

April 20, 2020

The North Mahaska Board of Education met in regular session on April 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. using electronic meeting – Zoom. The electronic board meeting is open to the public and the community can join the electronic meeting by emailing the superintendent. Those members present: Dirk Wilkin, Arvin DeBoef, Margaret Ratcliff, Keith Foster and Michelle Sampson. Also present: Angela Livezey, Amber Goemaat, Sally Obernolte with Neumann Monson Architects, Brandon Schulte, Ben Gannon and Trent Kain with Design Construction Integration (DCI), RD Keep – The Sun, Lindsay Thoreson, Ryan Groom, Tim Veiseth, Sherrill Strobel, Jim and Mary Woods and Cindy Quang.

Dirk Wilkin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A motion was made by the board to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

A motion was made by the board to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication or public forum.

NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS – PROJECT UPDATE

Sally Obernolte with Neumann Monson Architect gave the board an overview of the design progress.

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION INTEGRATION GROUP – PROJECT UPDATE

Brandon Schulte with Design Construction Integration (DCI) gave the board an overview of the construction progress.

OLD BUSINESS

FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Mrs. Livezey mentioned she did a pre-bid meeting with potential food service management companies via Zoom. Two companies were able to attend the online Zoom session. The food service company interested in contracting food service for North Mahaska has until May 7, 2020 to turn in a request for proposal.

COVID 19 EDUCATION RESPONSE

Mrs. Livezey talked to the board about students transitioning to online learning. Mr. Livezey and Mrs. Goemaat will discuss more during the principal's report for the board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

RESIGNATIONS

RYAN GROOM – 7TH GRADE SPONSOR

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratcliff to accept the resignation for Ryan Groom as a 7th grade sponsor. Motion carried.

MADDISON MITCHELL – FLAG SPONSOR

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Sampson to accept the resignation for Maddison Mitchell as a flag sponsor. Motion carried.

ASHLEY SOJKA – JR. HIGH GIRLS' TRACK

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to accept the resignation for Ashley Sojka as a Jr. High Girls' Track. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF STAFF

CHRIS SAMPSON – INSTRUCTIONAL COACH - GENERAL

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve Chris Sampson as an Instructional Coach – General. Motion carried.

SHAYLA SCHILLING – INSTRUCTIONAL COACH – MATH

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratcliff to approve Shayla Schilling as an Instructional Coach – Math. Motion carried.

TIM VEISETH – INSTRUCTIONAL COACH – BEHAVIOR

No motion was made. Mrs. Livezey asked for a discussion from the board. Mrs. Livezey will plan to present the board with different scenarios at the next board meeting.

TERRY MALONE – TEACHER MENTOR

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve Terry Malone as a Teacher Mentor. Motion carried.

RENEE FERGUSON – TEACHER MENTOR

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by Ratcliff to approve Renee Ferguson as a Teacher Mentor. Motion carried.

LISA WATTS – TEACHER MENTOR

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Foster to approve Lisa Watts as a Teacher Mentor. Motion carried.

JAMIE NELSON – LITERACY LEAD

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve Jamie Nelson as a Literacy Lead Teacher. Motion carried.

STACIE JOHANNES – LITERACY LEAD

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve Stacie Johannes as a Literacy Lead Teacher. Motion carried.

RENEE FERGUSON – SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEAD

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Foster to approve Renee Ferguson as a Social Emotional Lead Teacher. Motion carried.

LISA WATTS – SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEAD

A motion was made by Sampson and seconded by DeBoef to approve Lisa Watts as a Social Emotional Lead Teacher. Motion carried.

KRYSTY HUFFMAN – MATH LEAD

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve Krysty Huffman as a Math Lead Teacher. Motion carried.

KATE HITE – JR./SR. HIGH LEAD

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve Kate Hite as a Jr./Sr. High Lead Teacher. Motion carried.

JV/VARSITY BOYS' TRACK – KIPP SCHULER

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve Kipp Schuler as a JV/Varsity Boys' Track Coach. Motion carried.

