

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Dr. Jim Hess

The Bemidji School Board met on June 21, 2010 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 May 17, 2010 and June 7, 2010 - Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling \$3,200,203.54 - Six Noncertified Staff Resignations - Two Requests for Release from Contract (Justin Stay & Laurie Claypool) - Certified Staff Appointment of Kathleen Mack, School Nurse - Field Trip Requests from BHS Yearbook Committee and BHS Band - Recognition for State Level Competition Participants
Special Topics	<p>Representatives from Otter Tail Power Company were in attendance and presented supportive information for a request they have submitted to be exempted from paying personal property tax on a proposed Gas Combustion – Electric Generation Plant at Solway. They have received approval from Beltrami County Commissioners and Lammers Township for their proposal.</p>
Listening Session	<p>Board Representatives heard concerns from three Early Childhood Special Education staff members regarding the upcoming lease cancellation with Beltrami County for office space and their relocation to other office space.</p>
Effective and Efficient Operations	<p>Board Members approved a resolution exempting a proposed Otter Tail Electric Generation Plant from personal property taxes. A Preliminary Budget for 2010-2011 was approved as recommended.</p> <p>A Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy for the upcoming School Board Election was approved. The filing period opens August 3, 2010 and closes August 17, 2010.</p> <p>District lunch prices will increase slightly for the next school year. Elementary and Middle School lunches will increase by 15 cents and High School Lunches will increase by 10 cents per day under the new price guidelines.</p> <p>Board Members rescinded the Nonrenewal of Probationary Teacher Alisha Lindenfesler and hired her for teaching kindergarten at Solway Elementary.</p> <p>They approved adding a .50 FTE Title I teacher at Solway in a separate action.</p> <p>A Separation Agreement was approved between Bemidji Area Schools and Greg Barcenas, who will be leaving his position at Adult Basic Education.</p> <p>Several administrative vacancies were filled including Kathy VanWert, Lincoln Elementary Principal; Lisa Johnson, Bemidji High School Assistant</p>

	<p>Principal; and Gregg Parks, Bemidji Middle School Assistant Principal.</p> <p>The Board accepted the resignation of Horace May Principal William Burwell.</p> <p>They approved the District Schedule Study Committee recommendations.</p> <p>They also approved bathroom bids at the new downtown education center (formerly 1st National Bank building).</p>															
<p>Highest Level of Student Success</p>	<p>Board Members approved the revised curriculum proposed for Business, Family and Consumer Science, and Industrial Technology. Lynn Falk, Julie Boe, Amanda Kinnander, and Dave Gooch were in attendance and discussed their program changes.</p> <p>Kathy Palm shared the results of the spring MAP testing which demonstrated strong student performance, especially in the area of Mathematics. Board Members expressed their appreciation to instructional staff members who helped students score so well and for the effective use of data in progressing as a district.</p> <p>The following grants were accepted:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="511 966 1315 1197"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Grant/Funding Source</u></th> <th><u>Author</u></th> <th><u>Amount</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lowes's Toolbox for Education</td> <td>Wendy Thompson & Mary Bjerke</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vikings Children's Fund</td> <td>Marleen Webb</td> <td>\$2,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theatre Arts Project</td> <td>Paula Lind</td> <td>\$1,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project Connect</td> <td>Paula Lind & Jennifer Kovach</td> <td>\$68,095</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Agreements with the University of Minnesota Duluth and Walden University were approved for placement of candidates in field programs for education.</p>	<u>Grant/Funding Source</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Amount</u>	Lowes's Toolbox for Education	Wendy Thompson & Mary Bjerke	\$5,000	Vikings Children's Fund	Marleen Webb	\$2,000	Theatre Arts Project	Paula Lind	\$1,200	Project Connect	Paula Lind & Jennifer Kovach	\$68,095
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<p>Safe and Welcoming Environment</p>	<p>The Code of Conduct was approved on second reading. Many thanks to staff members involved in the revision process and to Bob Vaadeland for his leadership of the district-wide committee.</p>															
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<p>July School Board Meeting - July 19, 2010, 6:30 p.m. Minnesota School Board Association Summer Conference - August 5 & 6, 2010</p>															