

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Aitkin Independent School District No. 1
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431
February 9, 2015

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Dennis Hasskamp with all members present.

A motion was made by Mr. Hoge, with a second by Mr. Burgstaler, to approve the agenda with the following changes: Move item #11 (Approve extracurricular assignments per the list) from the consent agenda to item C; add Cathy Hughes under item #10 (Approve hirings); and add Scott Klingelhofer under #13 (Approve employment agreements). All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Scheduled presentations:

Senior High Student Council Representatives Emilee Miller and Cora Fastner presented information on upcoming Sno-Daze events. Middle School Student Council Representative Anne Courtemanche spoke about a group fundraiser and an upcoming middle school dance.

Old business: No old business was discussed.

New business:

A motion was made by Ms Hills, with a second by Mr. Janzen, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Minutes of the Organizational/Regular Meeting held on January 12 and of the Work Session held on January 26.
- Office receipts for the month of January in the amount of \$1,386,480.75.
- Report of expenditures for January including \$499,540.91 for bills and \$741,666.58 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Insurance Account checks #13418-13450 in the amount of \$9,475.69.
- Collateral Report for February.
- Donations for January in the amount of \$10,688.95.
- Wire transfers for January in the amount of \$1,175,000.00.
- Approved a Youth Service Grant:
Jeannie Croatt - Grad Blast - \$500.00.

- Accepted resignations:

Allen Balsley - H.S. Counselor, effective May 29, 2015
Tashana Husom - H.S. Counselor, effective May 29, 2015

- Approved hirings:

Cleaner - Collin Ten Bruin, effective February 9, 2015
Food Service Worker I at Rippleside - Susanne June, effective February 9, 2015
Activities Director/Dean of Students - Jason Cline, effective March 2, 2015
Part-Time Dean of Students for the remainder of the school year – Cathy Hughes,
effective March 2, 2015

- Approved a lane change:

Melissa Domben - from the BA+45 to the MA Lane

- Approved Employment Agreements:

Mary Braton - Play lead piano for the musical rehearsals and performances
Andrea Del Zoppo - Play bassoon for musical rehearsals and performances
Nick Ganoe - Play Orch Extra for the musical; includes all orchestra rehearsals and scheduled
rehearsals in March with the cast, performances and dress rehearsals. Nick will also
conduct the orchestra.
Marie Gordon - Play flute for musical rehearsals and performances
Jane Wagner - Play violin for musical rehearsals and performances
Paul Zenke - Play bass for musical rehearsals and performances
Scott Klingelhofer – Videotape the musical 2015 and videotape the Pop Concert
on May 15, 2015

- Approved the Resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations for
Reductions in Programs and Positions and Reasons Therefor.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

After discussion about the possibility of creating a community task force prior to conducting a survey, a motion was made by Mr. Burgstaler, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to hire Morris-Leatherman to conduct a community survey on district facilities. In a roll call vote, Mr. Burgstaler, Mr. Chute, Mr. Welshons, Mr. Hoge, Ms Hills, Mr. Janzen, and Mr. Hasskamp voted in favor of the motion, and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Welshons, with a second by Mr. Chute, to approve spring extracurricular assignments per the list. Mr. Burgstaler, Mr. Welshons, Ms Hills, Mr. Hoge, Mr. Chute and Mr. Hasskamp voted in favor, and the motion carried. Mr. Janzen abstained.

Administrative reports:

Board members' reports:

Mr. Janzen reported on the MSBA Phase I and Phase II Trainings that he attended on January 13-14, 2015. He also reported on the day he spent at the MSBA Leadership Conference.

Committee reports:

Mr. Novak reported on the Safety Committee Meeting held on January 14 where the committee talked with Bob Cummings about our workers compensation insurance. Mr. Cummings will be scheduling some employee training sessions in an attempt to lower our utilization.

Mr. Welshons reported on the Personnel Committee Meeting held on January 20. The group discussed the plans for adding Cleaners to the Maintenance Department.

Mr. Hoge and Mr. Welshons reported on the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting held on January 27. Dallas Kurt Smith talked with the group about his thoughts on the failed referendum and his thoughts on how to proceed. The committee is also recommending an additional \$25,000 to fund capital outlay expenses in each building for the 2015-2016 school year. The committee is recommending that unnecessary facilities projects be delayed until direction on how to proceed with facilities is more defined.

Mr. Chute and Ms Hills reported on the Meet and Confer Committee Meeting held on January 28. The committee discussed the 2015-2016 school calendar, which included discussion on early outs and a pre-Labor Day start.

The Policy Committee met on January 28. Ms Hills reported that the committee recommended the following two policies for a first reading:

- Policy 203-7 School Board Compensation
- Policy 902-1 Rental of School Facilities

Mr. Hoge reported on the Rippleside Parent Advisory Committee Meeting held earlier in the evening. The need for additional parking signs was discussed. Northern Sky Center of Excellence will be having an all-day meeting with Rippleside staff tomorrow. The next Family Fun Night is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2015.

He also reported on the PTO Meeting. The group discussed upcoming activities, including conferences and Catch-a-Star. The group also awarded four grants.

Superintendent's report:

Mr. Novak reported that he is researching the possibility of a high school summer school program with teachers in the industrial arts and agriculture departments.

Principals' reports:

Mr. Pederson reported on various winter extracurricular activities. The dance team will be competing at the state tournament in both jazz and high kick this next weekend. Registration has started for next school year. He reported that Shopko informed him that they will be making a donation to the Aitkin Public Schools again this year. Conferences are coming up soon.

Mr. Peterson reported on ongoing OLPA Testing, which are MCA practice tests. The Student of the Month program has started at Rippleside. Friday, February 13, is the annual spelling bee. The current session of ASK has 157 students registered and taking a wide variety of classes.

Mr. Hasskamp presented the upcoming meeting schedule as listed in the agenda.

Comments from visitors:

Gordon Prickett spoke with the Board about his concerns regarding the failed bond referendum. He encouraged the Board to consider accepting public comment at the beginning of the meeting and research the Stepping Stones building for a preschool facility.

Kristen Ratz, High School Math Teacher, welcomed the three new school board members and wished them good luck in their decision-making process. She invited Board members to visit her classroom and encouraged open dialog between the Board and staff.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms Hills, with a second by Mr. Hoge. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Tiffany Gustin
Secretary