

**REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 152  
PROBSTFIELD CENTER FOR EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2017  
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**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** Chair Tomhave called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., requested board member roll call, and led everyone in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Cassidy Bjorklund, Melissa Burgard, Cindy Fagerlie, Scott Steffes (7:28), Bill Tomhave, and Brandon Lunak.

Member Absent: Mark Altenburg, Matt Valan and Dr. Lynne A. Kovash.

**PREVIEW OF AGENDA:** Acting Superintendent Brandon Lunak recommended approval of the agenda to proceed with revisions to pages 3-4, 16-17 and 21-22. Lunak requested moving Third Party Administrative Services and Annual Renewal Rates from the consent agenda to the regular agenda as item 2.1.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Fagerlie moved, seconded by Burgard, to approve the Consent Agenda as revised. Motion carried 4-0.

**WE ARE PROUD:** **We Are Proud** of Moorhead students who had outstanding achievement in the 2017 Midwest Academic Talent Search. Last school year 20 students at Horizon Middle School participated in the Midwest Academic Talent Search sponsored by Northwestern University. The Talent Search is designed to identify academically talented students and to provide them with recognition, information and opportunities to help them develop their talents. Qualifying seventh- and eighth-graders choose to take either the ACT or SAT to gain a more accurate understanding of their academic potential.

Claire Atchison, Thalia Christenson, Jasmine Thayer, Lila Stanley, William Hallman, Lillian Kolehmainen and Grace Kolo had outstanding performance on the ACT test. Lila Stanley and Emma Pranger had outstanding performance on the SAT test.

This fall Emma Pranger was invited to the Northwestern University Recognition Ceremony for students who scored in the top 2-3 percent of participating students.

The Midwest Talent Search is coordinated at Horizon Middle School by Leigh Dornfeld.

**MATTERS PRESENTED BY CITIZENS/OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:** (Citizens who wish to address a non-agenda item have the opportunity to speak by raising their hand and being recognized by the School Board chair. Speakers must state their name and will be limited to three minutes. Speakers must complete the sign-up form, which outlines the public input process, and submit it to the School Board secretary.)

Blake Plankers, Education Moorhead President, 1821 18th Avenue South - Expressed Moorhead

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teacher dedication and desire for a fair and equitable contract. Mr. Plankers gave Chair Tomhave notecards from teachers expressing unity for each other, dedication to students, and the desire to make teaching an attractive profession.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Burgard moved, seconded by Bjorklund, to approve the following items on the revised Consent Agenda:

Minutes - Approve the September 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes as presented.

Donation of Equipment - Accept the donation of equipment for Learner Support Services program and direct administration to send a thank you. DeAnna Stoll donated a Skil-Care Therapy Crash Pad valued at \$150 for use at S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School.

Resignations

Joseph Lorosier - Bus Driver, Transportation, effective August 14, 2017.

Perwin Habib - Paraprofessional, S.G. Reinertsen Elementary, effective September 22, 2017.

Maxine Larkin - Food and Nutrition Cashier, Horizon Middle School West Campus, effective September 28, 2017.

Karen Reichel - Paraprofessional, S.G. Reinertsen Elementary, effective September 29, 2017.

Delores Gabbard - Food and Nutrition Server, Horizon Middle School West Campus, effective October 2, 2017.

Retirement

David Busby - Night Custodian, Moorhead High School, effective October 13, 2017.

Change in Contracts

Sarah Wagar - Physical Education Teacher, Robert Asp Elementary, .6 FTE to 1.0 FTE, effective for the 2017-2018 school year (increased enrollment).

Jennifer Steckler - Teacher, Red River Area Learning Center, Vista Center for Education, 1.0 FTE, BA (3) \$41,069.00 to BA+10 (3) \$42,630.00, effective with the 2017-2018 school year (incorrect salary listed on previous agenda).

Lydia Alfaro - Bus Driver, Transportation, 5 hours per day to 2 hours per day, effective September 5, 2017.

Brenda Lewis - Paraprofessional, Probstfield Center for Education, 1.0 FTE to .5 FTE, Dorothy Dodds Elementary, effective September 11, 2017.

Katrina Koesterman - School Bus Driver, Transportation, 5 hours per day, to School Bus Assistant, 5 hours per day, effective September 13, 2017.

Nareman Jabar - Food and Nutrition Server, A11 (0) \$15.08 per hour 6 hours per day, Dorothy Dodds Elementary, to Food and Nutrition Server, S.G. Reinertsen Elementary, \$12.40 per hour, 2.75 hours per day, effective September 18, 2017 (replaces Nareman Jabar).

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Becky Flaa - Paraprofessional, Jump Start, from 1.0 FTE to .8 FTE (FTE was incorrect in last agenda).

Damara Boatright - Bus Driver, Transportation, B22 (1) \$16.56 to B22 (0) \$16.20 (there was no step movement in contract so salary was listed incorrectly).

