



Independent School District No. 834 – Stillwater Area Public Schools
Stillwater City Hall, 216 North 4th Street, Stillwater, MN
July 25, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Present: Mike Ptacek, chair; Shelley Pearson, vice chair; Sarah Stivland, clerk; Liz Weisberg, treasurer, Mark Burns, director, Jennifer Pelletier, director (departed 7:30 pm); Tina Riehle, director; and Superintendent Pontrelli, ex-officio.

III. Pledge of Allegiance: The Board chair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

V. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Member Stivland; Second by: Member Riehle, Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pontrelli reported:

- A question from the public on how money was saved with school closures. A presentation was provided with how the money has been reinvested.
- Attended Story Arc performance at the Phipps Center where students created video, podcasts, poetry and celebrate the arts.
- Visited the Summer Success program which focuses on supporting our students. The theme is Peace. Thanked the teachers and students for their participation.
- Visited Stonebridge Elementary and saw a partnership with Washington County that is working with students on drones, tactical robots, etc. and how these items are used in various methods.

VII. Introductory Items

There were no introductory items for this meeting.

VIII. Open Forum

1. Sue Keller – Stillwater, Disappointment in the audience disruption at the board meeting on 7/11/19
2. Meghan Greeder – 122 St, Hugo, Supports separation of Superintendent Pontrelli
3. Lisa Hill – Nassin Hill Rd., Marine on the St. Croix, Support separation of Superintendent Pontrelli
4. Kiva Sherv – Stillwater, Community needs to come together with acceptance of the new board
5. Susan Mattys – Bayport, Need to create unity within the north and south communities
6. Melanie Zahler – Stillwater, Division between the board and superintendent. Waste with our dollars.
7. Abby Banks – Woodbury, No dedication to transparency of the board. Buy out is a waste of funds. Look to the future of the district.
8. Ben Halley – Stillwater, Speaking amongst his colleagues with unequivocal support of the superintendent and her team.
9. Bill Gillis – Stillwater, Interested in the future of this school district.
10. David Blondin – Stillwater, Freedom of speech and irresponsible of spending by contacting attorney.

11. Kate Wallace – Lakeland, Support of Superintendent Pontrelli and her work towards the district mission.
12. Jim Franklin – Midwest Trail, Lakeland - Do not support a separation agreement with the superintendent due to cost and job performance.
13. Peggy Franklin – Midwest Trail, Lakeland, Disagree that our Superintendent is problematic. Legal fees are excessive.
14. Patti Pratt – Minor Ave, Stillwater, Support of the Superintendent. Witness administration putting the needs of our students first.
15. Andrew Jenks – Stillwater, Speaking on behalf of Diane Polasik, advisor for the Lee S. and Dorothy N Whitson Fund who is offering \$10,000-\$20,000 to facilitate and mediate between the board and administration. Neutral intervention is needed.
16. DeeDee Armstrong – Afton, Concerns with the renew of Schoology
17. Laurie Sherburne – Stillwater, Need a new vision and superintendent
18. Darla Simonet – Support for the superintendent. Seek mediation to ensure this is a fair process
19. Kate Papke – Stillwater, Difficult for the district to have a vision when leadership continues to change
20. Margaret Thomas – Wildcrest Lane, Stillwater, Leadership needs to be a roadmap for what we expect. Model good governance
21. Patricia Kurt – Bonnie View Dry, Woodbury, The approval at the 7/11 meeting displayed disregard for transparency. Buy out is a financial burden.
22. Steve Curnaw – Woodbury, Expect better of the board officials and your decisions.
23. Claudia Stannard – Lake Elmo, Believe in the leadership of Superintendent Pontrelli. Work towards solutions.
24. Amy Burback – 213 Sherburne St, Stillwater, Represent herself and four former school board members. Proud of the superintendent for her implementation of BOLD.
25. Jane Krentz – Thanks board for their service. Misrepresented in the north.
26. Kathy Saltzman – Woodbury, Concerned about the district at this time. Review option to have to elect separate district school boards. Discussed governance models.
27. Deb Van Klei – Hugo, Constant change causes instability. We are gaining momentum under the superintendent's leadership.
28. Jeannie Paulson - \$244,000 was spent without the board's approval. Does not support keeping the superintendent
29. Rachel Schmeltzer – Stillwater, Support of Superintendent Pontrelli. She stands for equity and all students.
30. Jennifer Nelson – North St. Paul, work in Spanish Emersion Program, Superintendent Pontrelli and administration are what is best for all of our students
31. Amy Youngman – Woodbury, Ask board to enter into mediation. There are 1068 votes on a petition for support of the superintendent.
32. Melinda Fiero - White Pine Way, Stillwater, Work on ways to fund the district to move learning forward and meet the needs of all the students.
33. Karen Latterell - Conceded time to Amy Youngman

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of July 11, 2019 School Board Meeting
- B. Accept Gifts and Donations June 2019
- C. Disbursement Register July 13, 2019-July 26, 2019
- D. Human Resources Personnel Report

Motion by: Member Stivland to accept and approve; Second by: Member Weisberg; Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried.

X. Reports

A. Illuminate Education Invoice

Mr. Perry reported that Illuminate is a suite of software products used for approximately four years as a standards based assessment tool and three years as an elementary report card. The Illuminate invoice is in the amount of \$51,324. Approval will be requested at the August 8, 2019 meeting.

