

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
I.S.D. #2534 BIRD ISLAND-OLIVIA-LAKE LILLIAN  
NOVEMBER 27, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.  
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Board of Education Meeting of I.S.D. #2534, Renville County, Minnesota, was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

Members Present: Jeff Benson, Traci Buchtel, John Desotell, Jill Hanson, Russ Lesniak, and Melissa Sagedahl

Members Absent: Brian Boen

Administration Present: John Dotson, Superintendent; Ann Dettmann, Elementary Principal; Jim Menton, High School Principal; and Derek Flann, Activities Director/Community Education Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Lesniak.

Agenda: Hanson moved and Sagedahl seconded a motion to approve the agenda removing #1 under New Business - Discuss Community Concerns. Hanson moved and Lesniak seconded a motion to amend the original motion to extend the public forum and have the board address concerns during the community concerns. Motion carried unanimously. Original motion carried 4-2 with Desotell and Benson voting no.

Public Forum: Gladie Hagen presented a petition from concerned BOLD citizens that has 328 signatures requesting to extend Mr. Dotson's contract. Matt Sullivan stated concerns about letters to the editor in the local newspapers. He would like to find a candidate to create unity. Sandy Benson had some questions for the board: What is the criteria to find a potential search firm? What meeting was it decided the direction to go in the superintendent search? She also stated reasons to keep Mr. Dotson and would like him reinstated, at least to keep our finances in the black. Jamie Bohlin asked the board to stay with the decision to not reinstate Mr. Dotson. Casey Elfering had concerns about what has been said in the paper. She would like people to consider the facts and talk to people and would be open to answering questions. Gladie Hagen had some questions for the board: Have any of the school board members had a one to one conversation with Mr. Dotson? Mr. Menton? Mrs. Dettmann? or with anyone in the administrative office?

Consent Items: Buchtel moved and Hanson seconded a motion to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

Approved Bills for Payment

Approved Minutes

October 23, 2017 Regular Meeting

November 13, 2017 Special Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Greg Seidl: Desotell moved and Benson seconded a motion to approve the resignation of Greg Seidl, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, effective November 20, 2017. Motion carried 4-2 with Sagedahl and Lesniak voting no.

Denny Spielmann: Benson moved and Sagedahl seconded a motion to approve the 2017-2019 contract for Denny Spielmann, Director of Buildings and Grounds. Motion carried 5-1 with Lesniak voting no.

Margaret Flemming: Hanson moved and Benson seconded a motion to approve the 2017-2019 contract for Margaret Flemming, Food Service Director. Motion carried unanimously.

Les Plumley: Benson moved and Buchtel seconded a motion to approve Les Plumley as a volunteer wrestling coach for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Zach Robideau: Desotell moved and Sagedahl seconded a motion to approve Zach Robideau as a volunteer wrestling coach for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Peppel: Desotell moved and Buchtel seconded a motion to approve Michelle Peppel, as a Junior High Wrestling Coach, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Level E, Step 0 of the 2015-2017 EA Master Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Cathy Helin: Buchtel moved and Hanson seconded a motion to approve Cathy Helin as an Assistant Girls Basketball Coach beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Level C, Step 0 of the 2015-2017 EA Master Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Devyn Meyer: Sagedahl moved and Lesniak seconded a motion to approve Devyn Meyer as a C-Squad Girls Basketball Coach beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Level D, Step 0 of the 2015-2017 EA Master Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Curt Weis: Buchtel moved and Desotell seconded a motion to approve Curt Weis as a volunteer Girls Basketball Coach for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Henry Meyers: Benson moved and Hanson seconded a motion to approve paying Henry Meyers \$500 for the Musical Sound Technician. Motion carried unanimously.

Savanna Ziller: Benson moved and Sagedahl seconded a motion to approve paying Savanna Ziller \$250 for the Musical Lighting Technician. Motion carried unanimously.

Hayley Ruschen: Hanson moved and Buchtel seconded a motion to approve paying Hayley Ruschen \$200 for the Musical Lighting Technician Assistant. Motion carried unanimously.

Caeden Gluesing: Sagedahl moved and Hanson seconded a motion to approve paying Caeden Gluesing \$50 for the Musical Spotlight. Motion carried 5-1 with Desotell voting no.

Matt Hausken: Sagedahl moved and Lesniak seconded a motion to approve paying Matt Hausken \$250 for the Musical Production. Motion carried 5-1 with Benson voting no.

