

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education held on January 10, 2022 at the Unified District Office. Those present were Juanita Morris, Rani Pecenka, Darrin Hurd, Jeremiah Van Doren, Ray Swearingen; Administrators Craig Gantenbein, Steven Kimmi and Clay Mettlen; Superintendent Pam Irwin, Clerk Cindy Regnier and 12 guests.

President Juanita Morris called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The agenda for the meeting was adopted as amended. Motion by Rani Pecenka, seconded by Ray Swearingen. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Jeremiah Van Doren to accept the resignation of Rosemary Neaderhiser from the board of education, position #6. Seconded by Rani Pecenka. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Rani Pecenka to appoint Jeff Shamburg to the vacant position #6 on the USD 240 Board of Education, effective immediately. The appointment will remain in effect until January 2023. Seconded by Ray Swearingen. Motion carried 5-0.

Election of officers for 2022: Robert Miller was nominated for president by Rani Pecenka. Juanita Morris was nominated for vice president by Rani Pecenka. No other nominations were made. Motion by Ray Swearingen to appoint Juanita Morris as vice president. Seconded by Rani Pecenka. Motion carried 6-0. Motion by Jeremiah Van Doren to appoint Robert Miller as president. Seconded by Darrin Hurd. Motion carried 6-0. Vice President Juanita Morris continued to preside over the meeting in the absence of the president.

Motion by Rani Pecenka to adopt the consent agenda, approval of December 13, 2021, December 16, 2021 minutes and checks 64110 through 64240 totaling \$475,168.60. Seconded by Jeremiah Van Doren. Motion carried 6-0.

The board recognized Helen Winters, student at Bennington High School for outstanding achievement.

Representatives from McCown Gordon and Alloy Architecture presented an update on the progress of the 2022 bond issue.

Representatives from the Bennington Childcare Committee presented findings and potential solutions to childcare issues in Bennington.

Robert Miller arrived at 6:55 p.m. and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Bennington High School Student Meleia Ingram made a presentation to the board of her findings and recommendations concerning student backpacks in classrooms. Motion by Ray Swearingen to change the student handbooks so that backpacks are allowed in classrooms. Seconded by Juanita Morris. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jeff Shamburg to approve the facilities use request as presented. Seconded by Rani Pecenka. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jeremiah Van Doren to accept the proposal from Loyd Group for conducting district financial audits. Seconded by Juanita Morris. Motion carried 7-0.

The board discussed Continuous Improvement and reviewed FastBridge data.

Motion by Ray Swearingen that the board enter executive session for 10 minutes to discuss personnel. Seconded by Rani Peceka. Motion carried 7-0. The board entered executive session at 8:50 p.m.

The board reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Motion by Ray Swearingen to accept the retirement resignation of Rena Mick effective at the end of the 21-22 school year, Seconded by Jeremiah Van Doren. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Rani Pecenka to accept the resignation of Rachel Ehlers as Tescott High School volleyball coach. Seconded by Ray Swearingen. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Darrin Hurd to approve the list of students who've exceeded the 40 hour rule to temporarily attend school through remote learning. Seconded by Jeremiah Van Doren. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jeremiah Van Doren to approve the hiring of Erik Rickert as virtual tutor and Margo Troike as Spanish tutor. Seconded by Juanita Morris. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jeremiah Van Doren to change the date of the February meeting from February 14, 2022 to February 21, 2022. Seconded by Juanita Morris. Motion carried 7-0.

President Robert Miller adjourned the meeting.

Cindy Regnier  
Clerk of the Board