

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Aitkin Independent School District No. 1  
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431  
Aitkin High School Media Center  
December 21, 2015

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Dennis Hasskamp with six members present. Ms Hills was absent.

A motion was made by Mr. Welshons, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to approve the agenda, removing item #6B (Audit Report for 2014-2015). All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Business Manager Tiffany Gustin reviewed 2015-2016 budget information. The public was given the opportunity to comment and ask questions regarding the budget. Two members of the public appeared before the Board with questions.

Scheduled presentations:

Senior High Student Council Representatives Emilee Miller and Cora Fastner reported that the Council has various fundraising events happening to support AADA, a scholarship fund in honor of Deputy Steven Sandberg, and the local animal rescue. Fun activities are planned for tomorrow afternoon, which is the day before Christmas Break. Planning is underway for this year's SnoDaze events.

Old business:

No old business was discussed.

New business:

A motion was made by Mr. Burgstaler, with a second by Mr. Janzen, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 17 and of the Special Closed Meeting held on November 17.
- Office receipts for the month of November in the amount of \$677,116.72.
- Report of expenditures for November including \$403,901.18 for bills and \$768,520.37 for payroll and district contribution to PERA, TRA, OASDI/Medicare and 403(b).
- Insurance Account checks #13673-13696 in the amount of \$5,580.75.
- Collateral Report for December.
- Donations for November in the amount of \$9,451.97.

- Wire transfers for November in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.
- Approved a Youth Service Grant:
  - Kristi Kunz – Science Museum of Minnesota - \$890.00
- Approved lane changes:
  - Sarah Emery - from BA Lane to BA+15
  - Brita Williams - from BA+45 to BA+60
  - Robert Williams - from MA to MA+15
- Accepted resignation/retirement:
  - Mark Mehr - resigning as the 7th and 8th grade football coach effective immediately
  - Julia Real - H.S. art teacher, retiring effective June 3, 2016
- Approved hirings:
  - Melanie Boyd - Long-term Substitute for Melissa Domben, who is on maternity leave leave from December 1, 2015, through March 21, 2016
  - Heidi Burger - Full-time paraprofessional at Rippleside, effective December 17, 2015
- Approved an extracurricular assignment:
  - Kylan Hill - 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach
- Approved the revised 2015-2016 Seniority Lists for the A.E.S.S. and Custodians.
- Approved the Agreement expelling Student A.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Welshons, with a second by Mr. Hasskamp, to approve the 2015 payable 2016 levy certification as proposed, in the amount of \$1,268,806.92. All members voted in favor of the motion, and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Burgstaler, with a second by Mr. Hoge, to approve the 2015-2016-2017 Master Agreement between the District and Education Minnesota – Aitkin. On a roll call vote, all members (Mr. Burgstaler, Mr. Chute, Mr. Welshons, Mr. Janzen, Mr. Hoge, and Mr. Hasskamp) voted in favor of the motion, and the motion carried.

The consensus of the Board was to hold a special closed meeting prior to the regular school board meeting on January 11, 2016, to discuss the performance evaluation of Superintendent Bernie Novak. A work session will also be held on January 25, 2016, to discuss the progress of the facilities task force.

Administrative reports:

Board members' reports:

Mr. Hoge reported on the Parent Advisory Council Meeting held earlier in the evening. PAC has been discussing the next Family Fun Night, which is scheduled for March 3, 2016, and will be a math event with a March Madness theme.

Mr. Chute reported on a Transportation Committee Meeting held with district staff and representatives of a contracting company.

The Board heard that transportation is now being provided for junior high students who practice after school at Westside Church. Mr. Burgstaler asked that research be done to ensure other commonly walked routes are safe for students.

Committee reports:

Mr. Welshons reported on the Safety Committee Meeting that was held on November 24. The group discussed three AEDs that need to be updated, winter safety concerns, and workers compensation utilization. After discussion about the elementary concert, Mr. Hoge suggested that a drop-off zone be created for elderly people who attend events.

Mr. Janzen reported on the Policy Committee Meeting held on December 3. The group presented the following policies for a first reading by the Board:

- Policy 430 Health Care Savings Plan Contribution
- Policy 534 Walking Policy
- Policy 610 Field Trip
- Policy 504 Grievance Procedure

Superintendent's report:

On December 1, 2015, listening sessions were held at the Glen/Kimberly Town Hall and Palisade. The turnout was relatively low, but the feedback was very good.

Mr. Novak discussed a bus incident that involved a train during the early morning on December 9, 2015.

He reminded the Board that the 2016 MSBA Leadership Conference will be held on January 14-15. Board members who are interested in attending should contact Mr. Novak. Dennis Hasskamp will be honored for twenty years of service at Thursday's luncheon.

Principals' reports:

Mr. Peterson reported on the December Farm2School lunch where students ate lamb. Monthly lunches are scheduled for the remainder of the year. Attendance at conferences exceeded 93%.

In contrast, Mr. Karelis reported that conference attendance was somewhere between 13 and 27% at the high school. It is possible that more parents monitor their child's progress using the Parent Portal.

Mr. Karelis also discussed the ongoing work in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), specifically the English Department.

He also reported that work is being done on registration materials for the 2016-2017 school year, with a goal of completing the process by March 31. He is examining options for expanding elective opportunities for students.

Mr. Hasskamp presented the upcoming meeting schedule as listed in the agenda, including the special closed meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 11 and the work session at 5:30 p.m. on January 25.

Comments from visitors:

Brian Smith, a parent of a Rippleside student, who brought a concern to the November meeting renewed his concerns and would like to schedule another meeting with the Elementary Principal and three Board members.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Janzen, with a second by Mr. Burgstaler. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Tiffany Gustin  
Secretary