Corey Buchtel: Desotell moved and Sagedahl seconded a motion to approve Corey Buchtel as a Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously with Buchtel abstaining.

Pat Posl: Benson moved and Hanson seconded a motion to approve Pat Posl as a Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Superintendent Report – **Reminder** – MSBA’s 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Conference will be held January 11-12, 2018, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. **Early Bird workshops and pre-conference functions will be held on January 10-11.**

**Reminder** – Truth in Taxation Hearing on Tuesday, December 5th, at 6:30pm in the District Office.

Mr. Dotson also talked about the Tim Orth Foundation starting a program called “Gifts for Guards”. Flyers will be sent home with students and the gifts will be going to deployed troops.

Elementary Principal Report – No further information.

High School Principal Report – No further information.

Activities Report – Mr. Flann discussed the classification of BOLD School and wondered if the board wanted to change the classification. He would also like to open bids for either Coke a Cola or Bernick’s Pepsi. He also talked about creating a cooperation with BLHS for the One Act Play. There would be 2 students for sure that would like to be involved from BLHS.

School Board Discussion – Hanson commented they had the first negotiations with the MSEA (Food Service and Paraprofessionals) and that they exchanged proposals. Benson read a parent email that was sent to him regarding an email that Mr. Kingery sent to all students in grades 5-12 and all staff. Questions by the parent were asking what negativity the email was talking about. There were many responses by teachers and staff during the school day. The parent questioned if this was appropriate.

Pool Board Report - No further information.

New Business:

Discuss Community Concerns: Lesniak answered Sandy Benson’s questions by stating the board did not direct him to do the research but he took it upon himself as board chair to do the research. He did an online search and found 2 firms that would work with the board. Discussion took place at a special meeting as to which direction the board would like to move toward. Mr. Dotson stated that Ray and Associates would be a good choice and was surprised to hear that our district would be too small for them to be interested.

2016-2017 Audit Report: Hanson moved and Benson seconded a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Audit Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Search Firm: Lesniak moved and Benson seconded a motion to postpone action on a superintendent search firm. Lesniak contacted neighboring districts about possibly sharing a superintendent. RCW will discuss this at their work session. MACCRAY will discuss it at their next meeting. They are currently looking for a superintendent. There are approximately 6-8 districts in the state that share a superintendent. Lesniak will contact BKB, and Ray and Associates to invite them to give the board a proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

2017-2018 Seniority List: Buchtel moved and Desotell seconded a motion to approve the 2017-2018 EA Seniority List. Motion carried unanimously.

2017-2018 MSEA Seniority List: Hanson moved and Sagedahl seconded a motion to approve the 2017-2018 MSEA Seniority List as adjusted. Motion carried unanimously.

2017-2018 AFSCME Seniority List: Sagedahl moved and Hanson seconded a motion to approve the 2017-2018 AFSCME Seniority List. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Publication: Hanson moved and Desotell seconded a motion to approve the Budget Publication for FY 2017 and FY 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy #514 - Bullying Prohibition Policy: Discussion included Benson wanting this on the agenda after seeing a report on the news. He would like to get ahead of the issue. There are too many suicides. He would like the district to be more proactive and not reactive. Mr. Dotson commented about the 21st Century Top 20 Program, also the Leadership Program that is new this year. Desotell commented the school is taking steps to be proactive.

Establish dates for Upcoming Board Meetings: Hanson moved and Sagedahl seconded a motion to hold the meetings as follows:

January 8, 2018 Reorganizational Meeting

January 29, 2018 Regular Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming Dates:

December 5, 2017 Truth-in-Taxation Hearing, District Office, 6:30 pm

December 18, 2017 Regular Meeting, District Office, 7:00 pm

One Act Play: Hanson moved and Benson seconded a motion to approve entering into a cooperative with BLHS for the One Act Play for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Bus Purchase: Lesniak moved and Benson seconded a motion to approve a bus purchase by Superior Transportation for a 2008 bus that is 2 years older than what the contract states. Lesniak would like to have the contract amended to reflect the date of the older bus. Motion carried unanimously.

Negotiations Strategies: Hanson moved and Sagedahl seconded a motion to move to closed session at 9:29 p.m.. Motion carried unanimously. Desotell moved and Hanson seconded a motion to reopen the meeting at 10:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn: Hanson moved and Desotell seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Traci Buchtel  
Board Clerk