



Independent School District No. 834 – Stillwater Area Public Schools
Stillwater City Hall, 216 North 4th Street, Stillwater, MN
October 24, 2019 – 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: Mike Ptacek, chair; Shelley Pearson, vice chair; Liz Weisberg, treasurer; Mark Burns, director; Jennifer Pelletier, director; Tina Riehle, director; Sarah Stivland, clerk; and Superintendent Pontrelli, ex-officio.

III. Pledge of Allegiance: Board Chair Ptacek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

V. Approval of the Agenda

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

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pontrelli reported on:

- A teacher at SAHS, Stacy Bartlett received the president award for excellence in math and science. Stacy was one of two in the US to receive this award.
- Laura Larsen, Coordinator of Facilities and Site Operations, received the Outstanding Contributor Award by the Minnesota Educational Facilities Management Professionals.
- March 24, 2020 – invited for a capital visit which will include school board members, community members and students.
- Teachers in the middle school and high school participated in learning development this past Tuesday. All staff across the district got together to celebrate achievements and accomplishments. Elementary school staff worked at their schools on special projects.
- Attended girls' soccer quarter final state game.

VII. Introductory Items

A. Student Report: Elise Riniker reported:

- Academic report – Students back from MEA break. Seniors and Juniors were touring colleges over break and are working on college applications.
- Activity report – Hosted first student leader meeting with various club leaders with an open forum format. First newspaper issue of Pony Express coming out on 10/31. Theater department is putting on a performance the first two week-ends in November. MN Youth Climate Strike has a Stillwater chapter at SAHS. Broad Spectrum is a new group that developed which is an outlet for minorities to have a voice on podcasts.

- Athletics report - Cross country meet – four boys are going to state and the girls team is going to the state meet as sectional champs. Girls' soccer team was sectional champs. Volleyball has their first sectional quarter final game tonight.
- B. District Recognition: Superintendent Pontrelli recognized the 2019 Summer Success student leaders that made a difference in the lives of our young learners. A video was shared as well as each of the students introducing themselves and sharing their experiences.

VIII. Open Forum

1. Sally Anderson – Community Thread partners with SAS where students interact with older adults. Thank you for partnership. This connection helps to build community.
2. Amy Burback – Stillwater - Community Design Team – needs to provide recommendation for capacity with Brookview and Oak Park.
3. Katie Hockert – Invest in education. As a community let our money talk. Returns are not immediate, however give children of this district money and time to grow.
4. Kate Niemann – Stillwater Township – The Spanish Immersion change is isolating the community design team. Oak Park was not chosen for board meetings, however is this appropriate space for the Spanish Immersion program.

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes of October 10, 2019 Business Meeting
- B. Disbursement Register September 29-October 11, 2019
- C. Human Resources Personnel Report
- D. Accept Gifts and Donations for September 2019
- E. Collaborative Student Transportation Management Services Agreement
- F. Snow Removal Service Proposals
- G. 2019 District Wide Renovations – Change Orders

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

X. Reports

- A. Career Pathways Program
Principal Bach and some of the Pathways team presented information about the Career Pathways program being developed for 2020-2021. The program is designed to enhance academic achievement, provide more relevance to what students are learning, and offer more real-world opportunities. Through Pathways, students will better understand their career options, get hands-on experience in a variety of areas, and leave high school with marketable skills and experiences. Some flexible scheduling to make time for applied learning will be done through credit by assessment, dual credit and online courses.
- B. Community Design Team
Director Burns reported the Community Design Team met on October 15. The team worked on the facilities principle that was previously developed and now the group is working towards facility design standards. Factors reviewed include physical structure of buildings, interior finishes, operational finishes, overall property, and community within the facility. Building tours have started. Next meeting is November 4 where the team will look on a gap analysis report and explore district wide scenarios. November meetings will include discussion on the gaps and needs, as well as potential solutions. Board members are at these meetings primarily as listeners.
- C. School Board Building Liaisons

Director Pearson shared the layout of the School Board Liaison program. The importance is to build strong connections with each of the schools in the district, and the presence of board members in the schools aids the board in making the best decision possible as they better understand the needs of students.

