

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Independent School District 564 – Board of Education**  
**November 16, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**DSC Board Room**

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A Regular Meeting of Independent School District #564 Board of Education was held on Monday, November 16, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the DSC board room. The following board members were present: Michelle Westerman, Misty Hempel, Chris Melbye, Wayne Nomeland, John Syvertson, and Mike Spears. Absent were: Ryan Walseth.

Staff members present were: Dr. Chris Mills, Angie Dahlen, Sara Olson, Maryfran Twistol, Katie Shaw, Kayla Lian, and Tony Greene.

Also present were: Gretta Grzadzielewski, Jillian Neibaur, James Sceville, and Dave Hill.

Board Vice-Chair Hempel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Clerk Melbye confirmed that a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Michelle Westerman and seconded by Mike Spears to approve the November 16, 2023 agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by Michelle Westerman to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023 regular school board meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

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.

Public Comment: None.

Presentations:

- A. Katie Shaw presented information on an agricultural trip opportunity for high school students.

Reports:

A. Committee Report:

- 1. Finance Committee-Chris Melbye gave an overview of the November 6 meeting.

B. Student Report:

- 1. Gretta Grzadzielewski gave an overview of the LHS trick or treat event, Sno-fest theme, which will be decades, and senior class color, flower & motto were chosen.

C. Superintendent's Report:

- 1. Dr. Chris Mills discussed his notes from 10/26-11/16. Including the referendum vote, how to proceed, the SRO issue, and a recap of the MEC meeting from 11/15.

Business Action Items:

- A. A motion was made by Wayne Nomeland and seconded by John Syvertson to approve the consent agenda as presented, and as appropriate, per negotiated contract, salary and benefits, and an acceptable background check. Motion carried.

Personnel:

- 1. Approve the employment of **Jewel Fultz**, Elementary teacher (Long-Term Substitute), CES, effective October 23, 2023 - January 19, 2024.

2. Accept the employment of **Jamie McCauley**, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective November 15, 2023.
3. Accept the employment of **Tanya Mickolio**, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective November 20, 2023.
4. Accept the resignation of **Peggy Lawrence**, Special Education Paraprofessional, FMS, effective November 10, 2023.
5. Accept the resignation of **Jenna Nicklin**, Special Education Paraprofessional, CES, effective November 17, 2023.
6. Approve the leave of absence for **Mackenzie Nelson**, Elementary Teacher, CES, from approximately December 2, 2023 through February 26, 2024.

B. A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by Michelle Westerman to approve the following 2023-24 Extra-Curricular Assignments. Motion carried.

1. Kenny Geiser-Wrestling-HS-Head
2. Dale Rystad-Wrestling-HS-Asst. Level 1
3. Brian Kasprick-Wrestling-HS-Asst. Level 1
4. John Motta-Wrestling-MS-Asst. Level 1
5. Sam Lane-Wrestling-HS-Asst. Level 1
6. Mark Davis-Wrestling-HS-Asst. Level 2
7. Ben Poissant-Wrestling-MS-Head
8. Jon Hams-Boys Basketball-HS-Head
9. Riley Henrickson-Boys Basketball-HS-JV
10. Will Anderson-Boys Basketball-HS-9th Gr
11. Les Backer-Boys Basketball-MS-8th Gr
12. Brayden Johnson-Boys Basketball-MS-7th Gr
13. Paula Praska-Girls Basketball-HS-Head
14. Jake Rantanen-Girls Basketball-HS-Asst
15. Lilly Kerner-Girls Basketball-HS-JV
16. Jeff Loe-Girls Basketball-HS-9th Gr
17. Shawna Spears-Girls Basketball-MS-8th Gr
18. Bailey Greene-Girls Basketball-MS-7th Gr
19. Tim Bergland-Boys Hockey-HS-Head
20. Scott Bergland-Boys Hockey-HS-Asst
21. Isak Bergland-Boys Hockey-HS-JV
22. Brett Johnson-Girls Hockey-HS-Head
23. Bob Huot-Girls Hockey-HS-Asst
24. Matt Knutson-Girls Hockey-HS-JV
25. Danielle Spiten-Boys Swim-HS-Head
26. Molly Halsa-Boys Swim-HS-Asst
27. Jason Schuster-Activities Supervisor-MS
28. Dominic Kruse-Weight Room Supervisor-HS
29. Rachael Evenson-Speech-HS-Head
30. Jason Boyer-Speech-HS-Asst
31. Carolyn Kokett-Speech-MS-Asst

C. A motion was made by John Syvertson and seconded by Mike Spears to Review and Approve the Resolution of support for the reconstruction of 150th ave between CSAH 8 and CR 8 and CR 62 reconstructing CR 62 to

improve traffic flow and safety due to the significant increase in volume of traffic due to the traffic bypass, construction of the round about, and elementary school traffic. Motion carried.

