

December 9, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the School Board, Independent School District No. 701, was called to order at 6:00 P.M. on December 9, 2020, via Google Meet. Members present: Directors McLaughlin, Nyberg, Martin, Polcher, Egan and Chair Berklich.
Members Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Being a Google Meet a roll call vote was taken and carried as follows:

For: Directors Egan, Polcher, Martin, McLaughlin, Nyberg and Chair Berklich
Against: None
Absent: None

Public Comment:

Superintendent Aldrich reminded those on the call that the meeting was being live streamed on hpat.org and could be viewed on Public Access Channel 7. He then gave a recap about the board adopted motion from the November 23rd meeting. Distance Learning from December 1 – January 22nd and plan to reevaluate at the January 6th board meeting. However, we also evaluate this daily. Our goal is to be in person as soon as possible. Staffing is the real issue for a return.

Parent / Community member Joe Benchina – Concerns on the effect of distance learning education and mental health needs and also requesting that the school open next week to the parents that want their kids' in school. He requested the board to make a motion to vote tonight on opening schools next week.

Chair Berklich asked the board 3 times if someone wanted to make the motion. The motion failed as no board members moved or supported this motion.

Director Egan made a motion to discuss the possibility of opening school in a meeting for December 16, 2020.

Chair Berklich asked the board 3 times if someone would second the motion. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Chair Berklich stated the goal of the school board is to get kids in school and would like a reevaluation of date of return on the December 23, 2020 agenda or if needed earlier we can call a board meeting.

Director McLaughlin reiterated the daily dialogue Mr. Aldrich and Ms. Lindholm are having with the Department of Health Public Nurse.

Another parent told the board the parent group wouldn't quit and are planning a 10 day blackout where for 10 days their kids won't be logging in for class.

PRESENTATION OF TAX LEVY AND FISCAL 2021 BUDGET

Mr. Alex Kaczor presented the tax levy and fiscal 2021 budget. The opportunity for the public to comment/question after the levy was given.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director Nyberg, supported by Director Martin to approve the Consent Agenda for the Month of November, 2020 which consists of the Minutes from the November 4 and 18, 2020 Regular Meetings and November 12 and 23, 2020 Special Meetings. Postings or transfers in the Non-Certified Bargaining Unit for the month of November.

1. Approve the transfer of Julie Brownell to Job #38, Custodian I, Districtwide 4:00 P.M. – 12:30 A.M., effective November 9, 2020.

Being a Google Meet a roll call vote was taken and carried as follows:

For: Directors Egan, Polcher, Martin, McLaughlin, Nyberg and Chair Berklich
Against: None
Absent: None

Personnel:

APPROVE THE HIRING OF DAKOTAH WINANS AS JV GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH

Moved by Director Nyberg, supported by Director McLaughlin to approve the hiring of Dakotah Winans as JV girls' basketball coach, effective December 7, 2020.

Being a Google Meet a roll call vote was taken and carried as follows:

For: Directors Egan, Polcher, Martin, McLaughlin, Nyberg and Chair Berklich
Against: None
Absent: None

Administrative Reports:

Directors / Student Director:

Principals / Assistant Principals:

Committee Report:

COVID Updates:

Superintendent Aldrich – Discussed how seriously the district is taking the duty of getting kids back in school safely. We are at the height of the pandemic. The following are factual numbers: St. Louis County 138 cases per 10k and a percentage of schools and charter schools in Minnesota are in person and other learning models.

Surrounding schools will be going to distance learning.

537 Districts and Charter Schools in MN:

9% in person 51% Distance Learning

6% Hybrid 35% Combination of all 3

There is a task force made up of Superintendents, parents, legislators headed by Heather Mueller (MN Dept. of Education) working on other criteria to base kids returning to school that's not based solely on Bi-weekly Covid numbers.

Director McLaughlin thanked Superintendent Aldrich, COVID team and all teachers trying to get our students back safe.

Director Egan commended Superintendent Aldrich on the lead he has taken and the great job he has done.

Administrative Business:

ADOPT AND CERTIFY THE FINAL 2020 PAYABLE 2021 LEVY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,230,760.75

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Director Martin to adopt and certify the final 2020 Payable 2021 Levy in the amount of \$3,230,760.75.

Being a Google Meet a roll call vote was taken and carried as follows:

For: Directors Egan, Polcher, Martin, McLaughlin, Nyberg and Chair Berklich

Against: None

Absent: None

APPROVE PAYMENT TO MAX GRAY CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,897.46 FOR WORK COMPLETED ON 2020 LTFM PROJECTS

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Director Polcher to approve payment to Max Gray Construction in the amount of \$20,897.46 for work completed on 2020 LTFM projects.

Being a Google Meet a roll call vote was taken and carried as follows:

For: Directors Egan, Polcher, Martin, McLaughlin, Nyberg and Chair Berklich

Against: None

Absent: None

APPROVE THE 2019 PAY EQUITY COMPLIANCE REPORT AS PRESENTED

Moved by Director Egan, supported by Chair Berklich to approve the 2019 Pay Equity Compliance Report as presented.

Being a Google Meet a roll call vote was taken and carried as follows:

For: Directors Egan, Polcher, Martin, McLaughlin, Nyberg and Chair Berklich

Against: None

Absent: None

Discussion Items:

The December 23, 2020 school board meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURN

Moved by Director Polcher, supported by Chair Berklich to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

Being a Google Meet a roll call vote was taken and carried as follows:

For: Directors Egan, Polcher, Martin, McLaughlin, Nyberg and Chair Berklich

Against: None

Absent: None

JOHN BERKLICH, Chair

ATTEST:

MICHAEL EGAN, Clerk