

REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 14, 2025

The Monday, April 14, 2025 Regular School Board meeting of Independent School Dist. #2687 (Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted) was called to order at 6:30 pm. by Chairperson B Borrell. After the pledge of allegiance, roll was taken with the following members present: B Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon, Mulvihill, Puncochar and J Borrell. Also present were Superintendent Nate Walbruch, Principals Stephanie Kuehn, Jim Schimelpfenig, and Jennifer Olson, and Board Secretary Marilyn Greeley.

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

(Item V) Chairman B Borrell reviewed the process for comments from visitors. B Borrell asked anyone who wanted to speak to state their name and they would be given three minutes to speak.

Abby Ficker, a HLWW graduate and parent in district, expressed concern about the reductions in the Ag Department staffing.

Wyatt Determan, an HLWW employee expressed concern about the video board funds.

(Item VI) Koch recommended approval of the consent agenda; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

The consent agenda included the March 10, 2025, Regular Board meeting minutes, April 8, 2025 Special Board meeting minutes, bills, enrollment, and the FMLA leave request for **Heather Johnson** starting April 16, 2025 through May 30, 2025; FMLA Leave request for **Jessica Larson** effective August 25, 2025 through November 30, 2025; and an extension of leave for **Kayla Myhre** who will now return approximately April 21, 2025; and the resignations of **Christina Kittock** as a speech/language pathologist assistant effective at the end of the 2024-25 school year; **Keith Say** as a Humphrey Elementary part-time evening custodian effective March 13, 2025; **Barb Say** an evening custodian effective May 28, 2025 and **Monica Bogema** a Humphrey Elementary paraprofessional effective the end of the 2024-25 school year, the hiring of **Jeremy Peterson** as a Night Lead Custodian effective Mach 26, 2025; and the following lane changes: **Sarah Baxter** from MA10 to MA20; **Seena Glessing** from MA10 to MA20; **Gretchen Karg** from BA30 to MA; **Bernice Pehl** from MA to MA10; **Paula Timm** from MA10 to MA20; **Emily Wadman** from BA to BA10, approval of the following additional spring coaches: **Landen Paige** as a JV Golf Coach, **Ashley Coleman** as a JH Softball Coach and **Drew Waldbillig** as a JH Softball Coach, and Communications: Elementary Laker News, Teaching Today-Spring 2025.

(Item VII, Subd. A) Rachel Bender, Community Education Director, gave an update on Community Education which includes birth through senior citizens and also Laker Care.

(Item VII, Subd. B) Megan Tormanen, Business Manager, reviewed and recommended the treasurer's report. Tormanen also indicated there will be an added expense due to the superintendent search.

Puncochar recommended approval of the treasurer's report; Bauman seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. C) Superintendent Walbruch reviewed the request for an additional special education teacher for the high school/middle school effective the 2025-26 school year to bring the district into alignment for special education programming.

Koch recommended approval of the additional special education teacher for the high/middle school effective 2025-26 school year; J Borrell seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. D) J Borrell recommended approval of Mumford Sanitation, Pan O Gold and Kemps/St. Paul Beverage Solutions as our vendors for the 2025-2026 school year; Marketon seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. E) Bauman motioned to approve the resolution terminating & nonrenewal of probationary teacher Jennifer Hagen; Koch seconded; those in favor: Mulvihill, Puncochar, J Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon and B Borrell; those opposed: none; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. F) Marketon motioned to approve the resolution terminating & nonrenewal of probationary teacher Janai Kittock; J Borrell seconded; those in favor: Marketon, Bauman, Koch, J Borrell, Puncochar, Mulvihill and B Borrell; those opposed: none; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. G) Puncochar motioned to approve the resolution terminating & nonrenewal of probationary teacher Adam Kuehl; Koch seconded; those in favor: Mulvihill, Puncochar, J Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon and B Borrell; those opposed: none; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. H) Marketon motioned to approve the resolution terminating & nonrenewal of probationary teacher Bodil Empting; J Borrell seconded; those in favor: Marketon, Bauman, Koch, J Borrell, Puncochar, Mulvihill and B Borrell; those opposed: none; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. I) Marketon recommended approval of the overnight student trip for High School DECA to Orlando Florida April 25-30, 2025 and High School Student Council to Hibbing Minnesota April 4-6, 2025 ; J Borrell seconded; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. J) B Borrell read the list of donations.

