 and \$27,090 for 2019, but all three bids were higher than the current rate. Upon motion by C. Black, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the lawn mowing contract for 2018-19. Motion passed 5-0.

### **B. First and only read of Policy 701 - Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget due to legal reference change.**

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the first and only read of Policy 701 – Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget due to a legal reference change. Motion passed 5-0.

### **C. First read of Policy 602 - Organization of School Calendar and School Day due to substantive and legal reference changes.**

Upon motion by M. Larson, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the first read of Policy 602 – Organization of School Calendar and School Day due to substantive and/or legal reference changes. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Baseball park lease agreement with City of Delano

M. Schoen summarized the details shared in the work session with board members regarding the agreement, saying it was similar to the hockey rink or golf course arrangements. Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by R. Depa, the Board of Education approved the Baseball park lease agreement with the city of Delano. Motion passed 5-0.

**15. Adjournment**

**Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by R. Depa, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.**