

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Monday, July 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. Milano, L. Seguin, A. Briesemeister, R. Depa, C. Black and M. Larson

Members Absent: None

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

3. Work Session

Band director Jason Koets shared information about a trip band and choir students will be taking to Chicago in the spring of 2019. At the time of the meeting 35 students had committed, but more were expected to join. The trip combines an opportunity to see various sites with a chance to perform. C. Milano asked about the ratio of chaperones to students and the availability of fundraisers for students who might not be able to afford to attend. J. Koets said the ratio is typically 10 students per chaperone, and explained a variety of fundraising options. Students will also perform at Northwestern University, one of the premier music schools in the Midwest. Board members will officially approve the trip in August.

Community Education Director Diane Johnson presented proposed Tiger Activity Center fees for 2018-19. She explained that there had not been an increase for 2017-18, and that the 2018-19 increase was 5 percent, which was consistent with past rate adjustments. Board members asked if TAC members had ever been surveyed to gauge satisfaction. D. Johnson said she felt most valued their memberships and pointed out that there are various other health facilities in town. C. Black asked if memberships have increased or decreased in the last five years. D. Johnson said they had likely decreased somewhat due to ongoing construction, but she anticipated recovering some of those members when construction is complete. C. Milano asked about reducing fees for students on the free and reduced lunch program, and D. Johnson said that could be explored. A. Briesemeister asked for a general explanation of why the 5-percent fee increase was needed. D. Johnson and Superintendent Matt Schoen explained that expenses continue to rise in the form of employee pay rates, the cost of utilities and more. C. Black and M. Larson said they felt the rates were reasonable, and R. Depa said she would rather see regular small increases than one large increase.

Director of Teaching and Learning Joe Vieau shared an update on the district's cultural competency efforts through the Humanity First Committee. J. Vieau said the committee met four or five times in the past year and helped facilitate the Kindness in Chalk event. The committee has also worked with Impact Lives for intercultural training sessions. The organization will come to Delano on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January to provide training, and following that session staff members will have the option to take an intercultural development inventory, which provides a gauge of where an individual falls on a scale of mono-cultural to multi-cultural competence. There are also action steps that individuals or groups can follow to develop a multi-cultural mindset both personally and professionally. J. Vieau said

there will also be an opportunity to hold one-on-one conversations about personal plans to develop a multi-cultural mindset and steps to develop it. Those opportunities can help move the entire staff along the continuum toward more multi-cultural awareness. C. Milano asked what the makeup of the Humanity First group is. J. Vieau explained that it is just staff at present, but there will be more opportunities to involve students in the conversations after staff are established on that path. J. Vieau said state law will soon require a cultural competency component for teaching licenses, so this professional development effort will help Delano stay ahead of the game.

L. Seguin shared a POC update. Projects are on schedule and committee members are now looking at wish list items, including the black box improvements. Nursing station and secure office projects have been bid with a completion date of Sept. 7. There has also been discussion regarding a sound shell for the Performing Arts Center. Space is available for it, but funding has not yet been settled. Landscaping at the new school is scheduled for completion in the second week of August, depending on weather and work schedules. Trees and sod that have died will be replaced. Work to address punch list items continues inside the new school, and the outdoor play space is still in process. The district may do some site prep work, and there is a strong working relationship with Landscape Structures. Equipment might not be ready by the first day of school, but is expected this fall. Discussions continue with the contractor regarding cleaning the new building, and custodial equipment has been ordered. M. Schoen said an analysis was done to determine custodial staffing needs based on the building's square footage.

Board members resumed a previous discussion about the possibility of holding listening sessions with the public. A. Johnson said she thought it was a good idea because there were many changes coming to the district in terms of facilities as building projects conclude. She said it would be a good opportunity to address questions and concerns, and suggested doing such sessions quarterly. She added that she heard a lot of positive feedback about the public meetings held by Principal Barry Voight regarding the new intermediate school. R. Depa agreed that it was important for the board to have more dialogue with the public. A. Johnson said board members would have to be mindful of the chain of command, but could provide some direction to citizens in a carefully formatted setting. L. Seguin said she was willing to try it, but that there were existing open channels of communication that residents don't currently make use of. She added that many questions would need to go straight to the administrators. M. Larson summarized that a majority of board members were interested in the idea, but details regarding the structure and who would attend needed to be worked out. The matter will be discussed further at the next workshop.