Koch recommended approval of the resolution accepting donations; Bauman seconded; those in favor: Mulvihill, Puncochar, J Borrell, Koch, Bauman, Marketon and B Borrell; those opposed: none; passed unanimously.

(Item VII, Subd. K) B Borrell indicated the following items will be on the April work session agenda:

- Update on the Grade Level Building Transition
- Update on the Superintendent search
- Approve and possible new hires

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

(Item VII, Subd. L) Superintendent Walbruch indicated there is not too much to update about the grade level transition due to the next meeting isn't until tomorrow.

Mulvihill asked if we are still on track to have a decision on what grades will be at each building. Walbruch responded; yes.

(Item VII, Subd. M) Each board member gave positive affirmation about things happening in the district.

Mulvihill reported that the middle school track camp is a nice opportunity for younger lakers to get involved.

Marketon reported Mrs. Main and her student are doing a great job painting things in school colors in the school.

Puncochar reported that there were no academic ineligible wrestlers for this season.

Bauman reported that the Title Committee put on a great event for students and families.

J Borrell reported that his family has two of the three exchange students over for dinner and they were very engaging, and his family enjoyed their company.

Koch reported that the Spring Play and Speech students did a great job going from one event to another in a short time on the same day. Koch also thanked B Borrell and Greeley for getting the information about the Superintendent search up on the website so quickly.

B Borrell reported the Track Team was very engaged and supporting each other.

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

- Mrs. Main and the Lester Prairie Art teacher hosted an art fair with art showcasing themselves and their heritage.
- We have been working on a written 504 process that will help the district ensure that evaluations and plans are consistent.
- We met with a potential CTE benefactor who is interested in providing a significant investment in our district.

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

- Testing season is upon us.
- The hallways look amazing-thank you to Mrs. Main and Mr. Weninger for their help with the painting project.
- We are preparing for graduation, prom and awards night.
- Mr. Granrud has been selected as a Minnesota Teacher of Excellence and will go to a National event in Salt Lake City, Utah in October.
- The VFW Day of Service will be April 26, 2025
- We will hold a mock crash on May 1st.

Principal Schimelpfenig reported:

- Last Friday we wrapped up Phase I of our Read Act Training.

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- Our third quarter student recognition assembly took place on April 10th.
- Sixth-grade art students joined the Lester Prairie eighth grade students in a joint art show that was held at the middle school on April 8th.
- Testing starts tomorrow

Principal Olson reported:

- MCA testing starts tomorrow
- The Humphrey Elementary musical will be May 1, 2025 at 1 and 7pm
- The PTA's are building community connections.
- Teacher and staff appreciation week is May 5-9, 2025
- Walk to school day is May 7

(Item VIII, Subd. C) B Borrell asked the board to review the written school board committee reports.

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

Calendar Link

Students of Excellence April 23-Resource Training @ 4:30pm

(Item IX) Next Meeting Dates:

Work Session Meeting - Monday April 28, 2025 6:30pm HLWW HS Media Center

Special board meeting Tuesday May 6, 2025 5pm HLWW HS Media Center

Special board meeting Friday May 9, 2025 5:30pm HLWW HS Media Center

Special board meeting -Saturday May 10, 2025 9am HLWW HS Media Center

Regular Board Meeting - Monday May 12, 2025 6:30pm HLWW HS Media Center

Special board Wednesday May 14, 2025 5:30pm HLWW HS Media Center

Special board Thursday May 15, 2025 5:30pm HLWW HS Media Center

Special board meeting Monday May 19, 2025 6pm HLWW HS Media Center

Work Session Meeting - Tuesday May 27, 2025 6:30pm HLWW HS Media Center

Marketon reported the Budget Committee has been looking at many reports and having conversations before making any decisions. Marketon also reported many other schools are going through drastic cuts, but we are not because we have made some tough decisions. Marketon indicated the intent is to be fiscally responsible.

(Item X) Items for next meeting

Work Session:

- Discuss Grade Level Transition update
- Discuss Superintendent search update
- Discuss employment updates

Regular Meeting:

- Bill Reader for May-J Borrell
- Bill Reader for June-Koch
- Department Report-Technology
- Recognition's

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- Leave/Resignations/Retirements
- Employment Recommendations
- Approve Treasurer Report-January, April, July, October
- Monthly Budget Report
- MAWSECO Lease Agreements for 2025-26
- Estimate Approvals if Needed
- Possible Review of Proposed 2025-26 Budget

B Borrell adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Koch, Clerk