B. Stillwater Area High School Data Room Cooling Project

Ms. Hoheisel provided information on the high school data room cooling project that will provide additional and redundant cooling for the District Wide Head End located at the Stillwater Area High School. This is preventative maintenance that will be performed and the liability of overheating this space will be minimized. The cooling project only provides for the installation of equipment. The cooling equipment and integrated building controls will be obtained outside of this agreement.

Construction costs for the equipment, integrated building controls and installation were estimated to be \$159,200 and will be funded by the Bond Construction Fund. The lowest proposal is from Northern Air Corporation of Vadnais Heights, MN for a total of \$91,200. Hallberg Engineering recommends awarding the contract to them. Approval to award the proposal to Northern Air Corporation will be brought to the August 8, 2019 meeting.

XI. Action Items

A. Schoology Learning Management System Contract

Mr. Perry requesting the continued use of Schoology in grades 6-12 for an additional 5 years. The 5-year term helps control long-term price increases as well as provide teaching staff with assurance of continued support on the platform. Mr. Perry also addressed the open forum concerns on security with Schoology.

Motion to approve the Schoology Learning Management System Contract by Member Stivland; Second by: Member Pearson, Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously

B. Sourcewell Technology Hybrid Access Network (Internet) 2019-20 Fiscal Year

Mr. Perry requested payment for internet only services for 2019-2020 in the amount of \$51,716.

Motion to approve payment for internet services by Member Pearson; Second by: Member Stivland, Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously

C. Community Design Team Roster

At the April board meeting the base of the committee was approved. Cunningham Group recommended additional members to this group to ensure more diversity. The Community Design Work Group is recommending the board approval for a group of nearly 100 parents, community members, staff and students to serve on the Community Design Team.

Motion to approve by Member Stivland; Second by: Member Weisberg, Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously

D. School Board Appointments for Community Design Team

The Board Chair appointed the following members as part of the Community Design Team:

Director Mark Burns

Chair Mike Ptacek

Clerk Sarah Stivland

Motion to approve by Member Weisberg; Second by: Member Stivland, Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously

E. District Handbook 2019-2020

Ms. Keister gave an overview of the district handbook. Families are asked to sign off that they have read and are familiar with the content. Administration requests approval of the 2019-2020 District Handbook.

Motion to approve by Member Weisberg; Second by: Member Burns, Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously

F. Afton-Lakeland Elementary Playground Surfacing

Ms. Hoheisel requested approval of funds from the 2015 Referendum proceeds for funding for the resurfacing by Northland Recreation, LLC for the Afton-Lakeland preschool/kindergarten playground in the amount of \$58,787.

Motion to approve Afton-Lakeland Elementary Playground Surfacing by Member Ptacek; Second by: Member Weisberg, Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously

G. Community Engagement Working Group Meeting Calendar

Vice Chair Pearson shared the working groups meeting calendar for the second half of 2019. These meetings are open to the public.

Motion to approve the Community Engagement Working Group calendar by Member Weisberg; Second by: Member Riehle, Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

XII. Board Member Reports

A. Board Chair Report

Chair Ptacek commended the audience and speakers during open forum and commended Director Burns from the 7/11 meeting as he brought up some items for the board to consider. The board is reflecting on those possibilities. Working with Morris Leatherman to conduct a survey with the community. Commend administration and board as this was as collaborative effort.

B. Working Group Reports

1. Community Engagement – Director Pearson – No meeting held. Thanked the community for sharing your thoughts with the board through the meetings and through email.
2. Finance and Operations – Director Weisberg reported they will meet Monday at 7:45 am
3. Legislative – Chair Ptacek – August 12 – SEE hosting a meeting for anyone interested in legislation (administrators or board members). No registration needed.
4. Personnel – Director Pearson – No meeting held
5. Policy – Director Stivland indicated a meeting was held this past week. Working on updating the mandated policies. Hoping to have a group of them for first reading at the August 22 meeting. Next meeting is August 5 from 8-10 am.

C. Board Member Reports

1. Director Riehle – Past two weeks working with Stillwater dance team. Thanked Larkin Dance Studio for allowing the dancers the ability to grow. Conversation with legal and addressed some inaccuracies. Insistencies in the district to put processes in place – would help sustain accountability. Respect and passion for the school and community as it pertains to the separation agreement. Read every email sent.
2. Director Weisberg – Discussed inconsistencies and concerns with the financial problems and savings are not documented. Problem in the district is trust. Was told BOLD would bring financial stability.
3. Director Pearson – Call from a parent with children watching national news and concerned with safety with what is going on in the world. Reinforce safety and trust with our students. Concern with the FeePay process. Kirsten will revisit with the board if needed. Transaction costs are the same if it is a charge card or bank account. The Wall that Heals is up today through the 28th which is a Replica of Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Stuff the Gus campaign is going on, many areas to drop off your donations. Hosted by United Way and Community Thread. Rotary presentation from District 916. Opportunities to help students chose a career path. It can help us get in a better place for our students
4. Director Stivland – Attended a free MN Educational Camp hosted by the NE Intermediate District 916 at Hamline which was a very inspiring panel discussion with recent graduates. Discussed passion for education and want the schools to be the best they can. Find it inspiring to have so many people come tonight to share their concerns. We need to be united again. Ask community to be patient with the board.
5. Director Burns – Important we continue to hear from everyone. Appreciates the boards flexibility in having many public speakers tonight

6. Director Pelletier - Director Burns read comments from Director Pelletier - Attended presentations on mental health offered by Washington County. Thanked the many community, staff and families for writing to the board.

XIII. Adjournment

- A. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Stivland, school board clerk.