ASSISTANT JV/VARSITY VOLLEYBALL COACH – MARY WOODS

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to approve Mary Woods as an Assistant JV/Varsity Volleyball Coach. Motion carried.

FLAG SPONSOR – TARA CARRICO

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Sampson to approve Tara Carrico as a Flag Sponsor. Motion carried.

7TH GRADE CLASS SPONSOR – TREY BENNETT

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratcliff to approve Trey Bennett as a 7th Grade Sponsor. Motion carried.

NANCY DUNNICK – HEAD COOK (SALARY & BENEFITS)

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratcliff to approve Nancy Dunnick as a Head Cook and salary and benefits totaling \$43,972. Motion carried.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF POLICY RESOLUTION

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratcliff to approve the Pandemic Response and Emergency Suspension of Policy Resolution. Motion carried.

The resolution below provides boards the method to suspend certain policies which may conflict with guidance being issued by state or federal agencies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It ensures the superintendent has authority to act to comply with public health directives.

The resolution also includes languages authorizing continued payment of wages to hourly employees to a date certain. IASB recommends boards consider this action to ensure stability for employees, morale, and employee retention. Alternative languages related to furloughs for classified employees has been removed from the revised sample resolution. Information on the potential use of furloughs continues to evolve over time. There are many unknowns regarding the impact of federal stimulus funds on both the district and the employee. In addition, there are indications that this will be viewed by state and federal policy makers as “taxpayers paying twice,” as public funds have been allocated to the district and additional public funds would then be required for unemployment benefits. Schools who wish to furlough employees should work with their legal counsel. If the board has already acted to address wage issued for hourly employees, this language may be removed.

RESOLUTION – PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF POLICY

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Ch. 279.8 authorize local school boards to govern their respective districts, including adopting policies for their own governance; and

WHEREAS, the Board may, by formal, action, suspend or rescind board policy as deemed necessary, appropriate or in the best interests of the District; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United State declared a national state of emergency and on March 15, 2020 Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds recommended closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Iowa until April 13, 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds declared a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency under the authority granted through Iowa Constitution, Art. IV, §§ 1, 8 and Iowa Code §§ 29C.6(1), 135.140(6) and 135.144 and directed implementation of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Iowa Emergency Response Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, mostly hourly non-exempt employees will be unable to report to work due to the District's closure and certified contract employees may be asked to work at remote locations to help provide continuity in educational services; and

WHEREAS, it fulfills a public purpose to continue to pay District hourly and classified non-exempt employees during this closure to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19, to promote morale and to help retain current employees following the closure; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the Iowa Legislature passed and the Governor signed SF 2408 granting waiver of the instructional time requirements in Iowa Code Ch. 279.10 for all public school districts closing before April 12, 2020 in order to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19; and granting Governor Reynolds the ability to waive instructional time requirements for any public school district which closes on or after April 12, 2020 to prevent or contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020 Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds recommended extended closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Iowa through April 30 (and on April 17 to the end of the year) to contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Education, which has the authority to establish and interpret graduation requirements, and to oversee other crucial aspects of public education in providing written guidance to Iowa school districts on issues related to COVID-19, including but not limited to student attendance, distance/online learning, high school credit, meal distribution, and other issues; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Education issued COVID-1 Guidance: Provision of Continuous Learning. This guidance allows school districts to provide either voluntary educational enrichment opportunities to students or required educational services. Voluntary educational enrichment opportunities include educational opportunities provided to students where participation by students is not required and will not be graded other than voluntary completion of concurrent enrollment courses and credit recovery.

