

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DE SMET SCHOOL DISTRICT #38-2
MINUTES

The School Board of the De Smet School District #38-2 of Kingsbury County, SD convened pursuant to due notice at 5:30 PM on April 13th, 2020 in the high school consumer science room due to the quarantine of the library space for student's work. Those in attendance were Pres. Shane Roth, Vice-Pres. Norm Koehlmoos, Donita Garry, Jared Tolzin and Barb Asleson by conference call. Administrators present were Supt. Abi Van Regenmorter, MS/HS Principal Andy Armstead and Bus. Mgr. Susan Purintun, Visitors by teleconference were Amy Wilkinson, Jessica Wienk, Melissa Kees and Marlys Larsen, representing DTO.

Public Participation: No public participation was requested at this time but will be allowed during agenda items.

Agenda: The board approved the presented and posted agenda with the following additions: Item #17A with request for motion to waive teacher evaluations as mutually agreed upon by the De Smet DTO. On motion by D. Garry, seconded by N. Koehlmoos. All voting "aye", motion carried.

Delegations: There were no delegations present.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: No conflicts of interest disclosures were presented.

Consent Agenda: On motion by J, Tolzin, seconded by N. Koehlmoos and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda including the minutes from the regular meeting of March 9th, 2020, the following financial report for the period of March 1st, 2020 through March 31st, 2020, the bills presented for payment; approval of Workman's Compensation Agreement; Approval of Kari Fods as Guidance Counselor for the FY21; approval to authorize membership in the SDHSAA for the 2020-21 School Year; GENERAL FUND: Revenue – Ad Val Tax 44,768.73; Pr. Yrs. Taxes 1524.04; Pen & Interest on Tax 93.18, Interest 194.30; Admissions 405.74, Medicaid Indirect 356.00; Other local Rev 5365.00; County Apport. 752.32, State Aid 64,660.00, Bank Franchise Tax 26,822.89; Title IV Part A 9965.00; Title I 16,385.00; Title II Part A 200.00

Disbursements – 31,578.50, Mar. Payroll 187,664.65

TOTAL GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE – 715,614.19

CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND: Revenue – Ad Val Tax 39,719.31, Pr. Yrs. Taxes 1942.13; Pen&Int on Tax 114.53; Contributions 4.00

Disbursements – 9418.12

TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND CASH BALANCE – 1,080,349.27

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND: Revenue – Ad Val Tax 15,393.44; Prior Yrs. Taxes 973.23; Pen&Int on Taxes 57.39; Medicaid Direct Services 55.00 ,

Disbursements – 5986.62, March Payroll 39,671.38

TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND CASH BALANCE - 332,834.36

FOOD SERVICE – Revenue – Sales to Pupils 4565.50, Sales to Adults 353.50 Other Sales 150.53, Meals Paid by Dist. 120.90, Federal Reimb. 4682.46

Disbursements – 8564.70, March Payroll 8718.58

TOTAL FOOD SERVICE FUND CASH BALANCE – -8911.69

ENTERPRISE FUND: Revenue – none

Disbursements – None

TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND CASH BALANCE – 3942.63

TRUST AND AGENCY – Revenue – 61,234.32
Disbursements – 57,835.32
TOTAL TRUST AND AGENCY FUND CASH BALANCE - \$127,122.21

NESC Report: Norm Koehlmoos, NESC Representative, reported that the Coop is in the midst of negotiations and working on the preliminary budget for FY21. The Oldham-Ramona School District is looking into joining the NESC for services.

Education Enhancement Foundation: Mr. Koehlmoos reported that the officers for the Foundation will continue as the previous year. The total donations for the past year were \$1600. A family recently donated \$500 in honor of a loved one with the requested that it go to an art program. The funds will be used for the expansion of the elementary art program.

Legislative Report: Shane Roth noted that the board will be discussing negotiations during executive session and will be meeting in the near future with representatives of the De Smet Teacher's Organization. The legislature's state budget passed in March provided for a 2% increase in state aid to education. In Governor Noem's recent news conferences concerning COVID19 information and the devastation it has had on South Dakota's economy, she is calling for a special session to reconsider the budget. SD school districts have been made aware that the 2% increase most likely will not be provided and to be prepared for the possibility of reductions.

Buildings and Facilities Report: Supt. Abi reviewed the committee meeting with Coop Architecture firm concerning the renovations of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary building and the old High School gym. At this time, the committee agreed to put the process on hold and will revisit the project in August. The committee asked Coop Architecture to seek proposals for the LIW concerning only the facility assessment of plumbing and HVAC portion of the project. The final portion of the roofing projects concerning the middle school and high school was completed the first week of April. At this time, the summer projects will be mostly routine maintenance of the facilities.

