

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT #2342
WEST CENTRAL AREA SECONDARY SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
September 16, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by Nessman. Members present per roll call: Christenson, Ulrich, Strunk, Grosz and Nessman. Members Absent: Sabolik, Beuckens Administration present: Hogie, Powers, Prasch, Foslien, Knutson, McNamara, Moerke, and Amundson. Administration Absent: None

Visitors: Chrissy Oachs, Heidi Woodle and Chris Ray

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

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

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Ulrich to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2020 and September 2, 2020 meeting. MCU

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Strunk, to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$298,683.99. MCU

Technology Coordinator: (Kevin McNamara) – Mr. McNamara reported that his department has been very busy during the beginning days of school. The trend they are seeing is that teacher's want more, there is a shift to a stronger desire for technology in the classroom. He is proud of WCA teachers and students for their increased use of technology, making videos, etc.

Community Education: (Naomi Moerke) – Ms. Moerke reported that STEAM classes begin at both North and South in September. She is looking into setting up sports mini-clinics in October as well as a cooking class. *ECFE:* Changemakers- Next event is 9/15/2020 at the Secondary school. No Small Matter-movie viewing and discussion about the importance of early childhood education. Children get to create a craft while parents watch the movie. Supper is provided free of charge from a local restaurant. *Daycare:* Before and after school childcare program are being utilized at north and south. We're figuring a way to monitor early drop offs and bus arrivals as early bus arrivals do not get charged the \$5 fee. Wrap-Around- There are between 2 and 6 students using wrap around currently. We're just using the drop in price of \$35 dollars per day as parents can use that cost up to 4 days of usage. Ms. Holmes is expecting a new addition next week, and one student is registered but has not showed up yet. Wednesday daycare users are essential employee's and do not get charged. Ms. Moerke will looking into CARES act funding for this.

Activities Director: (Jacob Foslien) – Mr. Foslien reported that fall sport practice seasons started this week - Volleyball on Monday, Football on Tuesday. MSHSL is recommending no open gyms or captains' practices. These two areas are governed by MSHSL bylaw 208. It was acknowledged there have been some complaints about bussing this year, however Mr. Foslien feels Steve (Local manager) is making progress. The bus company currently is 2-3 drivers short. They are in training but cannot become independent drivers until they finish the required protocols. They are working on having 100% accurate manifests for all buses (am/pm shuttles, routes, etc.). Lots of students/families were not registered so they had to make adjustments. It is still early in the school year and I look for things to keep getting better and better. Steve has a quality plan and we will appreciate that in the near future. Mr. Foslien also reported that the MSHSL has their next scheduled Board of Directors meeting Oct. 1. It is anticipated that decisions at that meeting may include the status of winter seasons and spring VB/FB Parameters. Our next AD MSHSL meeting is this Thursday.

Buildings & Grounds Director: (Pete Amundson) – Mr. Amundson reported that 2 new heat pumps are in the mezzanine and in place. They will be testing them next week. The boilers at North are put back together with new gaskets and ready to run. Gaskets are in for the boilers at South and they will be put back together next week. Two new employees have started and are doing good, he is also talking to a

possible substitute custodian (evenings). Cleaning schedule is daily disinfecting with Wednesday as a catch up day. 1 fridge is down in the FCS room and a replacement has been very hard to get now. Some supplies are difficult to get such as spray bottles, hand sanitizer and gloves. Trees were trimmed at North that were hanging on the propane tanks and hanging low over the sidewalks and in the way for snow removal.

Elementary School Principal: (Natalie Prasch) – Ms. Prasch reported that she and the staff are so thrilled to have their students back in the buildings!! The students and staff are doing a great job of wearing masks/shields, social distancing and still having lots of fun while learning. The wearing of masks has not been an issue for us. Our parents have been wonderfully supportive of our new policies. There are a few distance learners at each school. North has 11 students distance learning and South has 11. North currently has 220 students enrolled, so 5% are distance learning. South has 142 students enrolled, so 8% are distance learning. Staff are busy getting the distance learners up and running. Kevin and Stacy have been a huge help as well. Wednesdays there will be daycare available to all students at both sites. There will be no charge for Tier 1 essential employees and others will pay the drop-in rate of \$35. Paraprofessionals will staff the daycare at both sites. CARES funding has helped cover costs of extra para support for lunchroom duty and temperature taking. Lastly, Ms. Prasch expressed her thanks to all staff, students and community. It would not have been possible to transition so easily into our school year without the support of everyone!

School board member Jill Beuckens joined the school board meeting at 6:48pm.

