

### FRESHWATER EDUCATION DISTRICT # 6004

**Board Meeting Minutes, March 12, 2025**

**2222 Industrial Drive, Wadena, MN**

The regular meeting of the Freshwater Education District #6004 was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Huttunen.

Board Members present: C. Wolf - Long Prairie-Grey Eagle; B. Tumberg - Wadena-Deer Creek; S. Veronen - Verndale; J. Hillmer – Browerville, R. VanDenheuvel – Bertha-Hewitt; K. Howard – Menahga; R. Wright-Staples-Motley.

Supervising Superintendents: L. Westrum – Wadena-Deer Creek & S. Vedbraaten – Browerville.

Freshwater Administration: E. Weber, J. Wothe, J. Anderson and S. Thiel

Others: Ruth Bowman and Synnve Moe.

A motion was made by VanDenheuvel, seconded by Howard, to approve the modified agenda. Vote-U/C.

S. Moe and J. Wothe presented on options of Special Ed Online Assessments.

A motion was made by Wright, seconded by Hillmer, to approve the consent agenda items:

*January 22, 2025, Organizational & Regular Board Meeting Minutes; February 12, 2025, Superintendent Advisory Minutes; Renewal of Infinitec Agreement, July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026; Personnel Items: Increase in hours for Amy Zamzo, Occupational Therapist, from 432 hrs. to 938 hrs., effective February 3, 2025. Resignation of Abigail Montgomery, Behavior Specialist, effective February 21, 2025. Hiring of Clare D St. Catherine, School Psychologist, effective February 3, 2025, for 42.5 Days. Advertising and Hiring Nicole Stout, School Chemical Dependency Counselor, 181 days at BA+40, effective the 25/26 School Year. Hiring of Heidi Haase, Literacy Lead, and effective February 19, 2025. Advertising and Hiring of a Behavioral Interventionist. Advertising and Hiring of a Speech Language Pathologist. Voluntary Reduction of Hours for Kimberly Becker, Occupational Therapist, from 1448 Hrs. to 1214 Hrs., effective March 3, 2025. Resignation of Amy Babler, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, effective at the end of the 24/25 School Year. VOTE: U/C*

#### Informational Items:

##### Superintendent Report:

General Info: *Teacher evaluations process; Attending the Region 5 Day at the Capitol on March 19. Negotiations started with the Teacher/Itinerant Staff. Read Act training nearing the end with 42 staff members participating. Conversations with Parkers Prairie School regarding services.*

Facilities: *Purchased a used Toro snow sweeper/mower from the City of NYM for \$8,618.*

Area Learning Center/Targeted Services: *Student enrollment is down and moving to reduce the budget.*

Technology: *Moved to Google Education School for Teachers/Itinerants, and continue Microsoft for business office positions.*

##### Special Ed Director Report:

*Updates on SpEd Monitoring and upcoming trainings.*

Finance Report:

*Reviewed actual ALC Budgets with an increase for the Menahga & Pillager ALC's, while Staples, Wadena, and Long Prairie ALC's decreased.*

Business Items:

*Resolution Reducing and Discontinuing Educational Programs and Positions~*

Moved by Veronen and seconded by VanDenheuvel, the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS, the School Board of Freshwater Education District #6004 adopted a resolution on January 22, 2025, directing the Administration to make recommendations regarding the reduction and/or discontinuance of programs and positions, and

WHEREAS, said recommendations have been received and considered by the School Board,  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Freshwater Education District School Board of Independent District #6004, as follows: That the following programs and positions, or portions thereof, be discontinued:

1. *Nonrenewal of 0.28 FTE Assistant Special Education Director*
2. *Nonrenewal of 1.0 FTE Area Learning Center Teacher*
3. *ULA to 1.0 FTE Career Pathways/CTE Teacher*
4. *Reduction of 0.5 FTE School Social Worker in the Area Learning Center*
5. *Reassignment of 0.56 FTE Area Learning Center Program Assistant to District-wide Program Assistant*
6. *Reduction of .5 FTE ALC Program Specialist*

VOTE on the adoption of this Resolution was as follows: ABSTENTIONS: None. AYE: C. Wolf, B. Tumberg, S. Veronen, J. Hillmer, R. VanDenheuvel, K. Howard, and R. Wright. NAY: None. ABSENT: R. Thalmann.

WHEREUPON, said the Resolution was declared Adopted.

A motion by Hillmer, seconded by Tumberg, to approve the Supervising School Social Workers Contracts as presented. VOTE-U/C

A motion by Tumberg and seconded by to accept and approve the 25/26 School Year Menu Options from the Districts of *Bertha - Hewitt, Browerville, Frazee – Vergas, Menahga, Perham – Dent, Pillager, Sebeka, Staples – Motley, Wadena -Deer Creek, and Verndale*. VOTE-U/C

A motion by Veronen, seconded by Wolf, to approve the agreement with *The Village Employee Assistant Program* Agreement as presented. VOTE-U/C

A motion by Howard, seconded by VanDenheuvel, to approve the Academy's Pizza Fundraiser Event as presented. VOTE-U/C

A motion by Howard, seconded by Tumberg, to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barb Tumberg, Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_