Principals Reports: Princ. Armstead reviewed the recent survey of families concerning the e-learning process with very good responses and suggestions. Information will be used moving forward with this new way of teaching and connecting with students. At this time, prom is postponed. High school course registration will be done remotely. Mrs. Lindstrom is working on the packet and will set up a ZOOM meeting for students to go through with herself and Princ. Armstead. Thankfully, this process was set up on-line last year. The contact with students is to ensure full course requirements are met.

Supt. Abi announced that this year's "Teacher of the Year" is 5th grade teacher, Jennifer Hojer. Mrs. Hojer will compete in a regional and state teacher of the year. The board offered their congratulations to Mrs. Hojer and appreciation for her outstanding efforts to the students, the district and the De Smet Community.

The school lunch pick-up program is going very well and continues to grow. The lunch ladies are doing a fantastic job in organizing and preparing the lunches. The program has progressed from daily pickups to weekly pickups. At this time, the service will continue through the end of the school year. The number of lunches has went from 20 requests to over 200. There has been discussions at the Federal level of funding to continue through the summer months, but unfortunately at this time the De Smet School District does not meet the necessary guidelines for poverty levels.

Laura Ingalls Wilder PTO recently presented 9-month classified staff members with a monetary donation to help with lost wages due to the closing of the school. It was very well received.

Pres. Roth praised the staff for doing an excellent job of converting to e-learning so quickly and preparing the necessary paper work and packets for students and parents. He noted that there is definitely a lot of learning going on for both sides, but that the staff deserve a ton of credit for doing a fantastic job.

Graduation 2020: The board reviewed several ideas concerning how to host a graduation and honor the CDC and Governor Noem's limitations. Mrs. Wilkinson was able to give her thoughts as to what the seniors and parents would like. Ideas presented were to hold it on the football field, the Pageant site and the armory gym with limited numbers of people. The administration will be hosting a ZOOM meeting with the senior students to let them give their input on Thursday, April 16th at 10 AM. A survey will also be sent out following the meeting to seniors and their parents. At this time, the board would like the date to remain on May 16th but will continue to monitor the conditions in the community. Mrs. Asleson suggested contacting Valley Fiber to televise if graduation is held in the Armory/Gym so that if limited numbers are able to attend, family and friends would still be able to see the presentation and the speeches live. Mr. Armstead is looking into taping all of the presentations, speeches, senior video and combining them so that for those that cannot attend and for those that live away, will be able to share and keep these memories. The board was made aware, that if the date is changed a special meeting would need to be called.

Spring 202 Sports/Extra-curricular Activities: The SDHSAA has cancelled the remainder of the winter activities and all spring activities and events. Supt. Abi noted that administrators have been advised to pay all spring extra-curricular coaching stipends. The coaches are expected to conduct practices through on-line and phone conversations.

6th Grade Structure for 2020-2021 School Year: The conversation of the structure of the 6th grade was brought up during the discussion of the possibility of moving the 5th grade class to the MS/HS when the LIW remodel was being pursued. Supt. Abi had noted that several parents through the past few years have noted that they feel that the MS program has moved into more of a mini high school versus a true Middle School. Supt. Abi and Princ. Armstead have moved the 6th grade into a self contained classroom with one main teacher except for exchanges for possibly departmentalization. There will be 2 teachers designated for 6th grade. When they move into the 7th grade then they will transition into moving from class to class.

Employee Pay Guidelines COVID-19: On motion by N. Koehlmoos, seconded by D. Garry to adopt the following guidelines for pay due to COVID-19. Pay guidelines during COVID-19 school closure:

Administrators and 12-month employees are considered essential and report for work each day. When appropriate, this can be done remotely.

Certified teaching staff will complete instructional work with students remotely. Teachers will be available to students/parents from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Less than 12-month hourly classified staff will receive compensation/wages at their 2019-2020 rates for the typical number of hours worked prior to the closure starting April 1, 2020. Kitchen staff and hourly staff that assist with lunch delivery and student material pick-up will receive an additional \$2/hour as hazard pay.

All voting "aye", Motion carried.

Modify Grading Procedures: On motion by J. Tolzin, seconded by B. Asleson to adopt the following changes in grading policies. Due to the unforeseen circumstances, it is the recommendation of the administration to ensure that student grades, credits, or graduation status are not negatively affected by

the inequities of flexible or home-based learning. The SD Dept of Ed has recommended that “No student should be negatively impacted by the closure for factors outside the student’s control; furthermore, school district policies should not widen the opportunity gap.”

