



Independent School District No. 834 – Stillwater Area Public Schools
Oak Park Building, 6355 Osman Avenue North, Stillwater, MN
October 11, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Present: Jennifer Pelletier, chair; Sarah Stivland, vice chair; Shelley Pearson, treasurer; Paula O'Loughlin, clerk; George Hoepfner, director (6:35 p.m.); Don Hovland, director; Mike Ptacek, director; and Superintendent Pontrelli, ex-officio. Student Representatives: Abdulaziz Mohamed and Nikhil Kumaran.

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

IV. District Mission and School Board Goals: The mission statement was read by Member Stivland and the goals were read by Member O'Loughlin.

V. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by: Member Stivland; Second by: Member Pearson; Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pontrelli reported:

- Wished a happy birthday to Abdul Mohamed, Student Board Representative
- Pony Express Awarded the 2018 George H. Gallup award from Quill and Scroll News Media Evaluation service. Stillwater is one of only 10 schools from across the country and the only school in the state of Minnesota to receive this high honor.
- Thanked the people who prepared the meeting space for the school board
- Speech and Debate named to the Prestigious 100 Club
- Shared the schedule for the October 16 Professional Development Day

VII. Introductory Items

A. Student Report

The students reported:

- Provided a sports update
- Student Council meeting for 8th graders and retreat planning
- The Pathways Design and Innovation Team (Portrait of a Graduate)
- 11th graders took the PSAT test
- Theater getting ready to perform "The Man Who Came to Dinner"

A. District Recognition

Superintendent Pontrelli recognized Members of the Homecoming Committee for all of their work this year. Sponsors and volunteers made it all possible. This year we had 71 volunteers, student performers, food trucks, face painting and much, much more!

VIII. Open Forum

1. Julie Mock, 5857 Oakgreen Court spoke of the positive impact that instructional coaches make in the classroom.
2. Isaac Harrington, Transition Student Ambassador, urged the board to keep the transition program at Oak Park.
3. Carl Blondin, 617 Sunrise Avenue, Stillwater, spoke about racism in ISD 834.

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of September 27, 2018 School Board Meeting
- B. Disbursement Register September 29 – October 12, 2018
- C. Human Resources Personnel Report

Director Ptacek asked that item B be acted on separately. Motion by: Member O'Loughlin to approve A and C; Second by: Member Stivland; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion by: Member Ptacek to approve item B; Second by: Member Stivland; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

X. Reports

A. St. Croix Valley Aquatic Facility Presentation

Mr. David Reed, Aquatic Committee Chair, and Mr. Duane Proell, Isaac Sports Group, presented information on a community aquatics facility. The St. Croix Valley Aquatic Center Committee is exploring the possibility of building an aquatic center within the district's boundaries, which would be owned and operated as a non-profit organization. Should such a facility be built, the group stated the district could have priority access to a competition pool for its swim teams. The group also suggested the district could utilize the aquatic center and potentially close one or two of its own pools - which would save the district money each year for pool maintenance and operation costs. The group asked the board to help fund phase two of the project's feasibility study at a cost of \$20,000. The school board will consider the request.

B. Safety and Security Update

Board members learned more about how we're working to increase safety and security in our schools in three main areas: physical spaces, prevention and response. Topic highlighted were security surveys of our buildings with sheriff's deputies, expanded staff training, a campaign to reduce stigma around mental illness and the creation of student support groups.

The board recessed from 8:20 – 8:27

Motion by: Member O'Loughlin to move to Action Item A before the Reports Item C; Second by: Member Ptacek; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

XI. Action Items

A. Financial Statements FY 2018

Mr. Aaron Nielsen of the independent audit firm Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co. presented the finding of the District 2018 financial audit. Board members approved the 2017-2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, upon which the annual audit is based. According to the independent financial auditors the district has received an "unmodified" opinion on its annual audit; the highest rating possible. This year's audit showed no deficiencies in the district's internal controls and no instances of noncompliance of government auditing standards

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

Reports

Item C. 2019 Legislative Platform

Members of the legislative working group led an exercise with the board members to help with developing the District's Legislative Platform for 2019.

XII. Board Member Reports

A. Board Chair Report

Chair Pelletier provided an update on the October 10 work session wherein the school board discussed the possible expansion of Brookview Elementary, the possibility of re-opening Oak Park as an elementary school, and were presented a list of possible budget reductions.

Motion by Member Hoepner to place the expansion of Brookview Elementary as action item on the October 25 2018 business meeting agenda; Seconded by Member Hovland; Vote: 4 ayes (Hoepner, Hovland, O'Loughlin, Pelletier) 3 nays (Pearson, Ptacek, Stivland); Motion Carried.

B. Board Member Reports

1. Ms. Pearson stated she is tired of accusations.
2. Mr. Ptacek reported on a recent AMSD meeting and a recent 916 Board meeting.
3. Mr. Hoepner reported he attend the BIZZA event and is sponsoring a child; he also shared information he received at Sandy Hook Promise school security event; and congratulated the Volleyball Team.

C. Working Group Reports

1. Mr. Hoepner announced the policy group is meeting on Tuesday.
2. Ms. O'Loughlin announced the finance group is scheduling a meeting for the week of October 22.
3. Ms. Pelletier announced the community engagement group will be convening soon.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Paula O'Loughlin, school board clerk.