



Independent School District No. 834 – Stillwater Area Public Schools

Video Conference

November 5, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Present: Sarah Stivland, chair; Mike Ptacek, clerk; Tina Riehle, treasurer; Timothy Brewington, director, Bill Gilles, director, Jennifer Pelletier, director; Liz Weisberg, director

III. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the amended agenda with addition of a closed session by Member Weisberg; seconded by: Member Riehle; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

IV. Superintendent Report

- Thank you Director Brewington and Director Gilles for serving on our school board these past few months. We appreciate their willingness to serve the district and our students, staff and families.
- I would like to thank Sherri Skogen for her time as the Executive Assistant to the School Board and Superintendent and congratulate her on her new district position as the Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent. Welcome to Joan Hurley as the new Executive Assistant to the Board.
- The SAHS Career Pathway Program helps high school students work on creating the registration guide and making changes in articulation in order for the courses to provide college credit and to offer our students many more opportunities.
- We have had a wonderful fall sports season and are looking forward to hearing more from our student representatives and coaches.
- Partnership Plan completed its first “Pony Up for Kids” Fundraiser. They raised \$46,495 in a four day fundraising campaign. Thank you for your donations.
- Youth Advantage (YA) is a nonprofit organization that helps youth from families in need in the Stillwater area pursue their passions in extracurricular activities including athletics, music, visual arts and educational-enrichment. YA provide activity education, guidance, financial assistance, and the instrument or athletic equipment required to participate. Contact: YouthAdvantage.org
- Congratulations Dr. Chris Rogers, Principal at Afton Lakeland for completing his dissertation defense this afternoon.

V. Introductory Items

A. Student Report

Mara provided a report on academics -

- For many students, our first quarter is ending in our schedules and we will be switching into our 2nd, 4th and 6th hour classes. Some students will have finals and others will wrap up their 1st quarter classes, which we will be revisiting in January.
- The annual DaVinci Fest was cancelled due to the pandemic; however, students can participate in the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair.
- Community Scholarships are now open to seniors and are due by Feb 15
- Nov 11 is signing day for seniors receiving sports scholarships from the college they are attending.

Brynn reported on activities and student life -

- Student council freshman elections are happening this week. 10 freshmen have been campaigning and the freshman class will elect 6 candidates on Friday, November 6
- Vesa is a club that helps kids in Nigeria get an education, is having a gala on Friday, November 6 via Zoom to help raise funds.
- Petition to save winter sports on change.org has been gaining popularity with both students and parents. As of 24 hours ago, it had been signed by almost 3000 community members.
- The National Honors Society introduced their new elected officers in a recent meeting. They are planning to have another blood drive along with a coffee house.
- The Innovations team which is known for their work in the course registration guide had their first web marketing and design meeting to try to better streamline information for students.
- The Music department continues to work hard on their upcoming virtual concert
- In Sports
 - Girls swim and dive team won their 19 straight section titles.
 - Cross country, Senior Ethan Vargas won 1st in state for boys; alongside Senior Anna Weaver who won the state title in girls cross country.
 - Both girl and boys soccer won their sectional tournaments.
 - Football and volleyball are doing well and their shortened seasons are coming to an end.
 - Stillwater swim and dive and girl's tennis had their virtual banquets this week. Students were glad they had the opportunity to participate in sports this year.

B. Recognition – Superintendent Lansfeldt recognized the fall coaches, athletes and Athletic Director Ricky Michel. Congratulations to the following fall coaches. Jake Smothers, Mike Huber, Scott Christensen, Dawn Podolske, David Kahl and Brian Luke.

VI. Open Forum

1. James Franklin, 642 Midwest Trail PI N - Personnel Work Group meeting, RFPs and contracts
2. Josiah Hill, 1124 Macey Way - Current Learning Model and COVID situation

VII. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of October 22, 2020 Business Meeting
- B. Disbursement Register October 24, 2020 – November 06, 2020
- C. Human Resources Personnel Report

- D. District Wide Snow Removal and Pavement Treatment
- E. Midyear Superintendent Evaluation

Motion by Member Weisberg to approve the Consent Agenda items A, B, D; Seconded by: Member Riehle; Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion by Member Ptacek to approve Consent Agenda item C; Seconded by: Member Pelletier; Vote 7 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion by Member Weisberg to approve Consent Agenda item E; Seconded by: Member Riehle; Vote 6 ayes, 1 (Pelletier) nay, Motion Carries.

