

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Dr. Jim Hess

Your Bemidji School Board met on February 28, 2011 with the following results:

Consent Agenda	<p>The following Consent Agenda items were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from meetings held on January 24, 2011, January 31, 2011, and February 7, 2011 - Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling: \$2,529,604.32 - Two Noncertified Staff Resignations - Lane Advancements for 17 Licensed Staff Totaling: \$56,631 - Overnight Field Trip Request from J.W. Smith Fourth Grade to go to Deep Portage Environmental Learning Preserve
Special Topics	<p>Vicki Wangberg presented information regarding the district's Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness Programs. Currently ECFE serves 541 students and their families and School Readiness serves 226 students and helps prepare them for future success.</p>
Student Representative Reports	<p>Jade Hovet and Katie Kovacovich reported on current activities at Bemidji High School including the highly successful end of the winter sports seasons of several teams.</p>
Public Participation	<p>Four people signed up to address the School Board. Two staff members addressed the issue of staff requested early retirement incentive payments. One staff member shared a letter composed by Bemidji High School World Languages Department teachers identifying questions/concerns regarding a facility option to move eighth grade to Bemidji High School. One resident requested sale of a two acre parcel to him which the district currently owns in Buzzle Township.</p>
Listening Session	<p>Several staff members and members of the community visited with Board Members Ann Long Voelkner and Melissa Bahr on topics including land for youth football, early retirement incentives, and facility options.</p>
Effective and Efficient Operations	<p>Board Members approved a 2011-2012 School Calendar on first reading which does not include a spring break and concludes the school year for students on May 31, 2012. This calendar was recommended by the Meet and Confer group, who met earlier this year.</p> <p>A request for payment of an early retirement incentive for 12 licensed staff members was not approved by Board action.</p> <p>Board Members approved hiring a .04 FTE additional Community Education and .80 FTE Early Childhood Family Education teachers and an Occupational Therapy Student Fieldwork Agreement with the University of North Dakota.</p> <p>Appointments to Board Committees were reviewed and accepted.</p>

Highest Levels of Student Success	Board Members reviewed and discussed their perceptions from the recently held Public Input Sessions. Two additional sessions are scheduled in March.
Upcoming Events	March 1, 2011 – Public Input Session at Lincoln Elementary March 3, 2011 – Public Input Session at Bemidji High School March 14, 2011 – School Board Work Session March 21, 2011 – Regular School Board Meeting
Other	School Board Members were provided recognition by the Minnesota School Boards Association for their service to education during School Board Appreciation Week. Paraprofessionals are saluted this week in a special Governor’s Proclamation posted on the FirstClass News Page.