

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Dr. Jim Hess

Your Bemidji School Board met on March 21, 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 February 22, February 24, February 28, March 1, and March 3, 2011. - Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling: \$2,737,296.95 - Confirmation of Resignations from eight licensed staff with 219 years of service to Bemidji Area Schools. - One Certified Staff Appointment
Special Topics	<p>Angie Lauderbaugh presented information regarding the District's Homeless Program, which served 288 students last year. Funding for the program has been reduced by state and federal sources. We currently use some District Title I money to help pay for the services. Several families who received services addressed the Board and expressed their appreciation to Angie Lauderbaugh and the program for the help they received.</p>
Student Representative Reports	<p>Student Board Representatives Jade Hovet and Katie Kovacovich reported on Spring Sports; a Bemidji Youth Advisory Commission Youth Volunteer Challenge with a plan for 15 hours of service per student to the community; Student Council Activities; and the success of the Math League, Mock Trial, and Knowledge Bowl Teams.</p>
Listening Session Review	<p>Board Members Dillon, Bahr, and Favor participated in the Listening Session and heard many opinions on school facility options. Comments ranged from strong voices against reconfiguring grade levels, avoid moving kindergarten, favoring neighborhood schools, and concern about an upcoming referendum vote.</p>
Effective and Efficient Operations	<p>Board Members voted unanimously to seek voter approval to construct a new elementary school after discussing potential solutions to the classroom space issues. They were not as united in the need for a short-term solution and still have several options in place. They decided to explore the possibilities of using portable classrooms at Northern Elementary and Solway Elementary. If these options are not economically feasible, they will move on to other options which have been provided including reconfiguration of grades and repurposing the Paul Bunyan Center as an early learning center. Board Members requested additional information be presented to them at an upcoming meeting.</p> <p>The 2011-2012 School Calendar was approved by Board action. The new calendar does not have a spring break, starts school on September 6, 2011 and has students' last day scheduled for May 31, 2012. (See attached 2011-2012 School Calendar.)</p> <p>The Board approved a resolution describing the transfer of title to a two acre parcel of land in Buzzle Township. This document will be filed with appropriate offices to clarify ownership of the property which, at one time, was the site of a school building.</p>

	<p>The Board agreed to purchase approximately ten acres of land adjacent to Horace May Elementary School. This will allow us to replace the parking lot which will be reduced due to the Highway 71 MNDOT project and add some open space for play. The purchase price is \$74,100 and will be paid with funds we receive from MNDOT to change the access points to our school.</p>
<p>Highest Levels of Student Success</p>	<p>Board Members approved the Special Education Extended School Year Programs for this year. They include classes for Early Childhood, EBD, Autism, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, SLD, and several alternative school programs.</p>
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<p>Board Members will meet on Monday, March 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., at the District Office and on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., at Bemidji High School.</p> <p>The Bemidji School District GED Graduation will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., at the Bemidji High School Auditorium.</p>
<p>Once Around the Table</p>	<p>Board Members shared their observations and comments regarding Bemidji Area Schools during a brief conversation at the conclusion of the meeting.</p>

Bemidji Area Schools 2011-2012 School Calendar

August							September							October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
													30	31						

<p>30-31 Teacher Days <i>0 Student/2 Teacher</i></p>	<p>1 Orientation Day 2-5 Labor Day Holiday 6 Students' First Day <i>19 Student/20 Teacher</i></p>	<p>20-21 Education Minnesota 27-28 Conferences <i>17 Student/19 Teacher</i></p>
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November							December							January							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					

<p>7 Staff Development Day 24-25 Thanksgiving <i>19 Student/20 Teacher</i></p>	<p>23-31 Winter Break <i>16 Student/16 Teacher</i></p>	<p>1-2 Winter Break 16 Martin Luther King Jr Day <i>20 Student/20 Teacher</i></p>
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February							March							April							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	4					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						

<p>3 Staff Development day 20 Presidents' Day <i>19 Student/20 Teacher</i></p>	<p>8-9 Conferences <i>20 Student/22 Teacher</i></p>	<p>6 Good Friday <i>20 Student/20 Teacher</i></p>
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May							June							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12								
13	14	15	16	17	18	19								
20	21	22	23	24	25	26								
27	28	29	30	31										

<p>28 Memorial Day 31 Students' Last Day <i>22 Student/22 Teacher</i></p>	<p>1 Staff Clerical Day <i>0 Student/1 Teacher</i></p>
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172 Student Days	
182 Student Days	
End of 1 st Term	November 11
End of 2 nd Term	January 20
End of 3 rd Term	March 23
End of 4 th Term	May 30
BHS Graduation	May 26

TEST DATES	
Fall MAP Tests	Sept 19-Oct 14
GRAD Gr 9 Writing	April 17
MCA Reading & Gr 11 Math	April 17-18
Gr 3-8 MCA online Math	Mar 26-May 18
Gr 5, 8 & 10 MCA Science	Mar 26-May 18
Spring MAP Tests	April 30-May 25