VIII. Reports

A. Youth Services Bureau Services for SAPS – Mike Huntley, the Interim Executive Director of the Youth Services Bureau (YSB), provided an update to the board on the many services YSB provides to the district every year. In 2019, YSB provided more than 600 students across the district with diversion programs and mental and chemical health support. YSB provides services to students at their locations as well as through school-based programs. You can learn more at www.ysb.net

Services provided in the last calendar year served 625 students attending district 834; 137 students were involved in diversion services, 95 students were involved in family counseling therapy services and 393 students received the school based services (mental health and chemical health supports). Provide these services at the high schools, ALC and both middle schools. Youth and family education delivered 116 presentations throughout the service area. Collect outcome measures for all services. Show that all services are effective and have a positive impact. We provide a chemical health specialist at the high school and ALC and a half time chemical health specialist in the middle schools. There is a mental health therapist one day each week to respond to the needs of the ALC. Appreciate the financial support, confidence and partnership. Will be asking the district to increase the financial support due to a volunteer donation that will be coming to an end. Adjusting to all COVID 19 parameters within the schools. Working at YSB and Stillwater schools with methods such as telehealth. Seeing an increase in anxiety and in general a depression developing. Looking for ways to function during these times. If you have any follow up questions, please contact Mike Huntley.

B. On the Dial Learning Update – Superintendent Lansfeldt

- Superintendent Lansfeldt reported the current range puts us in distance learning. Last week school districts received new guidance and updates to the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Prior to making changes in learning models, MDE has advised districts to evaluate very specific, localized data to better understand how community rates of COVID-19 cases impact the local schools. County data every week should also be a key factor in decision making. The neighboring districts' learning models were shared.
 - The Washington County dashboard shows 7518 positive cases, 392 hospitalizations, 103 in ICU and 75 total deaths. If you exclude the counts in the community prison rate the 14 day case rate from September 27 to October 10 was 28.02, which is still close to the 30 mark where secondary would be in distance learning.

- The daily COVID rates by county were shared. Most of the district boundaries are in red at 121.3. Expect rates to continue to go up.
- Our top priority is the safety of students and staff. October 23-29 dashboard shows we have 2 students and 9 staff that have tested positive. There is a rise in students in quarantine, staff testing positive, especially in secondary schools and additional staff out due to symptoms. We have had six bus drivers test positive.
- Rising concern with staffing coverage. We have a variety of staff covering and filling positions in classrooms due to substitute shortage and last minute absences.
- Ms. Keister shared the Learning Model staff and family survey responses
 - 817 staff responded. Teachers, district administration and principals are feeling their current workload is a concern. The majority of staff is feeling very supported and safe at work, while 33% are feeling unsafe or very unsafe.
 - Families commented that COVID safety is important. Students are learning and gave teachers a high rating in communication. There is concern with social and emotional support and the sense of connection between children and their classmates.

Superintendent Lansfeldt and administration recommends to move the dial to distance learning for middle and high school students, while keeping athletics and activities operating as scheduled while in distance learning and keep elementary in hybrid learning for as long as safely possible.

C. Contract Reviews

Mr. Sundstrom reviewed the contracts and expenditures from October 16 to October 29, 2020.

- Advantage Educational Programs - ACT testing - \$150 per child in school classes & \$60 per child for online classes
- Capture Video LLC d/b/a Captivate Media Consulting - Spanish Language Immersion Video Project - \$3,125.00 at signing of agreement and \$3,125 upon final completion/delivery
- City of Bayport – Coronavirus Relief Funds/CARES Act Transfer - \$21,000.00 to purchase five smart-board displays for Andersen Elementary School, which will promote public health in the City by facilitating distance learning for the students, parents, and teachers
- Science Explorers – Pre-recorded online Crazy Chemistry for grades 2-6 - \$69 or less per child
- Science Explorers – Pre-recorded online STEM sampler class for preschoolers ages 3.5-6 - \$42 or less per child
- Science Explorers – Pre-recorded online STEM sampler class for grades 2-6 - \$65 or less per child
- Tech Tac Toe – online coding program for grades 2nd to 4th - \$75 per student enrolled
- Yogatone – Fall, winter and spring sessions - \$60 for 5 sessions
- Young Rembrandts – Live Interactive Art Drawing class for age 5-12 years - \$29.00 per child
- Youth Enrichment League – Online Chess and Online Magic - \$40 for 4 sessions

IX. Action Items

A. District Learning Model – Superintendent Lansfeldt

Superintendent Lansfeldt indicated that due to the rapidly rising COVID numbers in the district administration recommends a change in the learning model.

