

NORTH RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 200
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2021
5:30 PM
IN THE LIBRARY

FLAG SALUTE

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Banas called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Board Members Present: Chairman Jim Banas; Vice-Chairman Bob Sholes; Director Julie Miles; and Director Debbie Koehn. Others Present: Interim Superintendent/Business Manager Pam Pratt.

II. VISITORS IN PERSON/ZOOM:

Dan Brown and Visitors via Zoom.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA:

The following items were changed or added to the agenda.

Item XIII. Was changed from Adjournment to read Public Commentary.

Item XIV. Adjournment. And Item J. Director Banas may table the item.

Director Banas motioned to allow Public Commentary on the make-up of future Superintendent position. Director Koehn seconds the motion. The motion was 3-1. Director Sholes abstained.

IV. MINUTES: August 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Director Sholes motioned to approve the July 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Director Miles seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

There was no Public Commentary.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

(a) **Financial :** The Superintendent/Business Manager reported an ending cash balance of \$271,185.00

Chairman Banas stated that it was a hard job that she was doing and she was doing great as far as he was concerned. The other Board members agreed. The Interim Superintendent thanked the Board.

(b) **Budget Extension for TVF ---- Purchase a new Bus – No action was taken at this time.**

(c) **Maintenance Projects Update: Discussion**

- Water system upgrade
- Cottage garage roof repair
- Plumbing replace/repair GS, HS, Locker Rooms
- Fire detection and alarm
- CO detectors for gas leaks
- Upgrade soccer field

The Interim Superintendent stated that what is listed is included in the grant proposal of the 4.3 million dollar grant if we were awarded it. However, if we did not receive the funding, we needed to prioritize the list, with the septic system being number one.

She requested that the Board compile a ten-year plan of where they would like to see the school, a five-year plan, then a 4, 3, 2, and 1-year plan of things they would like to see get done. The Interim Superintendent stated that she would make a spreadsheet for the Board and email it. Then, Joe and the Superintendent will make sure that the plan gets done.

(d) Surplus – Bus #9 and tractor, etc.

Director Banas motioned to surplus Bus #9, and the old tractor. Director Koehn seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT(S): Chairman Banas – Board Policy 1000 – Legal Status and Operation – Tabled until the October Board Meeting

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

(A) Opening Update – vaccine updates with accommodations – The Superintendent stated that she would be signing off on the exemptions following the state guidelines requirements and imposing accommodations, which include masks, daily temperature checks, and testing if they have symptoms

(B) Joe Fuquay’s Maintenance/Transportation/Project Manager’s Contract. Director Banas motioned to approve the Maintenance/Transportation/Project Manager’s contract for Joe Fuquay. Director Miles seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(C) Board discussion and vote on make-up of future Superintendent position as needed to request McPherson & Jacobson, LLC to proceed with a search for candidates and eventual board selection of a Superintendent/Principal to be hired and start July 1, 2022.

Director Banas motioned to allow Public Commentary after the Board discussion and before the Board votes on the make-up of the Superintendent/Principal position. Director Koehn seconds the motion. The motion was a 3-1. Director Sholes abstained.

Board Discussion – Chairman Banas stated that there were several surveys and two or three Town Hall Meetings to discuss the make-up of one person doing both or splitting the position.

The proposal at tonight’s meeting is the Board needs to make the vote on something of this nature so Chairman Banas can notify McPherson & Jacobson, LLC no later than the middle of October. McPherson & Jacobson, LLC is still under a guarantee if the Superintendent leaves within the first two years, they will conduct another search without the original hefty fee. They will only charge the basic asministrators fee, travel, and expenses, office expenses, telephone charges for reference checks, consultant in-district visits, and attendance at the interviews or additional meetings.

The Superintendent/Principal position, whether it should be a single position or split the job.

If the position were split into two positions, there would be an additional benefits package.

The Interim Superintendent stated that she would like to see the emphasis on Principal, and how important that was. She further stated that if needed she would stay as a part-time Superintendent so we could have the principal position as a full-time position. Director Sholes agreed with the Superintendent. He also echoed how important it would be to the teachers that haven't had a good evaluation in almost 20 years.

Director Koehn mentioned that on the ESD website that the teachers could do a self-evaluation that follows the Danielson framework.

Chairman Banas asked Ms. Pratt what she did the most duties as a Superintendent or a Principal. She stated that she did more Principal responsibilities, which are more hands-on with the teachers, staff, and students. The Superintendent's duties are paperwork and reports.