- D. A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by Mike Spears to Establish and Post for the following positions. Motion carried.

1. Target Services - Beginning December 4, 2023

- a. One (1) Coordinator - up to 75 hours (CES)
- b. One (1) Coordinator - up to 75 hours (FMS)
- c. Up to Twelve (12) Gr. K-5 Teachers - up to 40 hours each (CES)
- d. Up to Two (2) Teachers - up to 40 hours each (FMS)
- e. Up to Three (3) Paraprofessionals - up to 40 hours each (CES)

- E. A motion was made by Michelle Westerman and seconded by Mike Spears to approve the RESOLUTION in which MSBA urges the legislature to maintain the status of school provided transportation as a student privilege and not a student right. Furthermore, MSBA urges the legislature to not adopt any law that restricts a school district to provide a safe transportation service for students and drivers and maintains the school district's ability to discipline students in accordance with school district policies. Motion carried.
- F. A motion was made by Chris Melbye and seconded by John Syvertson to approve the voiding the School Resource Officer Contract with the City of Thief River Falls. Motion carried.
- G. A motion was made by Michelle Westerman and seconded by Chris Melbye to approve the 2023-25 Master Agreement with the Thief River Falls Principals' Association as negotiated. Upon a roll call vote the following voted in favor of: Syvertson, Spears, Hempel, Nomeland, Melbye, and Westerman. Absent: Walseth. Motion carried.
- H. A motion was made by Mike Spears and seconded by Wayne Nomeland to approve the RESOLUTION relating to canvassing returns of the Special Election. Upon a roll call vote the following voted in favor of: Spears, Hempel, Syvertson, Melbye, Westerman, and Nomeland. Absent: Walseth. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 564 (Thief River Falls), Minnesota that the special election held in and for the School District on November 7, 2023, was in all respects duly and legally called and held, the returns thereof have been duly canvassed, and the votes cast at the special election for and against the questions submitted to the electors were as follows:

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1**  
**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION**

The School Board of Independent School District No. 564 (Thief River Falls), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District's general education revenue by \$750 per pupil. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2023 for taxes payable in 2024 and would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the increase in general education revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 564 (Thief River Schools), Minnesota be approved?

**PASSAGE OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAXES**

| Votes<br><u>YES</u> | Votes<br><u>NO</u> | Spoiled, Defective or<br><u>Blank Ballots</u> | TOTAL<br><u>VOTES</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>1150</u>         | <u>1,307</u>       | <u>3</u>                                      | <u>2,460</u>          |

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 2  
APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY AUTHORIZATION**

The School Board of Independent School District No. 564 (Thief River Falls), Minnesota has proposed a new capital project levy authorization in the maximum amount of 4.426% times the net tax capacity of the School District. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$800,000 for taxes first levied in 2023, payable in 2024, and would be authorized for seven (7) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$5,600,000. The revenue from the proposed capital project levy authorization will provide funds for the acquisition, installation, replacement, support and maintenance of software, software licenses, computers, improved technology equipment, networks, infrastructure and the costs of technology related personnel and training. If School District Ballot Question 1 is approved, shall the capital project levy authorization proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 564 (Thief River Falls), Minnesota be approved?

**BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

| Votes<br><u>YES</u> | Votes<br><u>NO</u> | Spoiled, Defective or<br><u>Blank Ballots</u> | TOTAL<br><u>VOTES</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>965</u>          | <u>1,478</u>       | <u>3</u>                                      | <u>2,446</u>          |

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 3  
APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION**

The School Board of Independent School District No. 564 (Thief River Falls), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District’s general education revenue by \$407 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2023 for taxes payable in 2024 and would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the increase in general education revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 564 (Thief River Schools), Minnesota be approved?

**BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

| Votes | Votes | Spoiled, Defective or | TOTAL |
|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|

| <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u>    | <u>Blank Ballots</u> | <u>VOTES</u> |
|------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <u>958</u> | <u>1,488</u> | <u>3</u>             | <u>2,449</u> |

The ballot questions, having not received the approval of a majority of the votes cast, are hereby declared not to have carried.

Pursuant to Section 126C.17, Subdivision 9 and Section 205A.07, Subdivision 3a, the Clerk is hereby instructed to notify the Commissioner of Education of the results of the special election and to provide the certified vote totals for the ballot question in written form within 15 days after the results have been certified by the Board.

**Policies:**

- A. A motion was made by John Syvertson and seconded by Mike Spears to approve updates to the following policies. Motion carried.
  - 1. 714-Fund Balances
  - 2. 902-Use of School District Facilities
  - 3. 413-Harassment and Violence
  - 4. 416-Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing
  - 5. 506-Student Discipline
  - 6. 506 Complaint Procedure
  - 7. 507-Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint
  - 8. 515 Form-Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records
  - 9. 620-Credit for Learning

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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**Ryan Walseth, Chair**

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**Chris Melbye, Clerk**