



Independent School District No. 834 – Stillwater Area Public Schools
Stillwater City Hall, 216 North 4th Street, Stillwater, MN
December 14, 2017 – 6:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Present: George Hoepfner, chair; Paula O'Loughlin, vice chair; Tom Lehmann, treasurer; Jennifer Pelletier, clerk; Shelley Pearson, director; Mike Ptacek, director; Sarah Stivland, director; Members excused: Superintendent Pontrelli (ex-officio) Student Members present: Annabel Gregg and Isabella Portelli

III. Pledge of Allegiance: Board chair Hoepfner led Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. District Mission and School Board Goals: The mission statement was read by Member Lehmann and the goals were read by Member Pelletier.

V. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Motion by: Member Pearson; Second by: Member Stivland; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pontrelli was absent due to illness.

Mr. Hoepfner reported on the Portrait of a Graduate Community Conversations that took place.

Ms. O'Loughlin reported on the AMSD Rethink MN conference.

Mr. Ptacek reported on the Think Tank that took place.

VII. Introductory Items

A. Student Report

The students reported:

Semester one is coming to an end and students are busy studying for exams

Several music programs are taking place

The annual Snoball Dance will be held at the JX event center in January

BLAST week is February 12 -16

NHS held a blood drive and music auditions for their upcoming Coffee House

Winter sports are in full swing

Amnesty International had speakers every hour throughout the school day in recognition of Human Rights Day

B. District Recognition

1. Dr. McDowell recognized the Partnership for the classroom grant awards.

2. Paula O'Loughlin recognized George Hoepfner, MSBA All State School Board Member

VIII. Open Forum

1. Rachel Bugbee, 1427 Lydia Circle, Stillwater, spoke of staff abuse.

IX. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of November 16, 2017 Special School Board Meeting

B. Minutes of November 16, 2017 School Board Meeting

- C. Minutes of November 17, 2017 Special School Board Meeting
- D. Minutes of November 28, 2017 Special School Board Meeting
- E. Minutes of December 7, 2017 Special School Board Meeting
- F. Accept Gifts and Donations November 2017
- G. Disbursement Register November 9 through December 6, 2017
- H. Treasurer's Report November 2017
- I. Human Resources Personnel Report
- J. TIES / WATS (Wide Area Transportation) Agreement
- K. Extension of Stephan Stagecoach, LLC Property Lease
- L. Mediated Settlement Agreement

Motion by: Member Lehmann; Second by: Member Stivland; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

X. Reports

A. Truth In Taxation

The Board of Education adopted a preliminary property tax levy on September 28, 2017. Kristen Hoheisel, executive director of finance and operations, provided information on the Truth in Taxation Requirements including the current budget and the proposed Tax Levy for Taxes Payable 2018. The public had an opportunity to comment.

1. Public Comment – There were no comments.

B. Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) Initiative Update

BARR (Building Strengths, Reducing Risks) is a strength-based educational model that was implemented this year to support our 9th-grade students as they are transitioned to high school. BARR supports our 9th graders academic, emotional, and social needs through building positive relationships and using real-time student data to guide team collaboration as we work to meet students' needs.

C. World's Best Workforce

Dr. McDowell presented the 2016-2017 World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Summary Report. Each year, school districts are required, as per MN Statute 120B.11, to provide the public with a summary report of the previous year's WBWF plan.

D. 2017-2018 Revised Budget

Ms. Hoheisel presented the 2017-18 Revised Budget. This budget adopted by the Board of Education midyear is an update to the Preliminary Budget approved the previous June. The Revised Budget is based on the October 1 student enrollment and revised revenue estimates. It is not anticipated that the budget will be revised again for the remainder of the fiscal year. Action will be requested at the January 4, 2018 business meeting.

The board recessed from 8:42 – 8:51 p.m.

XI. Action Items

A. Certify the 2017 Levy Payable 2018

The Board of Education is required to adopt the final levy for Taxes Payable 2018 and certify to the county auditor on or before December 29, 2017. The School Board certified the 2017 Payable 2018 Tax Levy as follows:

General Fund	\$ 26,904,117.80
Community Service Fund	\$ 944,218.12
Debt Service Fund	\$ 5,146,550.00
OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$ 5,158,115.53
Total Levy	\$ 38,153,001.45

Motion by: Member Stivland; Second by: Member Pearson; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

B. Course Addition, Revisions, Deletions

Ms. Larson, director of learning and student engagement, requested approval of the course changes for the 2018-19 school year as recommended by the Curriculum Advisory Council (CAC) and as presented at the November 16 business meeting. The CAC is recommending adding to the list a course titled Exploring the Teaching Profession I.

