

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT #2342
WEST CENTRAL AREA SECONDARY SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
October 21, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm by Nessman. Members present per roll call: Christenson, Ulrich, Strunk, Bueckens, Grosz and Nessman. Members Absent: Grosz Administration present: Hogie, Powers, Prasch, Knutson, and Amundson. Administration Absent: Foslien, McNamara, and Moerke

Visitors: Chrissy Oachs, Chris Ray, Heidi Wetterling, and Amy Powlish

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mission Statement read aloud.

Mr. Hogie explained that we received a positive Review & Comment from MDE. He summarized the report from MDE. There were no questions or discussion from the public or the Board.

Motion by Strunk seconded by Christenson, to modify the agenda according to agenda addendum. *MCU*

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Beukens to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2020, and October 7, 2020, meetings. *MCU*

Motion by Sabolik, seconded by Strunk, to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$806,936.21. *MCU*

Reports

Committee/Curricular/Activities Reports The minutes from the September Midwest Special Education Cooperative were provided.

Technology Coordinator: (Kevin McNamara) – Mr. McNamara reported that the change in devices for Juniors and Seniors from Windows laptops to Chromebooks has been very successful. The primary challenge we continue to face is our PSEO students needing specific lockdown browsers for tests and quizzes. We continue to struggle acquiring enough iPads for our elementary students. The new SMART Panels in the elementaries have been working well and we will continue with this style SMART Panel in the Secondary School as we replace older SMART Boards. Our network infrastructure has proven to be more than capable of handling our current technology needs and should continue to provide everything we need for the foreseeable future. Our live streaming sporting events on the NFHS Network have gone well and we continue to work on improving the viewers experience. Our Facebook live stream events have been well attended and we continue to work on finding ways to make our events accessible to the public. As our technology needs continue to grow exponentially Stacy and I are finding ourselves spread very thin between the three buildings. As always, Stacy is the world's greatest, when you see her please make sure to tell her thank you. She is a gigantic reason why we are able to do the awesome things we do with technology in our school district!

Community Education: (Naomi Moerke) – Ms. Moerke reported on the following community education classes: *Adult Volleyball League*- Will start later this year so that equipment is not being shared by adults and students and no student referees. Cost will remain at \$235 per team. We will adhere to numbers allowed per court which would be 25 (we have at max 15 typically with teams who bring subs). We will not take out extra equipment to warm up with just 3 game balls that will be sanitized between games. Masks will be required to enter the building, and hand sanitizing will be encouraged. *Chef's Academy*- Delayed until later winter/spring time. *Art Academy*- Mrs. Stark is looking at dates in November for art classes. *STEAM*- North Steam has been filled both in Sept and October. Mrs. Sarah Nelson is teaching at North. South's numbers are a bit lower between 5 and 15. Mikaylah Stark is teaching the South steam. *4-H Adventures*- Rebecca Haider who ran all the extension programming, has recently resigned her position. We are in the process of trying to connect to whomever is her replacement to try and get some opportunities back for students in our buildings with the 4-H program. *Thursday Night*

Skiing- Andes is planning on offering the same deal as always to families. This year we will not be able to provide transportation to skiing due to shortage of bus drivers, and the number of students we have would take at minimum 2 buses. We essentially are advertising for Andes and the program, and hopefully will be back and running “normally” with them next year. *Elementary Volleyball Camp*- We scheduled a volleyball camp on a Saturday morning in Barrett (Nov 7th). Parents will not be allowed to stay. 2 coaches will be there, both district staff. *Elementary Football Camp*- One Saturday (Nov 14th) in Barrett grades K-6. Eli Dotts will run it.

Activities Director: (Jacob Foslien) – Mr. Foslien congratulated the Boys and Girls Cross Country teams on their successful seasons – Boys: Conference Champs and Section Runner Ups, Girls: Section Runner Ups. Congratulations to the Girls Tennis team on their successful season. Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding as schedules and protocols are being put together (and are constantly changing). Football and volleyball numbers at all levels are very good. Winter sport dates have been finalized by the MSHSL and schedules are currently being (re)constructed. When finalized they will be posted and published on RSchool. The NFHS Pixellot streaming system is up and running. Thank you to Mr. McNamara for making this happen.

Buildings & Grounds Director: (Pete Amundson) – Mr. Amundson reported that the parking lots at North and Secondary were patched. Wednesdays continue to be a very productive day for cleaning and maintenance projects. Staff that have been out on medical leave will be returning early November and that will help a lot. Every six months the schools are inspected for asbestos. The next inspection is scheduled for Nov. 11th. Boilers are up and running. The controls are so obsolete we have to manually run them. It is also getting tougher to find repair companies for these boilers. There are still a few warranty issues with the heat pumps. New timers installed for the parking lot and wall lights at the secondary building. The John Deere gator is in poor condition and will need to be looked at soon.

The Board thanked Pete and his staff for all the extra cleaning.

Elementary School Principal: (Natalie Prasch) – Ms. Prasch reported that Fire Prevention Week was a little different this year. South would like to thank the Hoffman/Kensington Fire Departments for their donation of student masks. North is working with Elbow Lake’s Fire Department on some virtual activities. We hope to be able to do more activities this spring. As students have been exposed, or possibly exposed, to COVID-19, we are keeping a list of those students who need to quarantine. Quarantine does not move a student to become a distance learner. Homework will be provided for the 14-day quarantine and the student will have access to classroom lessons via computer if requested. There is also time to meet with the teacher virtually on Wednesdays. We have had 2 students return from distance learning and one move to distance learning, so our numbers are holding steady. The curriculum cycle for this year is with science. She is in the process of scheduling meetings with our science teachers to assess their needs for new resources. Once again, thanks to our fantastic staff and students. Everyone is wearing masks and doing all they can to keep us healthy. We are coming into that time of year where students need warm clothing for playing outside. If families are experiencing a difficult time providing warm weather gear, please let us know and we will help. With that, the elementary schools will accept boots (sizes 14, 5/6, 7/8), snow pants and also Knight Gear for new families.