Required educational services include educational services provided to students who are required to participate. Student work may be graded and credit may be awarded. Equity must be provided for the AEA services resume, to the extent possible, for required educational services. Competencies attained through either voluntary or required educational services may be considered; if done on a voluntary basis they may only be considered after school returns to session.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Mahaska School Board hereby suspends provisions of its board policies and/or whole policies, as identified by this District Superintendent or designee, if such suspension is necessary to implement written guidance from state or federal agencies relating to containing COVID-19 for the duration identified in the Governor's State of Public Health Emergency declaration of March 17, 2020. or as otherwise determined by the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent will consult with and report to the Board as feasible and appropriate regarding the emergency closure and efforts to implement written guidance from health and government agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent is authorized to close any school facility without further action by the Board of Directors. Such closure shall continue during the emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic until such time as the Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate health and government authorities, deems it in the best interests of the District and its students to open schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent is authorized, based upon the needs of the District and guidance from health and government agencies, to direct staff assignments during District closures, including by not limited to essential employee who must report to work, employees who may be reassigned, and employees whose services are not needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that access to public school grounds and public school buildings of the District may be limited as directed by the Superintendent during District closures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified, exempt employees will remain employed during the school closure and until the number of days expressed on the contract have been fulfilled, unless otherwise approved by the Board. Days that contracted employees do not report for duty either onsite if deemed an essential employee; or from a remote location for all other employees due to closure, do not constitute a fulfilled contract day except to the extent those days are forgiven by the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in light of this District-wide emergency closure, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to place hourly and classified non-exempt employees on pay administrative leave and to continue to pay them until the number of days expressed in the contract have been fulfilled during the period of school closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District has elected to provide voluntary educational enrichment opportunities to students in the district during this period of school closures

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the interest of public health and/or to comply with federal or state health department recommendations or guidance, the Board encourages the public to attend or listen to its

open public meetings via telephone or video conference, and the Board may also limit public comment to written comments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board reserves the right to adjust board meeting dates, times, and locations during this district-wide emergency closure in a manner consistent with the Open Meeting law, and notes that any or all board members may attend board meetings electronically as permitted by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument. This resolution will remain in full force and effect until it is rescinded or amended by subsequent action of the Board.

Adopted and approved this 20th day of April 2020.

By: Dirk Wilkin
Board President of Designee

Attest: Cindy Quang
Board Secretary

DISCUSSION – NEW SHARON CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL REQUEST – RENT WAIVER

With the pandemic causing the North Mahaska school to close and the New Sharon Childcare and Preschool has been closed. The New Sharon Childcare and Preschool has asked the district to waive the rental fees for the months the daycare has been closed due to the pandemic. Mrs. Livezey has recommended having both boards (New Sharon Childcare and the representative NM board members) meet next month to discuss this in further detail. The decision has been tabled to the next board meeting.

APPROVAL OF SENIOR CLASS FOR GRADUATION

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve the graduating class of 2020 pending all mandatory grades that have been met as amended through the COVID-19 board resolution. Motion carried.

AEA COOPERATIVE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by Foster to approve the AEA Cooperative Purchase Agreement for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

REVIEW BIDS FOR CURRENT WRESTLING BUILDING (BIDS DUE FRIDAY APRIL 17)

The school did not receive any bids to purchase the wrestling (fitness center) building.

Mrs. Livezey mentioned with no bidder on the fitness center building the demolition expense will be added to the cost of construction.

APPROVE SHARING AGREEMENT WITH SIGOURNEY CSD FOR LIBRARIAN (STATE REQUIREMENT)

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Foster to approve the sharing agreement with Sigourney Community School District for a librarian for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PAYING AGENT, BOND REGISTRAR, AND TRANSFER AGENT, APPROVING PAYING AGENT, BOND REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER AGENT AGREEMENT & AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SAME

Board Member Ratcliff introduced the following Resolution entitled “RESOLUTION APPOINTING UMB BANK, N.A. OF WEST DES MOINES, IOWA TO SERVE AS PAYING AGENT, BOND REGISTER, AND TRANSFER AGENT, APPROVING THE PAYING AGENT, BOND REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER AGENT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SAME” and the moved its adoption. Board Member DeBoef seconded the motion to adopt. The roll call was called and the vote was,

AYES: Margaret Ratcliff, Arvin DeBoef, Keith Foster
Michelle Sampson and Dirk Wilkins

NAYS: None

The President declared the Resolution adopted.

APPROVAL OF FORM OF TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE

Board Member Foster moved that the form of Tax Exemption Certificate be placed on file and approved. Board Member Ratcliff seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was.

