

## BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Dr. Jim Hess

### **Your Bemidji School Board met on January 24, 2011 with the following results:**

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| <b>Organizational Meeting</b>         | Bill Faver was elected Board Chair, Ann Long Voelkner was elected Vice Chair, John Pugleasa was elected Board Clerk, and Carol L. Johnson was elected as Board Treasurer for 2011. School Board Members voted to freeze their salaries at the current level, keep the same schedule for meetings, and approved customary enabling act provisions for the day-to-day operation of the school district.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Consent Agenda</b>                 | <p>The following Consent Agenda items were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes from meetings held on December 13, 2010 December 20, 2010 and January 5, 2011</li> <li>- Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling: \$2,666,465.37</li> <li>- Four Noncertified Staff Resignations</li> <li>- Second Reading and Adoption of SBR 200-90-19: Family and Medical Leave Policy</li> <li>- Second Reading and Adoption of SBR 200-90-9: Harassment and Violence Policy</li> <li>- Second Reading and Adoption of SBR 700-90-4: Bullying Prohibition Policy</li> <li>- Second Reading and Adoption of SBR 700-90-1: Hazing Prohibition</li> <li>- Confirmation of Resignation – Teacher of Blind or Visually Impaired</li> <li>- JROTC Field Trip Request</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Special Topics</b>                 | <p>Don Zierke, from Miller McDonald, Inc., reviewed the school district audit which includes General Fund, Food Service Fund, Community Service Fund Debt Service Fund, and Student Activity Fund.</p> <p>The General Fund had revenues of \$51,865,036 and expenses of \$53,058,771 for a net of \$1,193,735 changing to a positive \$3,158,327 with the inclusion of OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) bond proceeds. This caused the ending balance to change from \$2,374,165 to \$5,532,492. There have been some major one time changes to the revenue and expense patterns which include enrollment growth and Federal Stimulus dollars for special education.</p> <p>The Minnesota State Budget forecast predicts a budget shortfall exceeding \$6.2 billion. Even if the state does repay the loan they have taken from schools, the deficit is still \$4.8 billion. This represents 12% of the current general fund budget. Education will be significantly impacted by the budget balancing actions of the new Legislature.</p> |
| <b>Student Representative Reports</b> | Katie Kovacovich and Jade Hovet reported on Bemidji High School activities including winter sports/activities update, implementation of the Homeroom Program, and the Regional Student Council Winter Summit which will be hosted by Bemidji High School.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Listening Session Review</b>       | Ann Long Voelkner reported several people visited with her regarding School Board salaries, Lumberjack High School staff concerns, and providing public input regarding the facilities discussions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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| <p><b>Effective and Efficient Operations</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board Members approved the Annual Audit as presented for FY 2009-2010.</li> <li>- Superintendent Hess provided a detailed summary of classroom space considerations. Dr Hess presented nine short-term and long-term classroom space options. Future School Board work sessions will be held regarding this topic and public input sessions.</li> <li>- Approved a resolution authorizing Bob Vaadeland, Assistant Superintendent, as the Local LEA for various federal programs.</li> <li>- Approved a resolution authorizing Kathy Palm, Director of Curriculum and Administrative Services, as the Local LEA for Title I.</li> <li>- The Board approved a single bid from the <u>Bemidji Pioneer</u> for legal advertising for 2011.</li> <li>- A resolution entering into a Student Teaching Agreement with Minnesota State University Moorhead was approved for a two-year period.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Highest Levels of Student Success</b></p>  | <p>Kathy Palm presented information to the Board regarding student eligibility for free and reduced lunches. District-wide free and reduced lunch percentages increased from 51.2% in 2009-2010 to 52% in 2010-2011. We have four school-wide Title I schools: Central (81.9%), J.W. Smith (75.2%), Lincoln (57.1%), and Solway (55.7%). Because Northern (41.1%) and Horace May (47%) have lower free and reduced lunch rates than the district, they do not qualify for Title I services.</p> <p>Kathy Palm presented the agenda for the February 18, 2011 Staff Development Day. District staff will be involved in training in Response to Intervention (RtI), AIMSweb, and the elementary teachers and principals will learn how to use AIMSweb and MAP assessments to determine appropriate interventions for students who need additional help.</p>                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Safe and Welcoming Environment</b></p>     | <p>A School Bus bid from North Central Bus was approved in the amount of \$285,933 for three transit style buses.</p> <p>Chris Leinen, Director of Business Services, provided an update on the property located in Buzzle Township. He has sent letters to three governmental entities to inquire about their interest in the property. He will report back to the Board when he has heard back from them.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special School Board Meeting following the January meeting to consider a student expulsion.</li> <li>- Special School Board Meeting – Monday, February 7, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Classroom Space Considerations.</li> <li>- February 28, 2011, 6:30 p.m. Regular Monthly Meeting – date change due to the Presidents’ Day holiday observance.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |