

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 9, 2021
HLWW HS Media Center

The August 9, 2021 Regular School Board meeting of the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted ISD #2687 was called to order at 6:02 pm. by Chairperson Heuer. After the pledge of allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: Heuer, Bravinder, Peterson, Marketon and Puncochar; absent: Koch and Scheuch. Also present were Superintendent Brad Sellner, Principals Jason Mix, Jim Schimelpfenig, and Jennifer Olson, and Board Secretary Marilyn Greeley.

(Item IV) Bravinder recommended approval of the agenda; Puncochar seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item V) Heuer asked those who wanted to speak for public comments to please say their name and where they live, and they will be given three minutes each to speak.

Brianna Iverson expressed her concerns she has for her three children and the possibility of wearing masks. Iverson also expressed concerns over the critical race theory.

Superintendent Sellner responded we ask our teachers to cover the Minnesota Standards and you as a parent can reach out to your students' teachers and building principals on what standards they are teaching. Sellner also indicated if a parent wants to review curriculum, they just need to coordinate with their students' building principal.

Iverson indicated she lives in Lester Prairie.

Charlie Knott, lives in the district. Knott reported it was interesting to see what happened over the past year. Knott asked why they made the decisions they made and did they make decisions because of what they were told or did they research things. Knott indicated that the masking just shouldn't happen again.

A parent brought a cell phone to the microphone for Corey Knott to video call in from Bismarck North Dakota. Knott reported that he had been silent for the past 18 months, but when the government takes rights away, we have a choice to stand up and fight for our rights or become Nazi Germany. Knott asked why are we requiring masks on buses and not in school, what is our contingency plan, and that it is government overreach. Knott reported they have no right to tell us to put on a mask or anything.

Allyson Reynolds, has had children in the district for the last seven years. She expressed concern over a situation that happened in the spring in a substitute teachers classroom concerning a moment of silence that was given and that students had to wear masks.

Superintendent Sellner reported there was no moment of silence, and we as a school district issued a notice to staff regarding the situation.

Katie Bush indicated her student said it did not happen in his classroom, however if that was with a substitute how do we handle that. Sellner reported we would talk to the substitute. Principal Schimelpfenig reported it is difficult to report because it is a private situation.

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Jamie Hintz indicated he would like answers on the masks.

Heidi Otto, has four students, and she indicated her students hated school the past 18 months due to the changes because of COVID. Otto asked the board to put themselves in the parents shoes, and thanked them for their time and wished them luck.

Ruthie Pearson has been with the district for six years, and last year was very difficult.

Heuer thanked all those who attended and spoke for their passionate input to the board.

(Item VI) Puncochar recommended approval of the consent agenda which included the July 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes, July 26, 2021 Work Session Meeting minutes, bills, monthly treasurer report, the FMLA leave request for Humphrey Elementary Custodian **Jerome Sopotniak** from July 20, 2021 through August 9, 2021; resignation of **Emily Briskey** as Cheerleading Coach effective immediately; **Pam Henry-Neaton** as Adult Volunteer & Youth Service Coordinator effective immediately, the following employment recommendations: **Hannah Montgomery** as Head Softball Coach effective the 2021-22 school year replacing Carol Meyerson; **Cassandra Hove** as a food service worker effective the 2021-22 school year replacing Patty Ficker; **Tracy Pederson** as a food service worker effective the 2021-22 school year replacing Karen Staub; and **Morgan Larsen** as an Elementary Teacher replacing Laura Bishop, and approval of the following annual policies: **410** Family and Medical Leave Policy; **413** Harassment and Violence; **414** Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse; **415** Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults; **506** Student Discipline; **514** Bullying Prohibition Policy; **522** Title IX Non Discrimination; **524** Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy; **616** School District System Accountability; and **806** Crisis Management Policy and the MSBA Phase III & IV Workshops; Peterson seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. A) Superintendent Sellner reported Donna Wilson, SMS Financial Consultant, and I reviewed the lease agreements with MAWSECO each year.

Bravinder recommended approval of the MAWSECO lease agreements and the custodial agreement for 2021-22 school year; Puncochar seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. B) Superintendent Sellner and Donna Wilson, SMS Financial Consultant, reviewed the bus garage abatement information.

Bravinder recommended the approval to move forward with the abatement process for the bus garage; Marketon seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. C) Superintendent Sellner gave an update on the Buildings & Grounds Director position.

(Item VII, Subd. D) Superintendent Sellner reviewed information about the Minnesota student survey.

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(Item VII, Subd. E) Superintendent Sellner reviewed the safe return to learn plan, and recommended its approval. There were a few visitors who asked questions about the plan. Heuer indicated to the visitors they can reach out to any of the board members about concerns.

