



DeSmet School District #20

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
6:00 pm Monday, March 24th, 2025

In the School Library

Possible Action on all Agenda Items:

Trustees Present: Heather Burgad, Synthia Wendell, Sigrid Sheie

Trustees Absent: Brock Belgarde

Others Present: Matthew Driessen, Freyja Erikson, Katie Brubaker

Regular Meeting Agenda

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair Heather Burgad called the meeting to order 6:09pm

II. Introduction/Comments of Guests on Items not on the Agenda

III. Recognition of Students and Staff

Mr. Driessen relayed that Mr. Feeley and Ms. Abate will be going on some professional development in the coming weeks. Sigrid Sheie relayed that Mr. Feeley has made it into the top 8 of “America’s Favorite Teacher,” and the board commended his commitment to the district. Mr. Driessen relayed that ELA night is coming up on the 16th of April.

IV. Board Correspondence

Heather Burgad relayed that the board had received a letter of interest from Hollie Timmons to serve on the board, and Kendall Brubaker had previously submitted a letter of interest for the board position as well. The deadline for candidates to file with the election is Thursday, March 27th. The board discussed recommending the interested parties file with the election, rather than appointing a candidate to the open position at this time.

V. Business Manager’s Report

A. Action: Review/Approval of Minutes

[\[2.25.25 Special Meeting Minutes\]](#)

[\[2.18.25 Regular Meeting Minutes\]](#)

[\[3.13.25 Special Meeting Minutes\]](#)

A motion was made first by Sigrid Sheie to approve the Minutes from 2.25, 2.18, and 3.13. This motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Action: Review/Approval of Warrants
[\[March Claims Detail Report\]](#)

A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell to approve the March Claims. This motion was seconded by Sigrid Sheie and was carried unanimously.

C. Review of Budget Reports
[\[Object Summary Budget v. Actual Report - Fund #101\]](#)
[\[Expenditure Budget v. Actual Report - All Funds\]](#)

Ms. Erikson reviewed the budget reports with trustee attendance.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Driessen relayed that the district is still waiting to hear back from MTSBA regarding the new policy manual.

VII. Personnel Report

A. Action: Hire of Caitie Bloom as Track Coach, to receive a stipend of \$1,000

A motion was made first by Sigrid Sheie to approve the hire of Caitie Bloom as Track Coach, to receive a stipend of \$1,000. This motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell, and was carried unanimously.

B. Action: Hire of Savannah Stern as Track Coach, to receive a stipend of \$1,000

A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell to approve the hire of Savannah Stern as Track Coach, to receive a stipend of \$1,000. This motion was seconded by Sigrid Sheie, and was carried unanimously.

- C. Action: Hire of Dan Patterson as SPED Director for FY26, with a Matrix Placement of Lane 5, Step 6, to be paid an annual salary of \$45,100, plus an additional \$7,000 stipend for Management of Paraeducators.

Synthia Wendell relayed that she felt positive about Dan's interview, that he was a well-rounded individual with varied experience that would benefit the district.

A motion was made first by Sigrid Sheie and seconded by Cynthia Wendell to approve the hire of Dan Patterson as SPED Director for FY26, with a Matrix Placement of Lane 5, Step 6, to be paid an annual salary of \$45,100, plus an additional \$7,000 stipend for Management of Paraeducators. The motion was carried unanimously.

- D. Action: Hire of Freyja Erikson as Mentor Business Manager/District Clerk to remain at current contract rate with a starting date of 7/1/25, through December 31st, 2025. (As needed following December 31st.) Contract pending legal review.

A motion was made first by Sigrid Sheie and seconded by Cynthia Wendell to approve the hire of Freyja Erikson as Mentor Business Manager/District Clerk to remain at current contract rate with a starting date of 7/1/25, through December 31st, 2025. (As needed following December 31st.) Contract pending legal review. Motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. Committee Updates

Mr. Driessen relayed that the STARS act is likely to pass, which will affect state guidance regarding salary schedules, especially for teachers early in their career. He suggested having a strong Negotiation Committee going into negotiations with the teacher's union. He anticipates the need for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union regarding teacher salaries near the beginning of next school year, and emphasized that the STARS act was created to entice new teachers by providing a more livable wage, though he anticipates more experienced teachers feeling conflicted on this funding adjustment, and wants the Negotiation Committee to be aware of the situation and legislature.

IX. Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday, April 22nd

X. Comments of Guest & School Board Members on Items Not on the Agenda

XI. Adjourn

A unanimous motion to adjourn was made and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.