

Renville County West School Board Meeting

January 13,2020

The organizational meeting of the Board of Education of ISD #2890, Renville County West, was called to order Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:04 p.m. in the Upstairs Computer Lab by Chairman Carnie Alex.

Members present: Liza Fagen, Ryan Lippert, Carnie Alex, Todd Terhaar, Maria Kramer, Darin Bratsch and Dale Negen.

Members absent: None.

Others present: Ashley Alsum, Maci Barker, Meredith Lieser, Keith Olson, Jason Stewig, Londa Swenson, Gina Hagen, Tara Hinderks and Supt. Michelle Mortensen.

Organizational Items:

Nominations for Chair were called. Lippert nominated Alex. Bratsch made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Alex to be the Chairman. Kramer seconded. Alex remained the Chairman.

Nominations for Vice Chair were called. Bratsch nominated Fagen. Lippert nominated Negen. Chairman Alex ceased nominations after no more were heard. A paper ballot vote was conducted. Five members voted for Negen and two members voted for Fagen. Negen was declared Vice Chairman by majority vote.

Nominations for Clerk were called. Terhaar nominated Fagen. Chairman Alex ceased nominations after no more were heard. Fagen was declared Clerk by unanimous ballot.

Nominations for Treasurer were called. Lippert nominated Terhaar. Chairman Alex ceased nominations after no more were heard. Terhaar was declared Treasurer by unanimous ballot.

The following committee appointments were made with the removal of the Legislative Liaison:

- Finance: Bratsch, Terhaar, Alex
- Policy/Meet & Confer: Kramer, Lippert
- Curriculum/Community Ed Advisory: Fagen, Terhaar
- Facilities/Health & Safety: Negen, Lippert, Kramer
- MVCC Representative: Terhaar, Fagen
- MSHSL Representative: Bratsch
- Insurance Pool Representative: Fagen
- MRVED Representative: Kramer
- PTO Representative: Fagen
- RCW Foundation: Lippert

Motion by Kramer, seconded by Negen to name Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurgen, P.A. as official legal counsel. Motion carried.

Motion by Fagen, seconded by Lippert to make the Renville County Register the official newspaper. Kramer abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Bratsch, seconded by Terhaar to name MSDLAF+, PMA-MN Trust, First Security State Bank, F & M Bank Minnesota – Renville, Dawson Coop Credit Union as the official depositories for the district. Motion carried.

Motion by Bratsch, seconded by Terhaar to keep the official meeting day/time/location as the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the RCW Small Gym. The fourth Monday of each month will be used as a work session, for committee meetings or as an official meeting as needed. Motion carried.

Motion by Lippert, seconded by Bratsch to keep the per diem the same as 2019. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting Items:

Chairman Alex read the vision and mission statements.

A couple of changes to the agenda were made. The closed session and the policies under New Business were pulled. Motion by Bratsch, seconded by Lippert to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

No public comments.

Jason Stewig mentioned the FFA students going to State for Crops, Dairy Foods, Farm Business Management and Soils. The Board congratulated them on their success.

The Finance Committee met with Local 70 for their first round of negotiations. The Facilities Committee met to discuss the building project. There was a question as to how and why a bathroom was removed from the original plans that were approved and why they weren't bid on. The Board wants answers to that prior to approving the extra expense to put a bathroom in. The Foundation met and is getting ready for the fundraiser on February 15th.

Leadership reports were received and reviewed by the Board. A question was asked about the class sign up and how that went. Negen appreciated the collaborative effort that took to make it work. The Board commended Administration for meeting with the parents and students regarding this.

Motion by Negen, seconded by Bratsch to remove policies 613 and 521 from the consent agenda and bring them to the next meeting after revised and names are taken out. Motion carried.

Motion by Bratsch, seconded by Kramer to approve the consent agenda as amended.

1. Approve payment of bills (Checks 55376 – 55513 \$628,403.56)
2. Approve minutes from the December 9, 2019 meeting
3. Resignations:
 - A. Dean EhleGoerbracht - Head Softball Coach
 - B. Jordan Geiser - ELA Instructor
 - C. Ken Tuttle - Paraprofessional
4. Hires:
 - A. Morgan Miho - Paraprofessional
 - B. JoAnn Chambs - Long Term ELA Substitute Teacher

5. Lane Change Request
 - A. Leslie Knutson
6. Donations
7. Fundraiser Requests

Motion carried.

Old business:

Motion by Lippert, seconded by Terhaar to approve Policy 208. Motion carried.

Motion by Negen, seconded by Lippert to approve the recent Superintendent travel expenses minus the St. Paul trip. Roll call vote. Fagen: no, Kramer: yes, Negen: yes, Bratsch: yes, Terhaar: no, Lippert: yes, Alex: no. Motion carried.

New Business:

Motion by Fagen, seconded by Kramer to approve the MSBA Local Control Resolution as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Bratsch, seconded by Terhaar to approve the PACT for Families Agreement. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the Building project in more detail wanting to understand more with how and why the bathroom that was originally approved was no longer on the plans. The Board feels the school should not incur the added expense since it was on the plans they approved. The Board feels RA Morton should be on the hook for that expense if they can't prove to us what happened.

The Internet Service Provider LCTN was discussed as we've had many problems this school year. Other options were discussed.

The EL/FLES position. We currently have zero applicants. Finance will further discuss options to fill these harder to fill Teacher positions in case an MOU with the EA would be needed.

The Board went over Superintendent Michelle Mortensen's informal evaluation. Chairman Alex had sent guiding principles and guiding questions to the Board to complete. It was requested that Chairman Alex send out Superintendent Michelle Mortensen's written goals to the Board. The Board reviewed information sent out to them by Superintendent Michelle Mortensen regarding the meetings she has attended this year and in past years. One of her goals was to be present in the District more this school year as it was a transition year with less Administration. Superintendent Mortensen felt she had met that goal, but the Board did not seem to agree. A discussion took place regarding rationale behind their difference of opinions. The Board requested that the topic be discussed further at the next work session to determine an approval process for travel and common ground on what constitutes a need versus a want and what is required versus what is not. The Board felt that the culture and climate has improved this year compared to last year. They were glad about Administration involving parents more as well as students in the scheduling and offering of courses. The Board discussed the next Employee Engagement Survey.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Liza Fagen, Clerk