Due to the unforeseen circumstances playing out this spring, it is the recommendation of the De Smet administration to change grading policies to ensure that student grades, credits, or graduation status aren’t negatively affected by the inequities of flexible or home-based learning. It is the recommendation of the South Dakota Department of Education that “No student should be negatively impacted by the closure for factors outside the student’s control; furthermore, school district policies and procedures should not widen the opportunity gap.”

High School

At the high school level, students will be able to retain their 3rd quarter grade for any class in which they complete 75% of the work during the time of closure. Students will still be able to raise their grades during this time but will be protected from any negative effects by putting forth an honest effort.

Students currently in credit recovery courses will be given the same protection and the specifics will be determined for each individual case. The administration will work with the students and parents in each case.

For Seniors, Academic Honors (3.5-3.749 GPA) and High Academic Honors (3.75 GPA and above) will be calculated with both the 3rd quarter included in their cumulative GPA and full second semester included in their cumulative GPA. If students qualify for either of these awards with either calculation they will receive the award.

Students taking Dual Credit courses are being offered the opportunity to choose between their final calculated grade or a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading scale through the Board of Regents. De Smet Schools will honor the grading scale that each student chooses.

Students who currently have an Incomplete grade for a course during the 3rd quarter will be given until May 8th to complete work for the 3rd quarter.

Students with legitimate issues will be able to petition for additional working time beyond the last day of school (Seniors is May 15th, 9th-11th is May 20th) in order to complete work.

Middle School

At the middle school level, students’ final grades for the semester will be determined on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. These will be calculated with any grades at or above 75% being considered satisfactory.

Students at the middle school level with legitimate issues will also be able to petition for additional working time beyond the last day of school (May 20th) in order to improve their work to satisfactory levels.

Elementary

At the elementary level, grade cards will be eliminated for the final trimester. Teachers will continue to assess student work during the closure and provide feedback regarding demonstrated skills. The purpose of both the online and paper/pencil assignments is to provide continuous educational opportunities and practice for students while schools are closed.

While it is the District’s responsibility to continue to educate our children, we also want to compassionately take into consideration the variety of difficulties that our families and students are enduring during this time. All voting “aye”, motion carried.

Designate Official Newspaper: On motion by B. Asleson, seconded by N. Koehlmoos to designate *The Arlington Sun* as the additional official newspaper for legal publications for the time being that *The De Smet News* is closed. All voting “aye”, motion carried.

Health Insurance Contract FY2020: The board reviewed the presented health insurance increases. The District received a 7% increase, or \$50.09 on a single plan. Overall rate increases within the pool ranged from rate reduction of -12% to increases of 12%. The District will continue to offer three deductibles of

\$1000, \$1500 and \$2500 along with a health savings plan of \$4000. There were no increases for the dental, vision or life insurance plans. The NPIP will continue offering identity theft coverage and the employee wellness plan. On motion by D. Garry, seconded by J. Tolzin to approve the District's renewal in the Northern Plains Pool. All voting "aye", motion carried.

Technology Budget FY2020: On motion by N. Koehlmoos, seconded by J. Tolzin to approve the 2020-21 Technology Budget which is very similar to FY20's budget. The proposal is very bare bones and will complete the goals that were established last year of installations of the ActivPanels, replacing the aged Promethian Boards. The Board thanks Mr. Armstead for his work and efforts to update the technology requests and standards. All voting "aye", motion carried.

Music Trip Date Approval FY21: On motion by B. Asleson, econded by N. Koehlmoos to approve the Music Booster Trip dates for April 5-11, 2021. This year's trip was cancelled due to the COVID19 Virus. The seniors will receive a scholarship check as their refund.

Event Center Contract: On motion by J. Tolzin, seconded by D. Garry to table action as the negotiated contract was not received. Pres. Roth reported that an agreement was reached by the committee members involved at a recent meeting.

Teacher Evaluations Waived: On motion by N. Koehlmoos, seconded by D. Garry to waive teacher evaluations for Spring 2020 due to the circumstances of the COVID19. All voting "aye", motion carried.

Executive Session: On motion by N. Koehlmoo, seconded by J. Tolzin to go into executive session at 5:53 PM on negotiation and personnel matters pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(4) and 1-25-2(1). All voting "aye", motion carried.

Regular session resumed at 7:11 PM.

COVID19 Hazard Payment: On motion by D. Garry, seconded by B. Asleson to authorize a one-time hazard payment of \$1000 to all 9, 10 and 12 month contractual employees to be issued within FY20. All voting "aye", motion carried.

Adjournment: There being no further business at this time, on motion by D. Garry, seconded by B. Asleson to adjourn. (7:12 PM) All voting "aye", motion carried.

ATTEST: Pres. Shane Roth
Susan L. Purintun, Bus. Mgr.

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