Chairman Banas stated that a good leader is capable of doing both if they have experience and background.

The Board took a five-minute recess at 6:28 PM. The Board reconvened at 6:33 PM.

Kari Beyer, a teacher at North River School, also reiterated how important it is to emphasize having a principal. As a teacher and a staff member, having a full-time principal and a part-time Superintendent would benefit the students and the staff.

It would be better if it is going to be a single position having experience in a principal role instead of a superintendent position.

The principal is so essential to keeping the school functioning, the staff functioning, and the students.

Working with the students in the discipline and non-discipline areas, the principal is at the forefront.

Director Banas motioned to let McPherson & Jacobson, LLC begin the search for a Superintendent/Principal with the emphasis on Principal. Director Koehn seconds the motion. Vote by Roll-Call: Mr. Banas I, Ms. Koehn I, Ms. Miles I, and Mr. Sholes I. The motion carried unanimously.

We need to submit the Vision Plan and language on what we are looking for, and then they will move forward with the search. Then, hopefully, we can conduct interviews early in 2022 for hiring a candidate with a start date of July 1, 2022.

Discussion amongst the Board:

Director Koehn asked two questions. One. Can we still conduct our search and post it on EdJobsnw along with their search, and if we found somebody or McPherson & Jacobson, LLC found someone that could start sooner, is that possible?

Charmain Banas, why would we do that when we have a contract with Ms. Pratt until June 30, 2022?

Director Koehn said she was not sure how things worked with being new. She further stated that it would be nice to get a Superintendent/Principal in early to see how things are going with the staff and students and be able to make plans over the summer.

Chairman Banas said that he would contact McPherson & Jacobson, LLC and review the contract with them to ask if the district was allowed to conduct their search. Chairman Banas told the Board that he would contact each of them separately and share McPherson & Jacobson's response.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) AD Contract – Sean Pierson

Director Sholes motioned to approve the AD contract for Sean Pierson. Director Miles seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(B) Soccer Contract Head Coach – Blake Beyer

Director Banas motioned to approve the soccer coaching contract for Blake Beyer. The motion carried unanimously. The Superintendent stated that Mr. Rodriguez would be receiving \$1000.00 for refereeing the soccer matches.

(C) Hire a Middle/High School Teaching position (Foreign language, visual arts)

Director Sholes motioned to the hiring of a new teacher. Director Miles seconds the motion. The motion was 3-1. Director Koehn present. The motion carried 3-1.

(D) Library Update. Superintendent Pratt shared her emails with the Board members showing the correspondence with the Timberland Library.

Timberland is looking into updating the school's library with new books, etc. In addition, the district would be responsible for having a volunteer once or twice a week to check out and return books. They were also talking about a self-check-out system. Superintendent Pratt stated that she would ask Sherryl Jackson if she would be interested in the position if the district was able to open the Library to the public.

(E) Camera for classrooms for zooming for the students or teachers if they are in quarantine or test positive. Tabled until October Board Meeting.

(F) Teachers that are out-of-endorsement – Sean Pierson, Jr. High PE, Blake Beyer, Health and Elementary PE, Special Education, Heather Johnson, French.

Director Sholes motioned to approve the out-of-endorsement classes that the teachers are teaching. Director Koehn seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(G) Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance and District Survey.

Chairman Banas motioned to approve the Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance and District Survey.

(H) Board Policy & Procedure 2255 – Alternate Learning Experience Courses.

Chairman Banas motioned to approve Board Policy & Procedure 2255. Director Sholes seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(I) Board Policy & Procedure 3432 – Updated Emergencies & Procedures.

Chairman Banas motioned to approve Board Policy & Procedure 3432. Director Sholes seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Banas mentioned that he is going to contact the NRA School Shield to make our school more secure. They address the many facets of school security, including best practices in security infrastructure, technology, personnel, training, and policy. They have awarded more than \$600,000 in grants to support vital school security projects and activities.

(J) Resolution #159-09-21 1st Reading – Concerning equity concepts in North River School curriculum and state mandated training for the board and staff. Tabled until the October Board meeting.

(K) Health/Sex Education

**Director Sholes motioned to approve the Health/Sex Education curriculum.
Director Miles seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

X. TRAVEL:

There was no travel.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Faith Devine praised the district and says her children are doing well at the school.

XII. VOUCHERS:

Director Banas motioned to approve signing the vouchers. Director Sholes seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Director Sholes made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM. Director Banas seconds the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mission Statement: Prepared for Life. Every Student Matters. Every Moment Counts.