AYES: Keith Foster, Margaret Ratcliff, Arvin DeBoef
Michelle Sampson and Dirk Wilkins

NAYS: None

The President declared the Resolution adopted.

APPROVAL OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE

Board Member DeBoef moved that the form of Continuing Disclosure Certificate be placed on file and approved. Board Member Sampson seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was.

AYES: Arvin DeBoef, Michelle Sampson, Keith Foster
Margaret Ratcliff and Dirk Wilkins

NAYS: None

The President declared the Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

Board Member Ratcliff introduced the following Resolution entitled “RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2020, OF THE NORTH MAHASKA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, STATE OF IOWA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000,000, AND LEVYING A TAX FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF,” and moved its adoption. Board Member Foster seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called and the vote was,

AYES: Margaret Ratcliff, Keith Foster, Arvin DeBoef
Michelle Sampson and Dirk Wilkins

NAYS: None

The President declared the Resolution adopted.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

MRS. LIVEZEY – ONLINE LEARNING, KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP, GAP PROGRAM, PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Mrs. Livezey has been corresponding with the teachers to collect data for online learning with students. Of the data that was collected, only 12 students are not engaged in online learning. Mrs. Livezey will send information to the board on the students corresponding online versus the students receiving mailed packets.

Mrs. Livezey mentioned that kindergarten round-up will be done differently this school year. Mrs. Livezey will have a Q & A for parents on the school website.

Mrs. Livezey mentioned that the GAP program will be a little different at the end of the school year as well. She mentioned maybe do a soft start at the beginning of August for the GAP program. Mrs. Livezey will discuss the GAP grant fund with the Mahaska-Wapello Empowerment to see what options are available. The progress of the construction project could also affect the GAP program as will.

Mrs. Livezey will have a preschool and kindergarten registration on the school website. The online registration will allow the district to know who will be attending North Mahaska CSD.

MRS. GOEMAAT – ONLINE LEARNING, PROM, GRADUATION, SENIOR AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS

Mrs. Goemaat talked about the hurdle she had to overcome for students at the jr./sr. high school. At the jr./sr. high school students do not have just one teacher to collect school packets from. Mrs. Goemaat stated getting students their individualized packet for their classes was challenging, but it got done. Mrs. Goemaat will look into doing something different at the next pick-up packet date.

Mrs. Goemaat has a Q & A on the school website going over Prom, Graduation, Senior Award/Scholarship Day. Mrs. Goemaat mentioned these events are very important in these students’ lives to give up and not allow these events to happen. She would like to make these events happen if at all possible. Mrs. Goemaat is following the CDC guideline that is recommended to her to make any decisions on when these events can happen.

Mrs. Goemaat will have the Senior Award/Scholarship ceremony virtual if need be. She wants to be able to make public of all the scholarship awards that senior students received. In the middle of May is when this virtual senior award/ scholarship ceremony will happen. Mrs. Goemaat will be giving more details on the virtual Senior Award/Scholarship Ceremony soon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING WITH NEW SHARON CHILDCARE & PRESCHOOL (COMMITTEE: DEBOEF & SAMPSON)

Mrs. Livezey has planned for the board representatives to meet to go over the 28E Agreement with the New Sharon Childcare & Preschool sometime in May.

STAFF APPRECIATION

Mrs. Livezey mentioned the NM PACT will be doing something to show appreciation for the NM staff.

BOARD COMMENTS / THANK YOU NOTES

Mrs. Ratcliff and Mr. DeBoef mentioned what the administration and staff have pulled off are very much appreciated. Making adjustments to student learning due to the pandemic would take months and we did it in weeks is mind-boggling.

Mrs. Sampson mentioned that parents are very appreciative of the kitchen staff and the amount of food and type of food that is given for the meal pick up. Mrs. Livezey mentioned approximately 1,500 food is being distributed weekly.

Mr. Wilkin would like to thank Mrs. Goemaat for sending words of encouragement letter to each senior.

ADJOURN

Mr. Wilkin adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm

Cindy Quang
Board Secretary

Dirk Wilkin
Board President