Secondary School Principal: (Susan Knutson) – Ms. Knutson reported that the first days of school were a success - early entrance conferences were well attended and meaningful for all parties involved. Morning temperature taking is going well and kids are getting through the doors in a timely manner. Kids and adults were smiling (under masks) to be back together. Bus pick up and drop off was a bit chaotic, as can be expected on the first days of school but all-in-all Palmer is making great attempts to improve some of their policies. The biggest hurdle is trying to maintain social distancing at all times. She felt staff were more than prepared to have students back in the building. Rooms were clean and signage was up. Individuals seem to be respecting the COVID guidelines. We have 21 out of 485 (4.3%) students in grades 5-12 that have elected to do Distance Learning through WCA. We have two students with doctor approved mask exemptions and one 8th grade student on a 14 day quarantine due to close contact with a family member that has multiple symptoms and has been tested. The additional para help has been a blessing for mornings and lunch time, especially with additional lunch seating in the gym. Our long term subs are settling in and doing a great job. Tammy Warde is serving more EL time so we are in the process of planning how to get the “late” or “unfilled” staff absences filled by subs. Ms. Knutson noted it has been a wonderful start to a unique and strange sort of year and that WCA is lucky to have a great staff and supportive communities.

Business Manager: (Diane Powers) – Ms. Powers reported that Title I, II & IV grant applications for FY 21 have been submitted and approved by MDE. An amendment has been made to the Food Service Lunch Application to take advantage of the federal waiver for free meals for all students until the federal funding runs out or Dec. 31, 2020, whichever comes first. Ms. Powers reported that we are in the process of submitting our paperwork for the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). The funds are available from 7/1/2020 until 12/30/2020. Additionally, audit work is ongoing.

Superintendent: (Dale Hogie) - Mr. Hogie reported that the Candidate Forum for the upcoming school board election will be on Tuesday, October 6th, in the Secondary School Media Center. With social distancing guidelines we can accommodate up to 120 audience members. Deb Hengel will be the moderator and assist with planning. The forum will be recorded and possibly livestreamed. There are 10 candidates. Mr. Hogie's office is working on the Referendum brochure that will be going out soon. Some of the information will be printed in the Grant County Herald and the school website. The possible dates for the public meetings for the referendums are September 29th, October 1st and October 8th, one at each of the schools. Mr. Hogie presented an update for the COVID-19 14-day rate. Grant County cases remains steady, Douglas and Pope counties have both had a moderate climb, and although Stevens county had a sharp jump recently, they have now leveled off.

Committee/Curricular/Activities Reports Ms. Strunk provided the minutes from the August Midwest Special Education Cooperative.

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Beuckens to approve the following: Truth in Taxation hearing is set for December 2nd at 6:30pm and a continuation date of December 16th at 6:30pm. Also, the 2020 levy will be certified at the “maximum” levy. Also, the approval of Austin Hanson’s lane change request from MA to MA + 10. Also, approval was granted for Jaclyn Hoeper for 12-weeks beginning January 4, 2021. Also, the following new hires were approved: Rachael Talbott at Step 1 for janitorial services at Secondary and Hunter Boutah at Step 1 for janitorial services and Secondary and North, both full time. Also, Kevin McNamara’s employment agreement for FY 21. MCU

Unfinished Business:

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Strunk to approve the reading of Policy 808 – COVID Face Covering Policy. MCU

New Business:

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Grosz to approve the resolution accepting donations. Roll Call Vote: Yes - Strunk, Nessman, Christenson, Ulrich, Beuckens, and Grosz. MCU

Motion by Beuckens, seconded by Strunk to approve changes made to Policy 602 – Organization of School Calendar and School Day to include up to 5 e-learn days. MCU

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Grosz to approve the E-Learning Plan and supporting documents explaining staff and student expectations for FY21.

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Beuckens to approve the rate of pay for Substitute Teachers at \$115/day and \$60/half-day. MCU

There was no discussion on the first reading of Policy #613 – Graduation Requirements, Policy #616 – School District Accountability, Policy #618 – Assessment of Achievement and Policy #620 Credit for Learning.

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Strunk to approve a Resolution appointing Dale Hogie as the Identified Officer with Authority (IOwA) with MN Dept of Educ. MCU

The MSHSL position on Fall Sports competition was discussed. There are a lot of emotions both ways from community members. Mr. Hogie, Mr. Foslien and Ms. Knutson were commended by the Board for their thoroughness in providing information and acknowledged the challenges this decision holds.

The WCA Facility Use Policy and restrictions enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic was discussed.

Motion by Ulrich, seconded by Strunk to close the meeting as permitted by MN Statute, Section 12D.05 Subd. 3 to discuss the conditional property purchase agreement. Roll Call Vote: Yes-Strunk, Nessman, Sabolik, Christenson, Ulrich, Beuckens, Grosz via Phone. MCU Time closed: 8:17PM

Motion by Strunk, seconded by Ulrich to open the closed meeting. MCU *Time opened 9:04PM.*

Motion by Grosz, seconded by Beuckens, to adjourn. MCU *Time: 9:05PM*

Sara Strunk, Clerk