

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, April 23, 2018 5:45 PM

Delano Public Schools

Independent School District #879, Delano Minnesota

1. Call to order at 5:46 p.m.

A. Record of members present or absent

Members Present: A. Johnson, C. Black, A. Briesemeister, R. Depa, M. Larson, C. Milano and L. Seguin

Members Absent: None.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

3. Work Session

High school administrators presented changes to the school handbook for 2018-19 to reflect the addition of students and staff for grades seven and eight, and highlighted various other changes including the bell schedule, student use of the Tiger Activity Center after school, use of the Raptor system, the grading system, homework expectations, the elimination of the LINK program and more. Two changes accounted for most of the discussion – use of student backpacks and outerwear, and the restriction of prom to junior and senior students only. In regard to backpacks and outerwear, Principal Steve Heil said there had been questions about why students were allowed to walk around school with jackets and backpacks, and that in conversations with staff and the school resource officer these items were viewed as a safety concern. S. Heil said jackets and backpacks are sometimes used to conceal vapes, alcohol and illegal substances, and one way to limit that use is to require jackets and backpacks to stay in lockers. C. Milano said she thought more specific language was needed in place of “outerwear,” adding that many areas of the building were cold and students might need an extra layer. S. Heil said administrators were working with Climate Makers to reduce large temperature swings in different areas of the building. C. Black said he agreed with the change for safety reasons, but said the handbook should identify what is allowed for comfort in place of jackets. A. Briesemeister asked if there was sufficient passing time to allow students to return to their lockers between every class rather than carrying a backpack. S. Heil said that students are currently making class with enough time and science classes have allowed students an extra measure of time due to distance. Student Representative Lydia Ramstad said she had discussed the timing issue with middle school students, and some said they had to choose between using the restroom and getting their materials. S. Heil said the only ways to add to passing time were to extend the day or reduce instructional time, but the science department has said the current system is working. School board members also discussed the change restricting prom to juniors and seniors only, which S. Heil said was actually a return to previous practice that was needed because of management issues. C. Milano said she did not think that was fair to sophomores who were academically in line and emotionally ready, and also asked about couples that included a freshman in college. A Briesemeister asked about the reason for prom, and S. Heil said it was a high school tradition. L. Ramstad said another student who heard about the change became emotional and asked if any exceptions would be made. Superintendent Matt Schoen suggested making a trial of the restriction next year and then revisiting the matter. Another discussion item focused on international student enrollment and the

eligibility of those students to receive a diploma. While the handbook language says not more than five international students a year will be accepted, S. Heil said the average number in practice is more like eight per year because it is a valuable opportunity to promote diversity and allow students to interact with peers from around the world.

M. Schoen explained that activities administrators from Delano, Watertown-Mayer, Waconia and Holy Family have discussed Minnesota State High School League changes and agreed that it was better to split the boys' swimming cooperative than require it to move up to Class 2A, which no one from Delano or Watertown-Mayer wanted. Delano will form a new cooperative with Watertown-Mayer only before the next swim season.

L. Seguin shared a brief Project Oversight Committee update, saying that contingency funds were being monitored and that the intermediate school was scheduled for completion in mid-May. An earlier opening had been a possibility, but flooring in the commons area was a holdup so the opening date reverted to previous expectations.

There was brief discussion about the process to bring on a new student school board representative since April marked the last meeting for Alex Moe. M. Schoen outlined the interview process and a few other details.

L. Ramstad and A. Moe shared student input on a variety of topics. L. Ramstad said feminine hygiene products should be added to the restrooms if no purses or backpacks are allowed. Board members agreed. A. Moe said passing time might be too short and asked why there are long periods and short periods. He suggested making the passing times even. Board members also asked about how students should bring computers to class if they are not allowed a backpack. In addition, A. Moe also shared about student perceptions of safety. Elementary students said they felt perfectly safe with other students and staff. In general they said there were few instances of bullying, and when it occurred staff members did a good job of intervening and minimizing the issue. In the middle school A. Moe reported that students felt bullying was more of a problem and that staff members did not do enough to address it. A. Moe and L. Ramstad shared some potential solutions, including bringing in speakers with personal experience to address the issue. In the high school bullying was also an issue, but it did not sound as significant. L. Ramstad said the bullying was less prevalent, but more malicious when present, and that staff did an adequate job addressing it. Board members asked a few questions related to how bullying is handled and M. Schoen said administrators deal with it on a case-by-case basis. L. Ramstad also said students had discussed assemblies and wanted more interactive events.

