

**Official Minutes**  
Monthly Business Meeting  
December 13, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 227, Olmsted, Fillmore, and Winona Counties was held on Wednesday December 13, 2023. Chair Priebe called the meeting order at 7:04 pm.

**Clerk's Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**

Present: Priebe, Keefe, Thompson, Harstad, Johnsrud and Sovinski.

Absent: None

All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Add

7. Consent Items (approval)

- b. New Hires
  - iii. Jaden Glenzinski – Floating Substitute
  - iv. Brent Berge – Varsity Softball Coach
  - v. Annika Bakkum-Ekern – One Act Play Director
  - vi. Jackson Schild – Substitute Paraprofessional
- d. Job Posting
  - ii. JV Softball Coach
  - iii. Title One Paraprofessional
- e. 2024 Fall Head Coaches
  - i. Jeff Johnson
  - ii. Kristi Rindels
  - iii. Niki DeBuhr

10. Action Items

- c. Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places
- d. Facility Update/Maintenance project

Motion by Sovinski, second by Johnsrud to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Approval of Claims and Accounts**

Treasurer Harstad indicated that the claims and accounts appeared to be in order. Motion to approve claims and accounts made by Harstad, seconded by Thompson. Motion carried 6-0.

### **District Patron Time**

None

### **Reports**

#### Student Senate Lexi Kivimagi and Taylor Ask

Student Senate is doing their annual Christmas Cookie sales. Proceeds will go towards the budget for Snowball.

#### Tom Keefe (SB)

Member Keefe spoke about Hiawatha education District (HVED). Purchase will be closing in February, looks to be on track.

#### Josh Thompson (SB)

Nothing to report

#### Jill Harstad (SB)

Nothing to report

#### Katie Priebe (SB Chair)

Nothing to report

#### Shane McBroom (K-6 Principal)

Presented submitted report. Thanked the Community Education Foundation for hard work on the recent Silent Auction. Mr. McBroom is working with PLC's regarding future training in reading. Mr. McBroom thanked Mrs. MacLeod and Mrs. Schleusner for a successful Holiday concert. Mr. McBroom spoke about the City Park Christmas Tree Project. Trees look great and it is a fun way to contribute to the community.

#### Eric Nelson (7-12 Principal)

Presented submitted report. Mr. Nelson thanked the Community Education Foundation. Mr. Nelson is blown away by the support of our community and how far the CEF has come. Mr. Nelson spoke about the Minnesota Honor Society and their volunteer efforts over the last few weeks. Mr. Nelson

Congratulated Aiden Johnsrud and Katryn Johnson on being the MSHSL's ExCEL Award winners for Chatfield Schools.

Ed Harris (Superintendent)

Mr. Harris thanked the Community Education Foundation for their efforts to support staff and students. The auction event was amazing. He then presented the annual Truth in Taxation Report which is now posted under Public Notices on the District web page. The average increase of the general levy of the last 5 years is 2.67%. This year's levy increase is 2.42%. The principals were then introduced to review the World's Best Workforce Report for 22-23 which is posted under Public Notices on the website.

Mr. Harris also thanked the Facility Study Group and ISG for their efforts to explore the needs for a facility project. He also thanked the community for responding to the survey which indicated 36% support for the project. Based on the survey result, Mr. Harris recommended that the district not move forward with a May election, but rather continue to study the facility question considering the community response to the survey.

Budget concerns were then reviewed by Mr. Harris who indicated that the 2022-2023 school year ended with a \$310,000 budget shortfall. This school year will end with a projected budget shortfall of \$340,000. These shortfalls are primarily due to accelerated inflation and labor costs over the past couple of years in addition to a recent drop in enrollment which negatively affects revenues.

Annual shortfalls require the use of cash flow reserves to cover the gap. While the spending of reserves has been intentional to delay budget cuts, reserves will eventually run out if budget corrections are not made. Impactful budget reductions will start this spring as the beginning of a multi-year plan to begin rebalancing the relationship between expenditures and revenues. Consideration will need to be given to approaching the community for an increase in the operating levy sometime soon.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Keefe, second by Sovinski to approve the consent agenda as amended.  
Motion carried 6-0.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of District Policies**

Chair Priebe advised that the following district policies are before the board for their first reading. The Board should direct any questions that they may have to Mr. Harris.

- a. 807 Health and Safety Policy
- b. 901 Community Education
- c. Use of School District Facilities and Equipment

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of District Policies**

Motion by Sovinski, second by Harstad to approve the following policies:

- a. 801 Equal Access to School Facilities
- b. 802 Disposition of Obsolete Equipment
- c. 805 Waste Reduction and Recycling

Motion carried 6-0.

**Action Items**

- a. Motion by Sovinski, second by Keefe to Approve Certify Final Levy – Payable FY 24. Motion carried 6-0
- b. Motion by Sovinski, second by Keefe to Approve Resolution Directing the Administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and positions and reasons thereof. Motion carried 6-0
- c. Motion by Sovinski, second by Keefe to Approve Resolutions Establishing Combined Polling Places. Motion carried 6-0
- d. Motion by Keefe, second by Harstad to pause the timeline of Election and reconsider details for Facility Update/Maintenance Project. Motion Carried 6-0

**Adjournment**

Motion by Thompson, second by Sovinski to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM

/s/  \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Clerk