Secondary School Principal: (Susan Knutson) – Ms. Knutson reported that good things are happening - Cross Country finished up with both teams earning 2nd place in their sections which in a regular year would result in a trip to state. The hydroponic grow shed conducted its official ribbon cutting ceremony and first donation of food to the food shelf. We had a great Applefest week and pulled off a COVID Homecoming. Ninth grade will still get to participate in the flying experience (postponed to Oct 27th due to snow). We have also added activity time to both middle school and high school lunches. *Distance Learning* - We have 28 (increase of 7) out of 485 students in grades 5-12 that have elected to do Distance Learning through WCA. We have three students (increased 1) with doctor approved mask exemptions and twelve students (increased 11) on 14-day quarantine due to close contact with a COVID case or suspected case. We are cracking down on the reasons students are electing Distance Learning and making sure that they are COVID related and not other issues. Students that are not being successful in the Distance Learning format at the end of the quarter will receive a letter indicating that the school recommends they return to an in-

person format unless they have a doctor recommendation for Distance Learning. *Staffing* - We are making it right now with staffing however some of our Spec Ed staff have to take on kids during their lunches when paras are gone and we have no subs to cover. We have hired Joyce Hanson in for the library and are still in need of an additional para. We are so lucky to have the amazing staff that we do. November 6th is already the end of 1st quarter and I would call it a success!

Business Manager: (Diane Powers) – Ms. Powers reported that she is getting very close to wrapping up the audit for FY 20. It has all been done remotely this year. We have received initial notice from the USDA that the waiver to continue free meals to our students has been extended to June 30, 2021, but still waiting for confirmation of this from MDE. To date we have spent about \$98,800.00 of our CRF allocations. Order requests are coming in daily. We have ordered curriculum, tech items, barriers, signs, PPE, etc.

Superintendent: (Dale Hogie) - Mr. Hogie reported on the current protocol of the use of School Facilities by non-school groups. It appears steps we and other MN schools implemented have greatly minimized the risk of COVID transmission in the school setting and on school buses. It was concluded that Community Education activities should be permitted in our school buildings as long as the activities conform to the same requirements we have in place during school days and for school activities. The need to be consistent with requirements specified by the MSHSL was also discussed. Community Education is a part of the District and Naomi has addressed guidelines in her report. If the youth groups follow the established District and MSHSL procedures, the risk of COVID spread is minimized. Also, Situations That May Prompt Distance Learning: Administratively we thought student absences would cause us to move to distance learning but we realized early that it was more likely to be teacher absences. We learned that teachers can provide instruction remotely so that is a huge advantage allowing us to continue with regular in-person instruction within our hybrid model. However, finding enough staff or substitutes to cover the teachers' absences is problematic. Bus driver, food service, and custodial absences that may contribute to a move to distance learning. Administratively we have set in-person instruction for our youngest students as a priority. We know that distance learning aligns better for high school instruction than for elementary instruction. Also, Payroll Manager: Interviews will be scheduled next week. In the meantime, Diane contacted Brady Martz to inquire about a contract for services. Also, Inclement Weather and Lost School Days: According to our approved calendar, our first day lost to inclement weather will not be made up. This is a day that teaching staff completed work in August outside of their contracted days. The sequence of make-up days identified on the calendar are: February 15, e-learning day, April 5, and two more e-learning days. Also, Canvassing District Election Results: In a typical year, election results could be canvassed between the 3rd and the 10th day after the election. However, ballots postmarked on Election Day this year will be counted up to the 7th day after the election. To assure adequate time is provided for tabulation, the Board will need to set a special meeting date to canvass the results.

Consent Items:

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Ulrich to approve the following: Approve Megan Holmes leave of absence from October 19, 2020, through December 23, 2020, with approval to use accumulated sick leave during the period of absence. ALSO, approve MDE Assurance of Compliance. ALSO, approve Dale Hogie as the District's Human Rights Coordinator. ALSO, approve Jake Foslien as the District's Title IX Coordinator. ALSO, approve Susan Knutson as the District's 504 Coordinator. ALSO, approve Social Distance Instruction for Jacyln Hoeper beginning December 9, 2020. ALSO, approve Joyce Hanson at Step 1 as a full-time Media Center Assistant at Barrett. *MCU*

New Business:

Motion by Sabolik, seconded by Beuckens to approve the final reading of Policies 419, 516, 601 and 607 to reflect the updated MSBA model policies and statutory verbiage. *MCU*

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Beuckens to approve the 2020-21 Collaborative Agreement between WCMCAA Head Start and West Central Area District. *MCU*

No action taken on a nominee for the Lakes Country Service Cooperative board position.

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Sabolik to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations. Roll Call Vote: Yes - Strunk, Sabolik, Nessman, Christenson, Ulrich, Beuckens, Absent: Grosz. *MCU*

Motion by Sabolik, seconded by Strunk to approve the Payroll Services Proposal from Brady Martz and Associates. *MCU*

No action taken on the letter presented from a St. Francis school board member wanting to arrange a meeting with Governor Walz.

Motion by Sabolik, seconded by Beuckens to approve Friday, November 13, 2020, at 4:00pm as a Special Board Meeting for canvassing election results. *MCU*

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Christensen to adjourn. *MCU* *Time: 7:38 PM*

Sara Strunk, Clerk