

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

By Dr. Jim Hess

The Bemidji School Board met on October 18, 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 September 20 and September 27, 2010 - Current Bills and Special Checks Totaling \$2,937,070.31 - An Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination - Lane Advancements for 26 Certified Staff Totaling \$96,121 - Five Certified Staff Appointments - Request for Release from Contract
Special Topics	<p>John Buckanaga and Vince Beyl reported on Summer Programs which served hundreds of students. Sixty-eight percent of the students enrolled in the summer programs qualified for free or reduced price meals. Bemidji's program is an exemplary program and has been recognized for blending Summer Programs, Indian Education, Targeted Services, and support from 4-H and the Headwaters Science Center into a seamless learning extension for children.</p>
Student Representative Reports	<p>Joining Jade Hovet as a Student Representative to the Board is Katie Kovacovich, a Bemidji High School Junior. The students reported on BHS activities including the conclusion of many fall sports and events. The Fall Musical <u>Footloose</u> will be presented November 4-6, 2010. Many BHS Freshman participated in the successful Ninth Grade Retreat.</p>
Listening Session Review	<p>A delegation from Northern Elementary PTO came to the Listening Session and visited about the long-term facilities plan and the growth in student enrollment in their school.</p>
Donation	<p>Kelly Educational Staffing donated \$2,261.50 which was used to help provide for the Employee Service Recognition Program at this fall's Back to School Meetings.</p>
Effective and Efficient Operations	<p>Board Members received a second Class Size Report this fall in an effort to monitor student-teacher ratios at each grade level. The report indicated 19 elementary classes exceed Board guidelines; three of the 19 exceeded the guidelines by three or more students. Two sixth grade pods exceeded the Board guidelines by one student. Thirty-three of the 70 classes at BHS exceed the recommended guidelines by three or more students.</p> <p>Sixty elementary classes are smaller than the Board guidelines.</p> <p>Revised SBR 500-40-1 - Transportation Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy was approved on first reading.</p> <p>Membership in the District's Challenged Resources Committee was approved. Members include: Kathy VanWert, Ann Long Voelkner, Mike Furfaro, Gina Bernard, Julie Maus, Brad Takkunen, Doyle Turner, Meredith Kehoe,</p>

	<p>Michelle Luby, Jana Norgaard, Geri Nynas, Susan Richards, Joyce Siegert, Mary Jo Sorenson, Zachary Hewett, Maris Jahner, Henry Drewes, Kathie Pederson, Polly Scotland, and Maureen Whelan.</p> <p>Board Members approved a Settlement Agreement and Release of Claim between Bemidji Area Schools and the Department of Human Services regarding a Third Party Billing dispute. As a result, the district will receive partial payment of a two-year old claim (\$83,000).</p>
<p>Highest Level of Student Success</p>	<p>Kathy Palm presented the 2010-2011 School Improvement Plans which align building goals with school district goals.</p> <p>Board Members accepted grants to purchase musical instruments for Northern Elementary written by Eve Sumsky for \$797 and a Statewide Health Improvement Grant for \$1,333 written by Marleen Webb for the Solway Garden.</p> <p>The Board approved submitting grants for Classrooms of the Future for \$12,000 written by Erin Curran, Bemidji Middle School, for classroom technology and a grant to Affect Positive Change in Native American Students at Bemidji Middle School written by several Bemidji Middle School teachers.</p>
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<p>Special School Board Meeting – October 18, 2010 Staff Development Days – October 18 and November 12, 2010 Special Meeting to Canvass Election Results – November 8, 2010 November School Board Meeting – Monday, November 15, 2010 Transition Expo – Tuesday, October 26, 2010 Bemidji High School AP Student Directed Board Candidate Forum – Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at Bemidji High School</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Minnesota Rural Education Association Regional Centers are considering sponsoring a study of special education excess costs and services. Bemidji will partner with other regional center school districts in this effort.</p> <p>The Minnesota School Board Association Delegate Assembly will consider two resolutions authorized by Bemidji Area Schools at their December meetings.</p>