

Regular Board Meeting
Independent School District 564 – Board of Education
March 8, 2021
6:00 p.m.
via ZOOM video conferencing

A Regular Meeting of Independent School District #564 Board of Education was held on Monday, March 8, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. The following board members present were: Mike Spears, Wayne Nomeland, Michelle Westerman, Ryan Walseth, Misty Hempel, Chris Melbye and Craig Mattson.

Staff members present were: Melissa Bushy, Donita Stepan, Tanya Monson-Ek, Amber Lindgren, Tim Vagle, Ronnie Skallet, Fodda Haj, Danielle Spiten, Katie Hahn, April Ballard, Katie Hahn, Danielle Schantz, Karen Bakken, Kayla Lian, Sara Rogalla, Mike Biermaier, Mary Fran Twistol, Mike Wienen, Nicole Wienen, Bob Wayne, Kelly Weets and Scott Brekke.

Also present were: Dave Hill and Marlene Anderson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Mike Spears and seconded by Ryan Walseth to call the meeting to order and establish that a quorum is present. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Nomeland, Walseth, Hempel, Mattson, Melbye, Spears, and Westerman. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Craig Mattson and seconded by Michelle Westerman to approve the March 8, 2021 agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Mattson, Spears, Melbye, Westerman, Nomeland, Hempel, and Walseth. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Misty Hempel and seconded by Ryan Walseth to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Westerman, Spears, Walseth, Hempel, Mattson, Melbye, and Nomeland. 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. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Walseth, Hempel, Nomeland, Spears, Mattson, Melbye, and Westerman. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Committee Reports:

Mike Biermaier gave an update from the Athletics and Activities Committee.

Wayne Nomeland provided an update from the Finance Committee meeting.

Tanya Monson-Ek reviewed the proposed 2020-21 Budget Adjustments.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Stepan began her report by publicly thanking the Leadership team and committee members for the work they did to get us through our budget process. It's never easy, but they did it and they did it with grace and professionalism. As a reminder, our teams were asked to find \$550,000 worth of reductions. By reducing our expenditures by this amount, we are able to stay within our school board approved fund balance of around

15%. Superintendent Stepan said she is proud of the work our teams did to ensure we continue to be good stewards of our money.

COVID has put school districts in a financial bind across the state and country. Our state and federal governments are working on providing additional one time funds to school districts to offset some of those costs. Last week, we were given additional guidance on how some of those funds could be used, which was very welcoming news for us, and because of that, we are able to absorb some of the budget reductions. These one time funds have to be used within the next two years on Covid related reductions, so, as a reminder, this is why our Athletics and Activities Committee was able to reconsider the Boys Swimming Program line item, and extend this reduction for two more years. We are so grateful this Covid money will buy us some time. We'll continue to work towards increasing our numbers for the boys swimming program in hopes we can sustain it in the future.

Superintendent Stepan gave a brief update on our strategic plan work. We have a couple of different groups working on developing ideas for our revision of the strategic plan. We will continue to solicit feedback from our community members, our leadership teams, our staff and our school board. Our goal is to have a revised strategic plan and district operating plan in place by May of this year. We will continue to work on this goal.

Recognitions:

A. Congratulations to Kenny Geiser who got his 300th win as a wrestling coach.

Presentations:

Amber Lindgren reviewed the Exit Survey Process and shared the results of the survey.

Guaranteed & Viable Curriculum (Strategic Direction A):

Technology, Innovative Learning & Partnerships (Strategic Direction B):

A. A motion was made by Craig Mattson and seconded by Ryan Walseth to approve the Facilities Use Request for the Backcourt Club to use Challenger Elementary School Gyms 1, 2, 3, & 4 on Sundays from March 7-28, 2021 from 12-4 pm with some exceptions. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Spears, Walseth, Nomeland, Hempel, Westerman, Mattson, and Melbye. Motion carried unanimously.

Families (Strategic Direction C):

Safety (Strategic Direction D):

Workforce (Strategic Direction E):

A. A motion was made by Michelle Westerman and seconded by Misty Hempel to approve the Consent Agenda as amended per negotiated contract, salary, and benefits and an acceptable background check. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Nomeland, Westerman, Mattson, Hempel, Walseth, Melbye, and Spears. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

1. Approve the employment of **Josefina Vega Rodriguez**, Cleaner, effective March 1, 2021.
2. Approve the employment of **Michael Magnusson**, Student and Family Support Coordinator, CES, effective March 8, 2021.
3. Accept the resignation of **Kylie Olson**, Speech & Language Pathologist, effective June 7, 2021.
4. Accept the resignation of **Rachel Hatherlee**, Special Education Paraprofessional, CES, effective March 31, 2021.

5. Accept the resignation of **Kelly Wang**, Math Teacher, FMS, effective June 7, 2021.
6. Accept the resignation of **Sarah Linder**, Assistant LatchKey Coordinator, effective March 12, 2021.

B. A motion was made by Mike Spears and seconded by Misty Hempel to accept the retirement of Mark Lee after 22 years as the FMS Industrial Technology Teacher, effective June 7, 2021. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Hempel, Westerman, Melbye, Walseth, Mattson, Nomeland, and Hempel. Motion carried unanimously.

C. A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by Craig Mattson to approve the Labor Agreement with Minnesota School Employees Association (Bus Drivers & Transportation Assistants) effective July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Walseth, Nomeland, Westerman, Hempel, Melbye, Spears, and Mattson. Motion carried unanimously.

D. A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by Ryan Walseth to approve the following 2020-21 Extra-Curricular Assignments.:

1. Dillon Lundin-Coach-Boys Basketball-MS-8th gr

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Walseth, Melbye, Nomeland, Spears, Westerman, Hempel, and Mattson. Motion carried unanimously.

Finances (Strategic Direction F):

A. A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by Misty Hempel to approve the 2021-2022 Budget Adjustments as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted in favor of: Nomeland, Hempel, Walseth, Melbye, Mattson, Westerman, and Spears. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Items:

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

**/s/
Wayne Nomeland, Chair**

**/s/
Mike Spears, Clerk**