Motion by: Member Weisberg to approve the proposed District Learning Model of moving secondary students into distance learning and keep athletics and activities as they are now; Seconded by: Member Ptacek; Vote: 5 ayes, 2 nays (Gilles, Riehle), Motion Carried

B. In Person Board Meeting Options – Chair Stivland

Chair Stivland shared that she did a little bit of additional research and the technology and operational needs for trying to have meetings in person make it very prohibitive and in light of fact COVID numbers going up so fast in the county. Chair Stivland would like to make a motion at this time recommends the board meetings continue in Zoom format until further notice.

Motion by: Member Stivland to continue in Zoom format until further notice; Seconded by: Member Brewington. Vote: 6 ayes; 1 nay (Gilles), Motion Carried.

C. CESO Contract for Services – Ms. Moen

Ms. Moen reported that on October 22, 2020, the School Board approved a plan for restructuring the Finance and Operations department that included the outsourcing of Transportation Management Services pending Board approval of a contract. Since that Board meeting, Administration has reached agreement with CESO on the terms of a contract. The scope and payment terms of the contract were reviewed. The contract is anticipated to begin on December 1, 2020, and continue through June 30, 2023, with annual renewal thereafter unless terminated by either party as defined in the contract. The annual cost for the contract will be \$15,415 per month, or \$184,980 annually. As a result of this change, the District will have an increased level of transportation staffing, while experiencing a reduction in cost of approximately \$19,000 annually (an estimated \$47,500 over the term of the contract), as compared to our current transportation staffing costs.

Motion by: Member Riehle for approval of the CESO Contract for Services; Seconded by: Member Weisberg; Vote: 5 ayes, 1 (Pelletier) nay; 1 abstain (Gilles); Motion Carried

Motion by: Member Pelletier to amend the motion to the contract to be changed to a one year contract; Motion fails due to lack of a second.

Director Pelletier left the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

D. Firewall Replacement – Mr. Perry

Mr. Perry reported the current district firewall license costs increased this year due to VPN costs required to support remote learning. Licensing costs are moving from \$30K/year to \$50K/year. The district can achieve more favorable pricing by replacing our equipment and bundling 3-year licensing. This will also support our future upgrade bath to 10GB Internet services if/when needed. Mr. Perry is requesting approval to replace our current firewall equipment and bundling three-year licensing. \$17,550

Motion by: Member Weisberg for approval of the Firewall Replacement and three year contract; Seconded by: Member Riehle; Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays Motion Carried Unanimously.

X. Board Reports

A. Board Chair Report –

Director Stivland thanked Sheri for her incredible support, help, friendship, kindness and patience over the past year. Thank you for all you are doing for our district. Welcome to Joan, excited to get to know you better.

Thank you to both Bill Gilles and Tim Brewington for serving our district in this time of need.

B. Working Group Reports

1. Community Engagement – The next meeting is Tuesday, November 10
2. Finance and Operations – Met today and will send notes
3. Legislative – Attended legislative committee meeting SEE today. They talked about the election and concerns about the House and Senate at the State level. They also talked about legislative strategies and looked at the final draft for the legislative platform. Legislative SEE meeting is on Friday, November 6 and also the Board Work group meeting is on Friday from 11:00-12:30 pm.
4. Policy – Anticipate having some policies at the next board meeting. Next work group meeting on Monday, November 9

C. Member Reports:

Director Brewington thanked the board and the community for giving him the opportunity to serve on the School Board.

- Director Gilles complimented Superintendent Lansfeldt for her role as the interim superintendent. Appreciate guidance and experience from Mike and Sarah. Tina and Liz thank you for getting me into this. Tim it was an honor to meet you.
- Director Riehle thanked Director Gilles and Director Brewington for their support of our community.
- Director Weisberg thanked both Director Gilles and Director Brewington for serving on the School Board and for running for the School Board open positions
- Director Ptacek thanked Sherri Skogen for all of her hard work with the School Board and the district. He also thanked Director Brewington and Director Gilles.

XI. Adjournment

The Minnesota Open Meeting Law, Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b), allows the School Board to close a meeting to engage in attorney-client privileged discussions. The District is engaged in the litigation as outlined on the agenda. The Board seeks to meet with its attorney to discuss the status of the case. It would be detrimental to the District's interests for the Board to hold a public discussion with its attorney where any adverse party or their attorney could listen to or be made aware of the Attorney's advice related to the litigation. It is in the District's best interest for the Board to obtain legal advice in a confidential setting to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Accordingly, Chair Stivland entertained a motion that this meeting be closed pursuant to the attorney-client privilege for the reasons cited.

Motion by: Member: Riehle; Second by Member: Weisberg; Vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays; Motion Carried Unanimously.

A. The open meeting adjourned to a closed session at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Ptacek, Clerk