

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Dr. Jim Hess

The Bemidji School Board met on May 17, 2010 with the following results:

<p>Consent Agenda</p>	<p>The following Consent Agenda items were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from meetings held on April 12 and April 19, 2010 - Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling \$3,155,452.26 - Confirmation of Resignations from Barb Ellingson, Solway Elementary - Request for Extended Leave from Madeline Draper - Resignations from Six Noncertified Employees - Second Reading and Adoption of the Following Policies: SBR 700-60-4: Medication Policy & Administrative Procedures 700-60-4R SBR 700-60-6: Immunization Requirements SBR 700-60-7: Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases SBR 700-60-8: Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances - Field Trip Request from JROTC and BYLaW - Certified Staff Appointment of Travis Zachman, BHS Counselor
<p>Special Topics</p>	<p>Bruce Anderson and Jeff Wade, from Northern Elementary, were in attendance and presented information about the High Adventure Club which meets at their school. The club is open to children and provides outdoor/environmental experiences such as building snowshoes and hatching lake trout. It is an excellent way to extend learning throughout the day.</p>
<p>Student Representative Reports</p>	<p>Jade Hovet and Forrest Guilfoile shared Bemidji High School events and activities including spring sports, student council elections, Advanced Placement Tests and Forrest’s attendance at the International Science Fair.</p>
<p>Listening Session Review</p>	<p>Lenore Potter, from the Boys and Girls Club, visited with Board Members about an after school tutoring grant the club has received and how they can assist students. She also wanted to express her appreciation to the high school and middle school students who volunteer at the club.</p>
<p>Donations</p>	<p>Honda of Bemidji and Paul Bunyan Telephone each donated \$500 to Northern Elementary to pay for Elementary Track and Field Day expenses.</p>
<p>Effective and Efficient Operations</p>	<p>Beckie Campbell’s request for an Extended Leave of Absence was approved.</p> <p>Current Health Services policies will be rescinded on June 30, 2010 and replaced by newly adopted policies. We’d like to thank Sue Nokleby and the District Health Advisory Committee for their work in updating district policies.</p> <p>Board Members approved a lease purchase financing agreement between Bemidji Area Schools and Wells Fargo, LLC in the amount of \$1.1 million</p>

	<p>for the purchase and improvements of the former First National Bank building. The district received permission from the Minnesota Department of Education to enter into such an agreement. The new lease purchase amount will be less than we are currently paying for leases on the AEC, BYLaW and Adult Basic Ed (GED) programs. Board Members accepted a gift of real property in the amount of \$890,000 from First National Bank. This is the difference between the appraisal value of the property (\$1.59 million) and the purchase price the district has agreed to pay for the property (\$700,000).</p>
Highest Levels of Student Success	<p>The Board approved \$5,000 for start-up funds for the Students First Initiative Program. This initiative will pair students in Bemidji secondary schools (9th – 12th grades) with Individual Talent Plans and coaches or mentors to help them achieve their goals. It will involve a host of community members and organizations who all agree education is fundamental to success and prosperity. A steering committee is currently meeting to design the program and plan its implementation.</p> <p>The district accepted a grant from the George W. Neilson Foundation to support a Bemidji Middle School Sigma Pod trip to Deep Portage and approved requesting funds from the Minnesota Department of Education for homeless students in the amount of \$50,000.</p> <p>Bemidji High School renewed its membership in the Minnesota State High School League for the 2010-2011 school year.</p>
Safe and Welcoming Environment	<p>Steve Jewett, District Safety Coordinator, reported on a comprehensive environmental assessment of Bemidji Middle School. A concern was raised by staff that the building may not be safe. The district secured the services of a respected firm to investigate and report their findings to the Board. Bemidji Middle School was given a clean bill of health when measured for each of the potential health hazards.</p> <p>Board Members approved, on first reading, revisions to the Code of Conduct document as recommended by the study committee. Revisions will become effective next fall and expand on electronic or cyber bullying and misuse of technology.</p>
Upcoming Events	<p>Bemidji High School Graduation – May 29, 2010, 10:00 a.m. June School Board Meeting – Monday, June 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m. Board Members approved a work session on findings of the School Schedule Study Committee to be held on Monday, June 7, at 6:30 p.m.</p>
Other	<p>Board Members voted 5-1 to offer a new employment contract to the Superintendent for 2010-2013. Superintendent contracts are limited by statute to three years in length.</p>