

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MINUTES
I.S.D. #2534 BIRD ISLAND-OLIVIA-LAKE LILLIAN/
I.S.D.#2159 BUFFALO LAKE-HECTOR-STEWART
MARCH 30, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
BUFFALO LAKE MEDIA CENTER/VIA YOUTU.BE

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Board of Education Special Joint Meeting of I.S.D. #2534 and I.S.D. #2159, Renville County, Minnesota, was held on the 30th day of March at 6:00 p.m. in the Hector Media Center and via YouTube.

BLHS Members Present: Samantha Best, Brad Dobberstein, Kathy Kalenberg, Brian Luthens, Allen Schmidt, Lisa Taylor

Members Absent: N/A

BOLD Members Present: Sandy Benson, Brian Boen, Jamie Bohlin, Traci Buchtel, Jill Hanson, Theresa Jacobs and Melissa Sagedahl.

Members Absent: N/A

BLHS Administration Present: Dr. Michelle Mortenson, Superintendent; Richard Kielty, High School Principal

BOLD Administration Present: Dale Brandsoy, Superintendent; Jim Menton, 9-12 Principal /COVID-19 Program Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Samantha Nelson, Sweet Water Revival, Inc.

New Business:

Samantha Nelson, Sweet Water Revival, Inc., led the discussion between the BLHS and BOLD School Boards. Nelson started by setting the five ground rules:

1. Keep Everything Student Centered
2. Listen First
3. Community Driven
4. Leadership Team
5. Respect in Dissent.

Nelson then went on to lead the boards in discussion on what the current state of each district is financially, pedagogically and culturally as it relates to student learning. The board chairs and superintendents gave a brief summary of each district in each of these areas.

The second discussion question was: What are the greatest needs or gaps to increase and improve experiences for student learning in each district? Elective classes, having quality teachers in rural schools, and the Community Education Program are areas of concern for the BLHS District. Funding for Industrial Tech Programs, community members donating funds, and Personal Finance Classes are areas of concern for the BOLD District.

The third discussion question was: What is the greatest strength and asset that empowers students to thrive academically and personally in your district? BLHS and BOLD both contribute their greatest strength as their staff and administrative teams, along with staff and students being resilient.

The fourth discussion question was: What themes are emerging in the consideration of gaps and assets at BOLD v. BLHS? The main theme is that both districts have a wonderful staff. Other themes are utilizing the SW/WC Service Cooperative and merging elective classes.

The fifth discussion question was: What would be the significance of collaboration and shared resources on your students? What about the communities at large? Collaboration would mean acquiring new friendships and possibly exciting new classes for the students. Communities could benefit by sharing Summer Rec Programs.

The sixth and final discussion question was: Do the school boards want to develop a plan to further collaborate to benefit student learning at BOLD & BLHS? Both boards then met individually and put together statements that will be read at each board's regular April meeting.

The discussions were productive and informative.

Adjourn: Nelson adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Hanson
Board Chair