

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Dr. Jim Hess

Your Bemidji School Board met on December 20, 2010 with the following results:

Consent Agenda	<p>Board Members approved the following Consent Agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from meetings held November 8, November 15, November 22, at December 6, 2010 - Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling \$2,575,596.33 - Request to be Released from Contract from a Bemidji High School Special Education Teacher - 2010-2011 Teacher Seniority List - Accepted Three Noncertified Staff Resignations - Approved a Certified Staff Resignation – School Social Worker - Approved Three Field Trip Requests for Overnight or Out-of-State Travel
Student Representative Report	<p>Katie Kovacovich reported on Bemidji High School student activities including the recent success of the Boys Basketball, Skiing, and Boys Hockey Teams. She invited us to the Vocal Concert immediately following the Board Meeting.</p>
Listening Session	<p>Board Members reported several constituents visited with them during the Listening Session regarding the two acre tract of land in Buzzle Township the district was considering selling.</p>
Effective and Efficient Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board Members approved revisions to the District 403(b) Plan. - The MNDOT settlement offer for Horace May Elementary was accepted providing \$161,050.00 to replace the existing parking lot and granting an easement to construct a frontage road to access the school. - A request to accept sealed bids for the sale of two acres of land in Buzzle Township was tabled by Board action. - .5 FTE Early Childhood Family Education and 1.0 FTE Early Childhood Special Education positions were added due to increased enrollment. - Resolution directing administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and personnel after reviewing enrollment projections and finances was passed unanimously. - Board Members approved, on first reading, SBR 200-90-9: Harassment and Violence and SBR 200-90-19: Family and Medical Leave. Both were updated from the Minnesota School Boards Association’s policy analysis recommendations. - Resolution approving an Internship Agreement with Northwest Technical College was adopted. - Board Members received an update from the Elementary Schedule Study Group which is reviewing effective schedules and planning several site visits in January.
Highest Level of Student Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants at state level competition were recognized and will receive congratulatory letters. - Board Members accepted two grants: \$6,470 from the Neilson Foundation for Positive Change for Native American Students at Bemidji Middle School and \$300 from Paul Bunyan Communications to help with State Science Fair expenses.

Safe and Welcoming Environment	Revised policies SBR 700-90-1: Hazing Prohibition and SBR 700-90-4: Bullying Prohibition were approved on first reading.
Upcoming Events	Special School Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 5, 2011, 7:30 a.m.- Hearing for Expulsion January 24, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting – date change due to the Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday Observance.
Truth in Taxation Hearing	The 2011 Levy was set for the school district at \$8,997.036 or a decrease of 0.11%. The district is under the maximum levy authority by \$585,983 which was a pledge made in the campaign to renew the Operating Levy. There were no comments made by the public during the hearing.