

Regular Board Meeting
Independent School District 564 – Board of Education
February 28, 2022
6:00 p.m.
DSC Board Room

A Regular Meeting of Independent School District #564 Board of Education was held on Monday, February 28, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the DSC Board Room. The following board members were present: Chris Melbye, Mike Spears, Michelle Westerman, Ryan Walseth, Wayne Nomeland, Misty Hempel, and Craig Mattson. Absent: None.

Staff members present were: Melissa Bushy, Tanya Monson-Ek, Sara Olson, Scott Brekke, Josh Watne, Danielle Schantz, Mary Fran Twistol, and Mike Wienen.

Also present were: Marlene Anderson, April Scheinoha, Kaden Mostrom, Daniella Niebuhr, and Jillian Niebaur.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Walseth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Clerk Westerman confirmed that a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Michelle Westerman and seconded by Misty Hempel to approve the February 28, 2022 agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Craig Mattson and seconded by Wayne Nomeland to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mike Spears and seconded by Chris Melbye to approve the bills as submitted and on file in the School District Business Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Superintendent's Report:

Congratulations to the students and teams who are advancing to State.

We have two more Prowler Chip winners: Congratulations to Morgan Bernier and Jodi Nehring for their outstanding service to our school community. They were awarded their chips last week.

Shout out to Melissa Bushy (and her team) for her work on Ed-Fi (new system for MARSS) and CRDC (completed). It was a new process. She learned it, stuck with it, and got it done. Thanks, Melissa, for leading this change.

Masks are no longer required on school buses. Just to be clear, this is because we are at a medium to low transmission rate in our community. If we were at a high transmission rate, it would still be recommended to wear masks. However, at this time, we still have discretion. This will require a change to our Covid Matrix. Superintendent Stepan will bring the changes forward at the next school board meeting on March 14.

CES had a mechanical snafu at 11:45 am today, February 28. A flex joint on the heat pump expanded and burst causing a very loud "boom". There was never any danger to students or staff, but it was scary for many. It has been fixed. Internet and phone service is back up and running and the heat has been restored. (Rubber gasket blew up due to it running dry. Our HVAC contractor is taking full responsibility for the problem.)

Committee Reports:

Misty Hempel gave a report on the Transportation Committee meeting that was held on February 11.

Ryan Walseth gave a report on the Finance Committee meetings that were held on February 21 and February 23.

Chris Melbye gave a report on the Negotiations Committee meeting that was held on February 21.

Student Report:

LHS Seniors, Daniella Niebuhr and Kaden Mostrom talked about current events happening at LHS.

Principal Report:

Mike Wienen - CES, Josh Watne - FMS, and Scott Brekke - LHS, provided updates from their buildings.

Recognitions:

- A. Recognize the donation from the American Legion to Prowler Track totaling \$1,000.
- B. Recognize the anonymous donation for \$5,016 to be used for general purposes.
- C. Congratulations to the LHS Wrestling team as they are advancing to the Team State Tournament. They came in seeded #2 and had a huge uphill battle. But with many key wins, including a final pin by LHS senior, Collin Bruggeman, they beat #1 Pequot Lakes 36-33. The MN State High School Wrestling tournament will take place on March 3-5 in St. Paul.
- D. Congratulations to the LHS Math League team on its first place finish in Section in Section 8A. They will represent Thief River Falls at the 38th Annual Minnesota State High School Mathematics League State Tournament on March 14, 2022 (Pi Day) at South St. Paul Secondary School. Additionally, the LHS Math League team finished in second place in the Northern Lights Division (its conference). Senior Annika Christensen finished in second place in the Northern Lights Division, with 44 points for the season. The following team members received All-Conference honors for placing in the top 20 in the Northern Lights Division: Annika Christensen, senior--First Team All-Conference, Ridge Fisher, junior--Second Team All-Conference (14th place), and Shelby Hensrud, senior--Honorable Mention All-Conference (18th place).

Presentations:

- A. Indian Education - Amber Neadeau and Amber Seaverson
- B. NW Online Learning Academy - Danielle Schantz

Real World Authentic Opportunities:

Voice and Choice:

Equitable Experiences:

- A. A motion was made by Michelle Westerman and seconded by Chris Melbye to approve the agreement for the Cooperative Sponsorship of Girls Softball between ISD 564, Thief River Falls and ISD 561, Goodridge. Motion carried unanimously.

Safety (Strategic Direction D):

Staff Growth:

- A. A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by Michelle Westerman to approve the Resolution to eliminate the following positions, effective for the 2022-23 school year. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Hempel, Nomeland, Spears, Walseth, Mattson, Melbye, and Westerman. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Four (4) Elementary Classroom Teachers at CES
2. One (1) Math Intervention Teacher at FMS
3. One (1) Science Teacher at FMS
4. One (1) Math/Social Studies Teacher (.5 FTE Math/.5 FTE Social Studies) at FMS
5. One (1) English Teacher at LHS
6. One (1) Construction Trades Teacher at LHS
7. One (1) German Teacher at LHS
8. One (1) Assistant Principal Position at FMS
9. Four (4) Cleaning Positions
10. One (1) Special Education Teacher at CES
11. One (1) Special Education Teacher at FMS
12. One (1) Special Education Paraprofessional at CES
13. One (1) Volunteer Coordinator

- B. A motion was made by Wayne Nomeland and seconded by Mike Spears to approve the Consent Agenda and as appropriate, per negotiated contract, salary and benefits and an acceptable background check. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

1. Approve the leave of absence for **Trent Mattson**, Maintenance, from February 7, 2022 - February 27, 2022.
2. Approve the termination of **Jesse Lunak**, Cleaner, effective February 15, 2022.
3. Approve the employment of **Barry Oakgrove**, Cleaner, effective February 23, 2022.
4. Approve the employment of **Barry Oakgrove**, Bus Driver, effective February 23, 2022.

Strong Fiscal Management:

- A. A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by Michelle Westerman to approve the use of ESSER III funds to be used for a NW Online Learning Academy pilot program. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Melbye, Westerman, and Hempel. The following voted in opposition to: Nomeland, Spears, Walseth, and Mattson. Therefore, the motion failed.
- B. A motion was made by Mike Spears and seconded by Wayne Nomeland to approve the Resolution to accept the donations received for the benefit of the district as designated. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Melbye, Mattson, Walseth, Hempel, Westerman, Spears, and Nomeland. Motion carried unanimously.

Policies:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

/s/
Ryan Walseth, Chair

/s/
Michelle Westerman, Clerk