Business Manager Mary Reeder presented budget information on current and year-end balances, and said deficit spending was planned. Overall, she said the district is in good condition and is spending about \$33 million on construction this year. Next year deficit spending is planned in the amount of about \$800,000. Looking ahead, a number of roofs need to be replaced, and the rest of the construction funds will be spent. Enrollment is relatively static with few big ups or downs. Kindergarten numbers were around 140. Board members asked questions about how enrollment projections are made and about cost savings in Community Ed.

M. Schoen summarized policy changes, including Policy 405 and Policy 903. Policy 405 updates Veteran's Preference actions, and 903 addresses post-secondary students and access to the school.

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education called the meeting to recess at 6:46 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Program Review - CSPAN Student Project, Talent Development Coordinator; DES Imagination Fair winners

A number of Delano Elementary Students shared their projects from the Imagination Fair with board members and the audience. In addition, Gwen Briesemeister, along with Melody Soderberg and a student presented information about the CSPAN program at the middle school in which students research a topic and interview people.

6. Consent Agenda

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

A. School Board Minutes

1. March 26, 2018
2. April 9, 2018 special 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 L. Seguin, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Motion passed 7-0.

8. Personnel Matters:

Upon motion by A. Briesemeister, seconded by L. Seguin, the Board of Education approved the consent portion of the Personnel Matters after making special mention of Jon Moen and Barb Roy. 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 shared about visiting the Legislature with other administrators from the region. They met with Sen. Anderson and Rep. McDonald to share priorities for educators. Funding and unfunded mandates were discussed, and school safety has been a popular discussion item in the Senate and House. M. Schoen said it was too early to tell what would come of the discussion. The state tax transition to correspond to the federal tax change has also been a major issue during the current session. M. Schoen said there is currently a budget surplus and the remaining weeks of the session will be used to determine how it is used. M. Schoen also announced that the meeting was the last for A. Moe, who will get a certificate and a \$1,000 scholarship. M. Schoen presented the certificate and thanked A. Moe for his service.

B. Principals:

1. Mr. Voight

Barry Voight said the testing season was nearly done, but the late start due to weather had altered the testing schedule. In addition, he said the eighth grade trip to Rebecca Park will take place on the second to last day of school rather than the last day, which is now a half day. B. Voight said about 200 people attended an information meeting about Delano Intermediate School, which surpassed expectations. The meeting included many good questions and lasted about two hours. An audio recording and the slideshow from the meeting are available on the school website, and B. Voight said everyone with questions is welcome to call, email, or stop by to talk. The open house for the intermediate building will be on Aug. 29. That will be the first chance for parents and students to enter the building and look around. A larger grand opening will be held later at a date yet to be determined. R. Depa complimented B. Voight for his answers during the public meeting and said he made those present feel comfortable with the process.

2. Dr. Heil

S. Heil shared about the success of the Screenagers showing, which attracted about 490 people. Many students and parents said the documentary was thought-provoking. It explained different facts related to the impact of technology use on the brain and students' social-emotional health. S. Heil said the hiring season was in full swing, and that eight positions out of 17 had been filled to date. He said the process for DHS was very in-depth and thorough, and that he would rather take extra time on the front end than deal with issues later on if teachers are not meeting expectations. S. Heil also shared about year-end dates for senior award night, Spring Fling and graduation. A total of 183 seniors will graduate on Sunday, May 30, in the Tiger Activity Center. S. Heil said he was looking forward to finishing the year, helping staff member move, and working toward the completion of the construction projects next fall.

