



Independent School District No. 834 – Stillwater Area Public Schools
Video Conference
September 24, 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; Timothy Brewington, director, Bill Gilles, director, Jennifer Pelletier, director; Liz Weisberg, director; Tina Riehle, treasurer (absent)

III. **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda by Member Ptacek; seconded by: Member Weisberg; Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

IV. **Superintendent Report**

- Welcomed two new student representatives to the board.
- Beginning to develop plans and timelines for referendum for next November 2021.
- Middle schools are planning to move to their full hybrid model on October 12 allowing students to get out of their “bubble” which had them in one classroom each day and start transitioning to their full class schedule.
- MSHSL re-instated fall football, volleyball and adoptive soccer.
- Congratulations to Stillwater Area High School student Maggie Banks who was named to the prestigious Top 300 Broadcom MASTERS list which is the nation’s premier STEM competition for middle school students.
- SAHS Anders Abbot and Connor Lange have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- SAHS Academic Awards Ceremony will be LIVE online on Monday, September 28 at 6:00 PM and the video will also be posted online for later viewing.
- Openings for Adventure Club child care staff.

V. **Introductory Items**

A. **Student Report**

Mara: Academics - Reviewed the hybrid model set up at the high school. Masks are required and haven’t had any issues. Students are seated in desks six feet apart with one way hallways. Academic letters were released for a 3.75 or over GPA.

Brynn: Activities/sports - Shared the sports that have started this fall with practices and competitions. Excited football and volleyball were reinstated. Games will be live-streamed for those that do allow spectators. MSHSL will announce winter calendar on Oct. 1 and status of possible state competitions for the sports competing. Postponed homecoming is being celebrated Sept. 28-Oct. 2 with the tagline - “Homecoming is cancelled but we are still celebrating”

- B. **Recognition** – Rachel Larson shared the Summer Success video and recognized the students and teachers/staff who made it a great experience. This was the fifth year of serving students with over 225 students in a distance learning model.

VI. **Open Forum**

1. Jim Franklin – 642 Midwest Trail PI N – Contract and funding approval procedure

VII. **Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes of September 3, 2020 Special Meeting

- B. Minutes of the September 10, 2020 Regular Meeting
- C. Disbursement Register September 12-25, 2020
- D. Human Resources Personnel Report
- E. Century College Joint Powers Agreement – PSEO
- F. Approval of Temporary Healthcare Specialist Position
- G. Upgrade IXL site licenses to support English and Math

Motion by Member Ptacek to approve items A, B, C, F, G; Seconded by: Member Brewington; Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion by Member Ptacek to approve item D; Seconded by: Member Pelletier; Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion by Member Brewington to approve item E; Seconded by: Member Weisberg; Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

VIII. Reports

- A. First Day of School Report/Smart reStart Fall Planning Update
Superintendent Lansfeldt shared the district welcomed 8,343 students on the first day of school. 240 students anticipated decrease. We are currently transporting 4,800 students and 8,392 are using the bus tracking app. 2,480 free meals were distributed on September 11 for weekly meals. There are 436 students enrolled in school age care and 72 students on the waiting list.

Students in the hybrid model: 2,473 – elementary; 1,457 – middle school; 2,051 – high school
Students on 100% Online: 883 – elementary; 475 – middle school; 759 – high school

When looking at changing models the key factors to consider are county COVID case numbers, staffing coverage, instructional preparedness, technology access, building readiness, nutrition and transportation readiness, health and safety readiness, childcare readiness and consultation with MDE, MDH and Washington County.

Moving from In-Person to Hybrid: We look at the number of students and school staff who are absent or who are sent home with influenza- or COVID-19-like illness that reaches approximately 5% of the total number of students and staff in a school within a single week. Also look at if a significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (e.g., large community event or large local employer) that has the potential to impact staff, students and families served by the school community.

Moving from Hybrid to Distance: A distance learning model could be considered for a day or two if confirmed cases are identified but contact tracing and notification of close contacts in the school setting cannot be completed within 24 to 36 hours. Multiple cases are identified within a short time period that occurs across multiple classrooms or activities, and a clear connection between cases cannot be easily identified. A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred and is impacting multiple individuals served by the school community. Substantial, uncontrolled community transmission that is occurring, and there are multiple confirmed cases among students and/or staff.

Moving to a less restrictive model options and timelines were reviewed. Two weeks are needed once the board approves a change in the model before it can be implemented.

Washington County data as of today is at 12.4 cases/10,000, which is slightly down from last week. This data is a two week lag.