In committee reports M. Schoen explained that the district is running fiber optic service from the high school to the Community Education building. The Community Education building is currently fed by phone lines that provide insufficient service. M. Schoen said the project would pay for itself within about six years, and would greatly enhance communications. M. Schoen also reminded board members about the high school handbook addendum and the graduation policy update on the agenda for action later in the evening.

Upon motion by M. Larson, seconded by R. Depa, the Board of Education called the meeting to recess at 6:44 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. Consent Agenda

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

A. School Board Minutes

1. June 25, 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

6. Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts

Upon motion by C. Milano, seconded by R. Depa, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Personnel Matters:

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the consent portion of the Personnel Matters. Motion passed 7-0.

8. 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.

9. Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent

M. Schoen shared a construction update, noting that the interior of the new building is substantially complete but punch list items remain. Landscaping also needs to be completed as well, and is tentatively scheduled for completion the second week of August, depending on weather. The high school is on schedule for all academic areas to be complete in time for the school year. Circuit room equipment should be in its new location by the end of the season, and the Performing Arts Center will be complete by the end of October. An open house will follow the weekend of Nov. 9-11 with a variety of events. An open house will also be held for the new intermediate school, probably later in September, to give the public a chance to see the building. Locker rooms at the north end of the TAC are the last piece of the project and should be complete in December. M. Schoen also reported that architects are currently working on arrangements to secure the vestibules in the schools, and that the district is exploring opportunities to collaborate with the Wright County Sheriff's Office as well.

B. Principals:

1. Mr. Voight
B. Voight reported
2. Dr. Heil
S. Heil reported
3. Mr. Schuler
D. Schuler reported

C. Business Manager

M. Reeder reported that there will be four openings on the ballot for the school board in November. The application period for candidates is July 31 through Aug. 14. Applications are available in the district office.

D. Community Education Director

D. Johnson reported on the summer concert series and highlighted upcoming performances. She said Wee Tiger Preschool is still accepting students, and classes start Sept. 4. Tiger Kids Club is in its third week of enrichment camps and a variety of fun off-site activities have been held. Registration closes Aug. 3 for the school year. She also reported on registration dates and numbers for several athletic programs, and said the TAC is hiring student workers. D. Johnson said her staff was looking forward to moving the weights and circuit equipment into the new TAC spaces, and that planning for fall is underway.

10. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO

Amy Johnson shared information from the most recent meeting, which included discussion of a pay equity study, budget numbers and staffing needs.

11. Old Business

- A. Second read of Policy 613 – Graduation Requirements

12. New Business

- A. First read of Policy 614 – School District Testing Plan and Procedure; and Policy 619 – Staff Development for Standards

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the first and only read of Policy 614 – School District Testing Plan and Procedure; and Policy 619 – Staff Development for Standards due to non-substantive and/or legal reference changes. Motion passed 7-0.

- B. Approve DES and DIS handbooks

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by M. Larson, the Board of Education approved the DES and DIS handbooks. Motion passed 6-1. Voted for: M. Larson, L. Seguin, C. Black, A. Johnson, R. Depa, A. Briesemeister. Voted against: C. Milano.

- C. Approve high school handbook addendum

Upon motion by M. Larson, seconded by C. Milano, the Board of Education approved the high school handbook addendum. Motion passed 7-0.

- D. Approve Community Ed. employee handbook

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by A. Briesemeister, the Board of Education approved the Community Ed. employee handbook. Motion passed 6-0. A. Johnson abstained.

- E. Resolution relating to the election of school board members and calling the school district general election

Upon motion by L. Seguin, seconded by C. Black, the Board of Education approved the resolution relating to the election of school board members and calling the school district general election. Motion passed 7-0.

13. Closed session to discuss contract negotiations strategy

Upon motion by M. Larson, seconded by R. Depa, the Board of Education approved closing the meeting to discuss contract negotiations strategy at 7:17 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

14. Adjournment

Upon motion by C. Black, seconded by C. Milano, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.