

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

January 8, 2018

The Pelican Rapids Board of Education held a regular meeting on January 8, 2018 in the board room at the high school at 6:30 p.m. Board members present: Charlie Blixt, Dena Johnson, Jon Karger, Michael Forsgren, Anne Peterson, Kathy Ouren. Board members absent: None. Others present: Superintendent Randi Anderson, Brian Korf, Dr. Ed Richardson, CJ Holl, Barb Ripley, David Haugen, Rachel Gottenborg, Cary Haugrud, Bridgette Holl, Jeff Peter, Haley Westby, Kaylie Isaman, Morgan Berg, Sarah Thompson.

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charlie Blixt.

Kathy Ouren moved to nominate officers as they currently are, noting that this is the second year in a two-year rotation. Chair – Charlie Blixt

Vice Chair – Dena Johnson

Treasurer – Kathy Ouren

Clerk – Michael Forsgren

The motion was seconded by Michael Forsgren and carried.

Dena Johnson moved to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Jon Karger and carried.

Students presented information about Minnesota Honor Society.

Jon Karger moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items:

Approve board minutes of the regular meetings on December 5, 6, 18 2017

Revenue and Expenditure Guidelines

Financial claims-bills payable

Treasurer's report

Investment log

Accept donations:

To SADD Lake Region Electric Co-op - \$50

Pelican Drug - \$100

Bell Bank - \$100

VFW Post 5252 - \$150

Arvig - \$50

To FFA Zoetis/Maplewood Vet Clinic - \$107.80

To Celebration of Cultures Larry's Supermarket - \$25

To scholarships Marco - \$1,000

Personnel:

Hire Megan Williams as a Special Ed para

The motion was seconded by Michael Forsgren and carried.

Dena Johnson moved to approve the elementary teacher computer lease agreement. The motion was seconded by Charlie Blixt and carried.

Dena Johnson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION
TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS
IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFOR.

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district dictates that the school board must reduce expenditures immediately, and

WHEREAS, there has been a reduction in student enrollment and,

WHEREAS, the reduction in expenditure and decrease in student enrollment must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of program, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. #548 as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures and as a result of reduction in enrollment, make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion was seconded by Jon Karger and upon a vote being taken the following voted for:

Anne Peterson, Jon Karger, Charlie Blixt, Dena Johnson, Michael Forsgren, Kathy Ouren

And the following voted against:

None

Whereupon this resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Charlie Blixt moved to approve designating \$10,000 from the Community Education Fund to support a community mural, pending community approval and attainment of grants and donations to fund the remaining costs. The motion was seconded by Kathy Ouren and carried.

Dena Johnson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services (Minnesota)

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality special education programs and instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) now known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act IDEA to: improve access to education for children with disabilities by guaranteeing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist States and school systems to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, when IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the additional cost of educating children with disabilities; and yet the federal government has failed to adequately fund the mandated programs and services arising under IDEA, never providing more than 15 percent of the additional cost; and

WHEREAS, sufficient federal funding for IDEA would significantly enhance the ability of local school systems to provide an excellent education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the special education cross-subsidy continues to be a major obstacle for Minnesota School Districts to grapple with, due to the growing number of students receiving special education, more specialized services and rising costs associated with those services and inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the state special education funding system has not kept pace with the rising cost of mandated services and supports for students with special needs; and,

WHEREAS, the cross-subsidy for school districts for FY2016 is \$679 million; a 5.6 percent increase from FY2015; and

WHEREAS, between rising need and insufficient state and federal aid, the amount of funding school districts as a whole in Minnesota will be forced to pay for special education costs will reach an average of \$815 per student in FY17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the Governor and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding and meaningful special education reforms at the federal and state levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there is an urgency the Minnesota Legislature to convene a task force to work on special education funding, specifically with a focus on the impacts of the new special education funding formulas, the projected cross-subsidy and recommendations with a timeline to eliminate the cross-subsidy.

The motion was seconded by Anne Peterson and upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor:

Anne Peterson, Jon Karger, Charlie Blixt, Dena Johnson, Michael Forsgren, Kathy Ouren
And the following voted against:

None

Whereupon this resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dena Johnson introduced to following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution to Fully Fund Special Education Services (Federal)

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality special education programs and instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) now known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act IDEA to: improve access to education for children with disabilities by guaranteeing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist States and school systems to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, when IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the additional cost of educating children with disabilities; and yet the federal government has failed to adequately fund the mandated programs and services arising under IDEA, never providing more than 15 percent of the additional cost; and

WHEREAS, sufficient federal funding for IDEA would significantly enhance the ability of local school systems to provide an excellent education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the special education cross-subsidy continues to be a major obstacle for Minnesota School Districts to grapple with, due to the growing number of students receiving special education, more specialized services and rising costs associated with those services and inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the state special education funding system has not kept pace with the rising cost of mandated services and supports for students with special needs; and,

WHEREAS, the cross-subsidy for Minnesota school districts for FY2016 is \$679 million; a 5.6 percent increase from FY2015; and

WHEREAS, between rising need and insufficient state and federal aid, the amount of funding school districts as a whole in Minnesota will be forced to pay for special education costs will reach an average of \$815 per student in FY17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the President and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding and meaningful special education reforms at the federal and state levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Minnesota calls upon the Congress of the United States to pass appropriate legislation in order to increase funding for federal special education mandates to meet the urgent financial special education needs of our cities and towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be delivered to all United States Representatives and Senators representing Minnesota in the Congress of the United States.

The motion was seconded by Anne Peterson and upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor:

Anne Peterson, Jon Karger, Charlie Blixt, Dena Johnson, Michael Forsgren, Kathy Ouren
And the following voted against:

None

Whereupon this resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Kathy Ouren moved to approve the purchase of TimeClock Plus through Region1 in Moorhead.
The motion was seconded by Jon Karger and carried.

Charlie Blixt moved to approve the 2nd reading of the following policies:

Policy 214 School Board Travel Out of State

Policy 401 Equal Opportunity Employment

Policy 402 Disability Non-Discrimination

Policy 406 Public & Private Personnel Data

Policy 410 Family & Medical Leave

Policy 412 Expense Reimbursement

The motion was seconded by Michael Forsgren and carried.

Dena Johnson moved to approve the 1st reading Policy 509 Enrollment of Nonresident Students.
The motion was seconded by Jon Karger and carried.

Dena Johnson moved to close the meeting to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. The
motion was seconded by Charlie Blixt and carried.

Charlie Blixt, Chair

Michael Forsgren, Clerk