

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Aitkin Independent School District No. 1
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431
March 16, 2015

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Dennis Hasskamp with all members present.

A motion was made by Ms Hills, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to approve the agenda with the following changes: Adding Kelly Bast and Kristy Hoge under item #11 (Approve hirings); clarifying dates of employment for Carol Femling under item #11 (Approve hirings); reflecting that the February minutes were revised to reflect that Jason Cline was hired as an "Interim" Activities Director; and removing the salary agreement for the Food Service Supervisor 2014-2015-2016 from the agenda. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Scheduled presentations:

Senior High Student Council Representative Molly Moriarty talked about Sno-Daze activities. Planning is underway for several upcoming events, including a Kids Against Hunger fundraiser (April 10), Mr. AHS, and Spring Week.

Middle School Student Council Representatives Savannah Jacobs and McKenzie Fisher spoke about the council's first dance which was held recently and an upcoming service project.

Old business:

A motion was made by Mr. Welshons, with a second by Ms Hills, to approve the following policies:

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

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

New business:

A motion was made by Mr. Hoge, with a second by Mr. Burgstaler, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 9, as revised.
- Office receipts for the month of February in the amount of \$1,069,168.14.
- Report of expenditures for February including \$401,310.98 for bills, and \$778,771.97 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA and OASDI/Medicare and 403b.
- Insurance Account checks #13451-13467 in the amount of \$12,250.97.

- Collateral Report for March.
- Donations for February in the amount of \$7,002.69.
- Wire transfers for February in the amount of \$1,100,000.00.
- Approved a Youth Service Grant request:

Janet Smude - River and Lakes Fair - \$500.00

- Considered/approved leave request:

Renee Voller has met the requirements for and is now requesting FMLA leave that is expected to begin on or around May 1, 2015, and last approximately four weeks.

- Accepted retirements/resignations:

Rodger Lindgren retired from the Media Director position at the Aitkin Public Schools effective March 6, 2015.

Renee Irwin is retiring from her Home Economics/FACS teaching position at Aitkin High School effective May 29, 2015.

Brien Smeltzer is retiring from his custodial position March 31, 2015.

Heidi Olesen is resigning from her District School Nurse position as of April 10, 2015.

Julia Real is resigning from Yearbook Advisor and One Act Play Director effective at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

- Approved hirings:

Mary Aulie - Administrative Assistant - Support in the District Office - effective March 9, 2015.

Kelly Bast - Home Economics/FACS teacher effective with the 2015-2016 school year.

Melanie Boyd - Long-term Substitute Teacher for Tara Proctor while she is on FMLA leave from April 22 to the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Carol Femling - Long-term Substitute Teacher for Kayla Host while she is on FMLA leave from March 16 through April 8, 2015.

Kristy Hoge - Long-term Substitute Teacher for Kayla Host from April 9, 2015 through October 30, 2015.

Beth Lundgren - Will continue as a Long-term Substitute Teacher in Rodger Lindgren's position to the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Roy Liljequist - Cleaner, effective March 16, 2015.

- Approved the agreement with Wipfli LLP to conduct audit services for the year ending June 30, 2015.
- Approved an increase in pay for substitute teachers to \$110 per day.
- Approved a resolution for a countywide emergency plan.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms Hills, with a second by Mr. Welshons, to approve the following salary agreements, with changes to language as suggested by Ms Hills:

Tiffany Gustin, Business Manager for 2014-2015-2016
Steve Loscheider, District Technologist for 2014-2015-2016
Jim Bright, Supervisor of Custodians and Maintenance for 2014-2015-2016
Gary Ladehoff, Transportation Supervisor for 2014-2015-2016

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

After recognition of Ms Hakes-Fastner's accomplishments during her years of employment with the District, a motion was made by Ms Hills, with a second by Mr. Janzen, to approve a one-year leave of absence. Mr. Janzen and Ms Hills voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Hoge, Mr. Welshons, Mr. Burgstaler, Mr. Chute, and Mr. Hasskamp voted against the motion. The motion failed.

A motion was made by Mr. Welshons, with a second by Mr. Burgstaler, to accept a resignation from Kathy Hakes-Fastner effective March 6, 2015. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Administrative reports:

Board members' reports:

Mr. Hoge reported on the PTO meeting held earlier in the evening. The group discussed upcoming fundraising projects, Catch-a-Star and sixth grade graduation, which will be held on May 22, 2015.

He also reported on the Parent Advisory Council. The group discussed Catch-a-Star, an upcoming Family Wellness Night (May 7, 2015), and an update on progress made with the Northern Sky Center of Excellence.

Committee reports:

Mr. Welshons made a motion, seconded by Ms Hills, to approve hiring an Assistant Principal at the high school, as recommended by the Personnel Committee. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Based on recommendations made by the Facilities and Finance Committee, Mr. Hoge made a motion, seconded by Mr. Welshons, to approve the following:

Establish the 2015 summer project list at an estimated cost of \$280,000 - \$330,000.

Replacing the bleachers in the New Gym at the high school.

Completion of the ventilation project at Rippleside (south wing).

*Leasing Apple classroom computers, not to exceed \$36,460.70 per year, plus \$14,630.00 for warranty.

*Leasing Apple computers to replace Lab 305 at the high school, not to exceed \$9,195.40 per year, plus \$6,270.00 for warranty.

All members voted in the favor, and the motion carried. (*Copies of the lease proposals and warranty information is available for review in the District Office.)

Superintendent's report:

State legislative committees are meeting, and the Governor has recommended a 1% increase to the education funding formula. He is also recommending fully funding all-day pre-kindergarten classes. Many districts are discussing the challenges that they would face to find space for that programming.

Principals' reports:

Mr. Pederson reported that conferences were held arena-style last week. Feedback was good with the exception of a suggestion to not hold high school conferences the same night as the elementary conferences. Last Friday, there was a half-day teacher workshop; teachers mailed out soft skills surveys to parents. Educational Impact was purchased using staff development funding; staff members can view webinars to meet licensing requirements. Section tournaments for speech and music are coming soon; BPA students did a great job at the state tournament; MCA testing will take place in April; and spring sports are getting started.

Mr. Peterson also reported on conferences, where attendance topped 90%. Family Wellness Night is scheduled for May 7, 2015. Catch-a-Star is scheduled for March 26 and May 22 will be the sixth grade graduation (at 1:30 p.m.). A team of eight people are regularly meeting with Northern Sky Center for Excellence; the goal of the team is to come up with a research strategy for everyone in the building to implement.

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

Comments from visitors:

Brian Orlovski thanked the Board for investing in the Assistant Principal position as well as pursuing leased technology. He also thanked Kathy Hakes-Fastner for her service to the district.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms Hills, with a second by Mr. Burgstaler. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Tiffany Gustin
Secretary