3. Mr. Schuler

Darren Schuler said elementary students are excited to enjoy the nice weather outdoors this spring, and that a benefit of the turf fields this spring has been an expanded area for recess and physical education that is usable even when the ground is wet. D. Schuler said the Imagination Fair featured over 150 projects and was an amazing night of creativity and teamwork. In May the school moves into its summative evaluation process, which involves a discussion with teachers about delivery of instruction and other areas. This process is very beneficial to staff members and is good way to recap their year. In addition, elementary students were in their second week of MCA testing, with third- and fourth-graders taking the math tests. Students and staff members were working very hard in the elementary during an intense academic period. D. Schuler also recognized the building's volunteers, saying that most years in the elementary include about 7,000 hours of volunteer time. High school student aides are also a valuable supplement to the building staff. D. Schuler closed by noting that the Tiger Dash 5K and mile run would be held on May 5 and is now run by the school's physical education department.

C. Business Manager

M. Reeder said the advertisement for bread and milk quotes had been placed in the paper and sent to vendors who have offered quotes in the past. A quote will be approved at the May board meeting, along with meal prices.

D. Community Education Director

D. Johnson said the summer brochure was delayed a couple of days by weather, but registration had opened and activity was strong. She highlighted a community book read discussion, said Wee Tiger Preschool is open for registration at all levels, and that 90 students had registered in five levels for gymnastics. She also shared robotics results with the help of A. Moe. D. Johnson also shared about Destination Imagination teams that had qualified for globals.

11. Student Board Representatives Report

A. Alex Moe and Lydia Ramstad

L. Ramstad summarized the discussion held during the work session regarding student outerwear in the high school. A. Moe summarized discussion about school safety, bullying and assemblies. A. Moe also shared his plans for the next school year in college.

12. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO (March 27, 2018 minutes)

A. Johnson referred board members to the minutes included with their packet.

B. Wright Technical Center (April 10, 2018 minutes)

A. Johnson covered the most recent meeting for A. Briesemeister and said conversation mainly focused on long-term facility maintenance. She said the tech center has built a strong fund balance as a safety net, but the aging facility requires significant renovations and improvements. Difficult conversations have been held in recent months regarding how much of the fund balance should be held in reserve and how much should be spent on the improvements. The welding area alone could cost \$300,000 to renovate and make necessary capital improvements. An exterior wall project is also targeted for the coming summer. A. Johnson said the tech center was a jewel of a resource that many districts do not have and that member districts should invest in it.

C. District Advisory Committee (April 19, 2018 minutes)

R. Depa did not have any information to share regarding the District Advisory Committee.

D. Schools for Equity in Education (SEE)

R. Depa said conversation at the most recent meeting focused on action at the Legislature, and the

group heard a parent from NAMI speak about mental health help in the schools and the Legislature's involvement.

E. Safe Schools

R. Depa said construction and safety were the main concerns. She added that some re-keying is being done, and that scans are underway using actual names of judges and officers from the county.

F. Professional Development (April 17, 2018 minutes)

Group members have talked about how to use available funding, R. Depa said.

G. DASA (2017-18 facility use numbers)

A. Johnson reported on facility use numbers for the Delano Area Sports Arena. She explained that the district does not own the building, but leases the land to the independent owner and operator. Locker rooms were constructed this year. The facility is used for more than hockey, with the school using it during the day and lacrosse using it in the spring. Soccer also uses the facility since field space is at a premium.

13. Old Business

A. Second read of Policy 602 - Organization of School Calendar and School Day due to substantive and legal reference changes.

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the second read of Policy 602 – Organization of School Calendar and School Day due to substantive and legal reference changes. Motion passed 7-0.

14. New Business

A. First and only read of Policy 303 - Superintendent Selection, due to non-substantive change.

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the first and only read of Policy 303 – Superintendent Selection. Motion passed 7-0.

B. First read of Policy 405 - Veteran's Preference; Hiring due to substantive and legal reference changes.

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by C. Milano, the Board of Education approved the first read of Policy 405 – Veteran's Preference; Hiring. Motion passed 7-0.

C. First read of Policy 903 - Visitors to School District Building and Sites due to substantive and legal reference changes.

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the first read of Policy 903 – Visitors to School District Building and Sites. Motion passed 7-0.

15. Adjournment

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by C. Milano, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.