- B. Reimagine Stillwater Schools
Dr. Jennifer Cherry reported we are moving forward integrating the nine strategies into our school district efforts. We have all schools finalizing the school improvement plans for the year. Site teams are meeting and establishing

smart goals. Moving forward on teacher evaluations and the QComp evaluation process. Learning Leaders professional development is scheduled the end of October. The key focus is on Equity.

Generating interest from community stakeholders for the World's Best Workforce committee. An interest form is on our website and needs to be submitted by October 29.

C. School Bus Parking

Mr. Sundstrom reported that the transportation staff at Stillwater Area Public Schools has been working to secure space to park school buses due to a lack of space at the current transportation facility. The City of Stillwater has given permission to park 40 buses at Stillwater Middle School. A contract with RMG Group in Afton was presented to park up to 25 buses at a cost of \$200 per bus per month. With this contract the district will have sufficient parking space for buses for the 2020-21 school year.

IX. Action Items

A. Architectural Engineering Contract

Mr. Sundstrom shared that the district issued a request for proposals on February 14, 2020 with proposals due on March 13, 2020. The district requests architectural engineering services on an as-needed basis including, but not limited to, annual long-term facilities maintenance projects. The district would expect the architect to create bidding documents, review bids, provide contracts, approve submittals, issue change orders, certify payments and monitor construction projects. They would also be needed throughout the year for general needs projects. The Finance and Operations Working Group reviewed these proposals on August 6, 2020 and is recommending approval of the Wold Architectural Engineering contract.

Motion by: Member Weisberg to approve the Wold Architectural Engineering contract; Seconded by: Member Pelletier; Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

B. Approve Preliminary Levy

Mr. Sundstrom provided an overview of the proposed preliminary, property tax levy for Payable 2021 and reviewed the significant tax levy changes.

State law requires that the School Board adopt a proposed property tax levy for taxes payable in 2021 by September 30, 2020. The amount adopted by the district for preliminary 2020 payable 2021 provides revenue for the 2021-22 school year and is limited by state statute and voter approved referendum. This differs from the county and city calendar in that the 2021 levy provides the revenue for their 2021 calendar year budget.

The school board may adopt a preliminary levy based on September estimates, or may adopt a preliminary levy that states "Maximum Levy". If the board adopts a "Maximum Levy", then Minnesota Department of Education adjustments may be made subsequent to the action by the Board. If a dollar amount is adopted in September, adjustments that would increase the levy are not allowed. Historically, the 'maximum' has been adopted in September as an assurance that final corrections or adjustments would be included for Board consideration prior to certifying the final levy in December.

The maximum amounts the district can levy in various categories are specified in state law. The total levy is made up of many separate components in three funds (General, Community Service and Debt Service). The 2020 (Payable 2021) property tax levy provides revenue primarily for the 2021-22 school year. Estimates will be available at the Board Business meeting on December 3, 2020. Taxpayers will have an opportunity to provide input during the Truth in Taxation meeting.

Motion by: Member Pelletier to adopt the maximum levy; motion fails for lack of a second.

Motion by: Member Weisberg to adopt the proposed property tax levy minus QComp with the total levy of \$40,471,667.08 for taxes payable in 2021; Seconded by Member Ptacek; Vote: 5 ayes; 1 nay (Pelletier), Motion Carried

X. Board Reports

A. Board Chair Report – No report

B. Working Group Reports

1. Community Engagement – Meeting on September 8 with discussion on WBWF, looking at opportunities for volunteers to help read to students, thank you letters out to staff working hard over the summer, and discussing the opportunity to have a coordinator for community engagement for the needs of the district.
2. Finance and Operations – Looking to develop a policy for the work of the committee.
3. Legislative – Clerk Ptacek reported the committee is meeting on October 1. Attended one AMSD and two SEE meetings. Legislative Committee will be putting together a platform that will come to the board for approval. SEE has an equal right to quality public education amendment coming. Director Brewington reported from the SEE meeting hearing about a proposed Constitutional Amendment for Quality Public Education by Former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Neel Kashkari. They are advocating for a proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that establishes quality public education as a fundamental right for all students with the intent of eliminating Minnesota's achievement gap.
4. Policy – No meeting

C. Member Reports:

Director Gilles – Want to push to have board meetings in person. Hearing hybrid model is hard and would like to move to in person model. Will work to bring it up at the October 8 board meeting.

Director Brewington – 'Pony Cards' are being sold by the football players. Good opportunity to support our athletes.

Director Pelletier – Member of a County Mental Health organization and shared a phone number for free support services - #833-hear4mn.

Director Weisberg – Partnership Plan meeting held on August 25 and one scheduled for September 29. Partnership Plan announced acceptance for classroom grants for teacher/staff of ISD 2020-21. Information is on the district website.

XI. Adjournment

- A. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Ptacek, Clerk