School Board members will be assigned two schools/programs per semester and will rotate through remaining schools. After four years, every board member will have rotated through every school. It is requested that at a minimum, board members schedule a tour with the principal and attend at least one other meeting/event throughout the semester.

Board members make all decisions with the good of the entire district in mind, the assignments are not meant to be advocacy positions but to allow board members to gain a broader perspective about the district. School board members do not get involved in administrative issues at individual schools but refer concerns to appropriate staff or the superintendent. Board members are not limited to only attending events at their assigned school(s). The seats will remain constant when new board members are elected.

Plan to bring as an action item on November 14.

The following are mandatory policies. The Second Reading of these policies was presented by Director Stivland.

- D. Policy 410-Family and Medical Leave - No changes since the first reading. Will send through for final reading.
- E. Policy 620-Credit for Learning – PSEO was added in the definitions. The committee will discuss weighted grades and bring back for final reading.

XI. Action Items

A. 2011A Certificate of Participation (COP) Refunding Resolution

Ms. Hoheisel reported that at the October 10, 2019 board business meeting, Matt Rantapaa from R. W. Baird presented the estimated interest cost savings associated with a potential refunding (refinancing) of the outstanding 2011A COP. A recommendation was made that the Board adopt the resolution to move forward with the sale of Refunding COP with a minimum savings goal of \$500,000.

Motion to approve the resolution to move forward with the sale of refunding COP with a minimum savings goal of \$500,000 by Member Pearson; Second by: Member Stivland, Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

B. 2020 Legislative Platform

The Legislative Work Group developed the 2020 Legislative Platform which outlines the District's priorities. This document will be shared with local legislators who represent District 834. The priorities of the platform were reviewed which include increase the basic general education funding formula, further increase the state's share of special education funding and reduce paperwork for special educators and increase funding to support mental health initiatives and increase the physical safety/security of our schools.

Motion to approve the 2020 Legislative Platform by Member Riehle; Second by: Member Weisberg, Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

C. World's Best Work Force Advisory Council

Director Pearson reviewed the statute regarding the advisory council for WBWF. Original team was at 16 members. The committee received nine applicants, but one did not live in the school district. Therefore, eight additional names to be included as members of the Advisory Council were provided for review. Request to reserve four spots for students and two additional teachers.

Motion to approve the additional members to the World's Best Work Force Advisory Council by Member Pelletier; Second by: Member Burns, Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

D. Combined Polling Locations 2020

Ms. Skogen shared that there is a need to re-establish our polling places for 2020. Annually the board will pass a resolution establishing combined polling places for any potential special elections in the upcoming year. The polling locations are determined by the county and provided to the school district for approval.

Motion for the adoption of the resolution to approve the combined polling locations for 2020 by Member Pelletier; Second by: Member Stivland, Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays, Motion Carried Unanimously.

XII. Board Member Reports

A. Board Chair Report

- No report.

B. Working Group Reports

1. Community Engagement – Director Pearson – November 6, 5:30 looking for greeters for an event sponsored by Washington County and Lakeview Hospital. Family road map is being developed by administration to help students/families navigate through their school years.
2. Finance and Operations – Director Weisberg – Next meeting on October 29 at 7:45 am.
3. Legislative – Chair Ptacek – Spent time at last meeting working on the platform. March 24, 2020 is our visit to the Capital. Legislative Breakfast is scheduled. Legislative meet and greet scheduled on November 21.
4. Policy – Director Stivland - Next meeting is November 5.

C. Board Member Reports

1. Director Burns – No report
2. Director Weisberg – No report
3. Director Stivland – Plan to attend the AMSD annual conference on November 13 and encourage other board members to join.
4. Director Pearson – Plan to attend the MSBA annual conference is in January, 2020.
5. Director Riehle – No report
6. Director Pelletier – Invited to a meeting with parents and board member from South Washington to discuss hands on partnerships touching on our growing diverse population. Shout out to the undefeated 9th grade football team.

XIII. Adjournment

- A. Motion by Member Weisberg to close the meeting at this time for attorney-client privileged communication with our attorney, which is necessary to determine a course of action in response to threatened litigation arising out of allegations of defamation in correspondence from an employee's attorney. The closed session is pursuant to Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) of the Open Meeting Law. Motion seconded by: Director Riehle. Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m. to closed session.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Stivland, school board clerk.