Motion by: Member Pelletier; Second by: Member Stivland; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

C. Policy 103 – Complaints-Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons

This policy was presented at the November 16 business meeting and it was requested to go back through legal review for clarification around information related to the MN Government Data Practices Act. The board approved the policy with the recommendation made by legal counsel.

Motion by: Member Stivland; Second by: Member Pearson; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

D. Superintendent's Contract

The Superintendent Contract is a three year contract which expires June 30, 2018. The District and the Superintendent have recently reached an agreement on terms and conditions of employment for the 2018-2021 Superintendent Contract.

Motion by: Member Hoepfner; Second by: Member O'Loughlin; Vote: 5 ayes, 2 (Pearson, Placek) nays, Motion Carried.

E. Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services MN

Board Member Placek read the following resolution:

Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services (Minnesota)

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality special education programs and instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) now known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act IDEA to: improve access to education for children with disabilities by guaranteeing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist States and school systems to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, when IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the additional cost of educating children with disabilities; and yet the federal government has failed to adequately fund the mandated programs and services arising under IDEA, never providing more than 15 percent of the additional cost; and

WHEREAS, sufficient federal funding for IDEA would significantly enhance the ability of local school systems to provide an excellent education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the special education cross-subsidy continues to be a major obstacle for Minnesota School Districts to grapple with, due to the growing number of students receiving special education, more specialized services and rising costs associated with those services and inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the state special education funding system has not kept pace with the rising cost of mandated services and supports for students with special needs; and,

WHEREAS, the cross-subsidy for school districts for FY2016 is \$679 million; a 5.6 percent increase from FY2015; and

WHEREAS, between rising need and insufficient state and federal aid, the amount of funding school districts as a whole in Minnesota will be forced to pay for special education costs will reach an average of \$815 per student in FY17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the Governor and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding and meaningful special education reforms at the federal and state levels; and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there is an urgency the Minnesota Legislature to convene a task force to work on special education funding, specifically with a focus on the impacts of the new special education funding formulas, the projected cross-subsidy and recommendations with a timeline to eliminate the cross-subsidy.

Motion by: Member Stivland; Second by: Member Pearson; Roll Call Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

F. Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services Federal

Board Chair read the following resolution:

Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services (Federal)

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality special education programs and instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) now known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act IDEA to: improve access to education for children with disabilities by guaranteeing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist States and school systems to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, when IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the additional cost of educating children with disabilities; and yet the federal government has failed to adequately fund the mandated programs and services arising under IDEA, never providing more than 15 percent of the additional cost; and
WHEREAS, sufficient federal funding for IDEA would significantly enhance the ability of local school systems to provide an excellent education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the special education cross-subsidy continues to be a major obstacle for Minnesota School Districts to grapple with, due to the growing number of students receiving special education, more specialized services and rising costs associated with those services and inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the state special education funding system has not kept pace with the rising cost of mandated services and supports for students with special needs; and,

WHEREAS, the cross-subsidy for Minnesota school districts for FY2016 is \$679 million; a 5.6 percent increase from FY2015; and

WHEREAS, between rising need and insufficient state and federal aid, the amount of funding school districts as a whole in Minnesota will be forced to pay for special education costs will reach an average of \$815 per student in FY17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the President and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding and meaningful special education reforms at the federal and state levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Minnesota calls upon the Congress of the United States to pass appropriate legislation in order to increase funding for federal special education mandates to meet the urgent financial special education needs of our cities and towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be delivered to all United States Representatives and Senators representing Minnesota in the Congress of the United States.

Motion by: Member Ptacek; Second by: Member Pelletier; Roll Call Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

XII. Board Member Reports

A. Board Chair Report

1. Mr. Hoepfner announced a conference opportunity for fellow board members to attend the "Walk in Another's Shoes" sponsored by EMID.

Board Member Reports

1. Ms. Stivland announced she drafted and proposed a resolution to MSBA requesting additional funding for Gifted and Talented students. MSBA accepted and adopted her resolution at the Delegate Assembly.

2. Ms. Pelletier thanked students for reporting a school threat that they saw on social media. She also congratulated Chair Hoepfner on being named to the All State School Board.

3. Mr. Lehmann also congratulated Chair Hoepfner

4. Mr. Ptacek reported on the MSBA Delegate Assembly

5. Ms. Pearson gave a shout out to the students and directors of the district music programs.

6. Mr. Ptacek reported on the 916 meeting.

7. Ms. Stivland reported on the SEE meeting.

Working Group Reports

1. Ms. Pelletier reported the Policy Working Group will meet again on January 18.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Motion by: Member Hoepfner; Second by: Member Lehmann; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Pelletier, school board clerk.