

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
SCHOOL BOARD NEWS
NOVEMBER 21, 2011**

By Dr. Jim Hess

Consent Agenda	<p>The following Consent Agenda items were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from a meeting held on October 17, 2011 - Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling: \$2,908,732.08 - Request for Release from Contract from Deane Kivi, OT - Five Noncertified Staff Resignations - Work Study Agreement with Northwest Technical College - Request for Extended Leave from Cathy Onstad, Para at Horace May
School Spotlight	<p>Gregg Parks, Meredith Kehoe, and eighth grade student Chris Kudderling provided information about three reading initiatives at Bemidji Middle School. Staff at Bemidji Middle School have started a Sixth Grade Reading Class, Read 180 and AIMSWeb use to help students attain greater gains in reading.</p>
Student Representative Reports	<p>Katie Kovacovich and Erik Sorensen reported on the activities and opportunities for Bemidji High School students this fall including the amazing number of students who have competed at the state level in sports. They discussed the Regional Northwest Division Student Council Summit hosted at Bemidji High School, winter formal, and Math League.</p>
Listening Session Review	<p>Ann Long Voelkner and Melissa Bahr reported one family had attended the Listening Session and was concerned about the safety of a transportation pick-up site at Jefferson Ave and Harrison Ct and asked if any modifications could be considered. We will look into the concern.</p>
Donation	<p>Walmart donated ten \$100 gift cards which will be given to Paul Bunyan kindergarten teachers to help with classroom supplies. The teachers are setting up new classrooms and have need for additional supplies and materials.</p>
Effective and Efficient Operations	<p>Board Members approved an administrative recommendation to add licensed staff: 1.0 FTE Title I at Lincoln; .65 FTE Title I at J.W. Smith, .40 FTE Remedial Reading/Math at Horace May; and .50 FTE Remedial Reading/Math at Northern Elementary.</p> <p>The American Indian Education Transmittal Resolution and Parent Committee Roster were approved by Board action.</p> <p>John Pugleasa and Ann Long Voelkner shared information regarding the Minnesota School Boards Association's Delegate Assembly with the School Board.</p>

<p>Highest Level of Student Success</p>	<p>Three grant applications were approved by the Board and two grants were accepted including a \$500 grant from Walmart Foundation for Bemidji High School and \$1,512.50 from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to Community Education for Early Screening of Children.</p> <p>The 2011-2012 District Aims, Goals, and Measures were approved. These were delayed due to the State of Minnesota's government shutdown which postponed receipt of assessment data well into September. Only after the results were known could we analyze the data and set new improvement goals.</p> <p>Kathy Palm shared results of the Fall 2011 NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) which indicates student progress in Reading and Math in grades 2-8.</p>
<p>Safe and Welcoming Environment</p>	<p>Chris Leinen gave the Board an update on the construction projects at Central and Horace May Elementary Schools. He indicated most of the construction is complete but there are still aspects of the projects contractors have to finish including signage and some lighting at Horace May.</p> <p>Annually Bus Driver Certification is reviewed by administration and School Board. The School Board is required to certify driver competencies to the Minnesota Department of Education.</p>
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<p>School Board Work Session on School Facilities – November 30, 2011, 7:00 p.m. December School Board Meeting – Monday, December 19, 2011, 4:30 p.m. (Early start due to Bemidji High School Choral Concert later that evening.)</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Board Members shared observations and thoughts during “Once Around the Table” discussion.</p> <p>Board Members went into closed session to discuss Negotiations Strategies.</p>