Heuer asked for a motion.

Bravinder recommended approval of the safe return to learn plan with the amendment to the notification of homework materials added; Puncochar seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. F) Superintendent Sellner discussed the potential purchase of the Dangers farm site. The board discussed the farm site. Sellner asked the board for direction. Heuer indicated that she is hearing that we want more information.

(Item VII, Subd. G) Heuer read the donations. Bravinder recommended approval of the resolution accepting donations; Peterson seconded; those in favor: Peterson, Bravinder, Marketon, Puncochar and Heuer; those opposed: none; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. H) The Policy Committee recommends the first reading of the following policies which do not have updates, however we should review and update the date that they were reviewed by the district: 204-School Board Meeting Minutes; 205-Open meetings & Closed Meetings; 206-Public Participation in School Board Meetings; 207-Public Hearings; 208-Development, Adoption, & Implementation of Policies; 209-Code of Ethics; 210-Conflict of Interest; 211-Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee, or Student; 212-School Board Member Development; 213-School Board Committees; 214-Out of State Travel by School Board Members

(Item VII, Subd. I) Heuer indicated the following items will be on the August 23rd work session:

- Approve Resolution for Abatement of the Bus Garage Property
- Discuss the Dangers farm site
- Discuss Academic Eligibility Policy
- Winsted Elementary Gym walkthrough

Bravinder recommended approval of the items for the work session; Marketon seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VIII, Subd. A) Superintendent Sellner reported:

- We had 210 responses for the ESSER 3 funding survey.
- We will prioritize funds to address learning loss, retaining staffing levels to keep class sizes as low as possible, address social and emotional needs, and expand tutoring.
- Our enrollment appears to be 1217 so far with 25 students still to turn in paperwork.

(Item VIII, Subd. B) Principal Mix reported:

- The leadership team met last week and the plan is to get back to normal with a seven period day and end at 3pm.

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- It has been brought up at previous staff meetings to allow students to wear hats in school, with the opportunity to allow teachers to ask them to remove their hat in class.
- We have been working with the Activities Director Mr. Puncochar to have Laker time return with ESSER 3 funds to have additional tutoring time for students at the high school. There will be more to come about this from Mr. Puncochar.

Marketon recommended allowing hats at the discretion of the teachers; Peterson seconded; Puncochar asked for clarification of what grades this will be for; Heuer responded that this is for grades nine through twelve; those in favor: Heuer, Peterson, Puncochar and Marketon; opposed: Bravinder; passed by majority.

Principal Schimelpfenig reported:

- We have not been able to fill the Ag/Tech position yet, so we have put plan B in place.
- Staff have started to return to their classrooms to prepare for the start of school.
- The Middle School Leadership Committee will meet on Wednesday to make final plans for the start of school.
- As of today, we have 13 new enrollments and one withdrawal.
- New Teacher orientation was August 19.
- Open house will be August 25 with designated time slots based upon the students last name.

Principal Olson reported:

- As of this evening we have about 450 to 475 students enrolled between the two elementary buildings and of those 375 have already signed up for the welcome days.
- We have had a few tours and conversations about what things will look like in the fall.
- I met with the leadership team, and we plan to move forward with the re-evaluation of a school of excellence.

(Item VIII, Subd. C) School Board Committee Reports are attached.

(Item VIII, Subd. D) Upcoming Board Member Event Appearances:

New Teacher Workshop Day August 18 (evening 5-7pm) Heuer; Peterson, Marketon,

Middle School Open House - August 25-4:30-7:30 pm Heuer

High School Open House - August 25-5-7 pm Heuer, Marketon

First Day of School - August 30-(morning)

Humphrey Elementary K-4 Orientation - August 30 & 31 (all day)

Winsted Elementary K-4 Orientation - August 30 & 31 (all day)

Bravinder indicated Resource Training & Solutions awards nights will be in person this year.

(Item IX) Next Meeting Dates:

Work Session Meeting-August 23, 2021 6pm Winsted Elementary Commons

Regular Board Meeting-September 13, 2021 HLWW HS Media Center

(Item X) Items for next meeting:

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Work Session:

- Discuss Dangers farm site
- Approve Resolution for Abatement of the Bus Garage Property
- Winsted Elementary Gym walkthrough
- Academic Eligibility Policy review

Regular Meeting:

- Bill Reader for September-Puncochar
- Bill Reader for October-Scheuch
- Department Report-Westling-QComp, Testing-MCA Assessments
- Recognition's
- Leave/Resignations/Retirements
- Employment Recommendations
- Approve Second Reading of Policies
- Approve First Reading of Policies
- Approve Treasurer Report-January, April, July, October
- Monthly Budget Report
- Other

Heuer adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Puncochar, Clerk