Family/Medical Leaves

Michael Dahlberg - LSS Teacher, Horizon Middle School West Campus, medical leave (FMLA) beginning September 5, 2017 for an undetermined amount of time.

Diane Karsten - LSS Teacher, Moorhead High School, family medical leave (FMLA) beginning September 6, 2017 and continuing intermittently for approximately 6-8 weeks.

Carolyn Edwards - Food Service, Horizon Middle School West Campus, medical leave (non-FMLA) beginning September 8, 2017 through September 13, 2017.

Matthew Retzer - LSS Teacher, Ellen Hopkins Elementary, medical leave (FMLA) beginning September 8, 2017 through approximately September 29, 2017.

Julie Johnson - Speech Teacher, Ellen Hopkins Elementary, family medical leave (FMLA) beginning September 11, 2017 through September 14, 2017.

Sheelan Shaker - Lunchroom Supervisor, Ellen Hopkins Elementary, medical leave (non-FMLA) beginning September 15, 2017 through September 28, 2017.

Sarah Smith - LSS Teacher, Horizon Middle School East Campus, family medical leave (FMLA) beginning October 11, 2017 through October 25, 2017.

New Employees

Julie McCroskey - Teacher, Red River Area Learning Center, Vista Center for Education, .534 FTE, MA (3) \$26,463.40, effective September 18, 2017 (replaces hourly employment to contract).

Rebecca Donahue - LSS Teacher, Dorothy Dodds Elementary, 1.0 FTE, MA+30 (10) \$58,707.00, effective September 25, 2017 (replaces Louis Thrash).

Lindsay Nerby - Paraprofessional, Moorhead High School, B21 (0-2) \$16.45 per hour, 6.75 hours per day, effective September 18, 2017 (replaces Noah Fuglestad).

Karla Thompson - Paraprofessional, Moorhead High School, B21 (0-2) \$16.45 per hour, 6.75 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 13, 2017 (replaces Alma Brasel).

Bryn Lerbs - Paraprofessional, Red River Area Learning Center, Vista Center for Education, B21 (4) \$17.24 per hour, 6.75 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective September 18, 2017 (increased enrollment).

Carmen Bowden - Paraprofessional, Red River Area Learning Center, Vista Center for Education, .88 FTE, B21 (10) \$18.56 per hour, 6 hours per day, effective August 28, 2017 (hourly to contract).

Robert Philpot - Bus Driver, Transportation, B22 (0) \$16.10 per hour 5 hours per day, effective September 18, 2017 (replaces Bashir Hussein).

Lina Qaqos - Lunchroom Supervisor, Horizon Middle School West Campus, \$10.50 per hour, 3 hours per day, effective August 30, 2017 (new position).

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Rhonda Stoddard - Patrol Assistant, Ellen Hopkins Elementary, \$2,018.00 effective September 5, 2017 (replaces Katie Doan).

Shan Khnano - Lunchroom Supervisor, Horizon Middle School West Campus, \$10.50 per hour, 3 hours per day, effective September 5, 2017 (replaces Linda Dahl).

Karinna Ramnarine - AVID Tutor, Horizon Middle School East Campus, \$12.00 per hour, 9 hours per week, effective September 12, 2017 (replaces Megan Brunner).

Kiesha Brown - AVID Tutor, Horizon Middle School East Campus, \$12.00 per hour, 9 hours per week, effective September 12, 2017 (replaces Megan Brunner).

Additional 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional at Moorhead High School - Approve the additional 1.0 FTE paraprofessional position at Moorhead High School. The additional position will meet student IEP needs.

Additional 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional at Horizon Middle School East Campus - Approve the additional 1.0 FTE paraprofessional position at Horizon Middle School East Campus. The additional position will meet student IEP needs.

Motion carried 4-0.

**THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND ANNUAL RENEWAL RATES:**

Aaron Casper, National Insurance Services, presented information regarding the health insurance renewal and Grand Rounds.

Per the Health Insurance Transparency Act (HITA) the Health Insurance Committee submitted a request for proposal (RFP) with the assistance of National Insurance Services (NIS). Based on committee review of the proposals, the committee recommended to continue with third party administrative services from Health Partners.

The Health Insurance Committee also recommended a 3.9% increase to current health insurance rates based on historical and expected claims data. A change in the minimum value plan as required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has changed the associated deductible from \$6350 to \$6650.

The committee also recommended moving forward with Grand Rounds, which provides a comprehensive health benefit, providing patients with personalized and comprehensive support for any medical need through remote care, in-person care, and the appropriate supporting services. Companies have seen measurable results including healthier employees and proven cost savings.

Fagerlie moved, seconded by Bjorklund, to approve third party administrative services from Health Partners and approve a rate increase of 3.9% to current health insurance premiums as

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presented. Motion carried 4-0.

**OPTION-BASED SCHOOL EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:** Dan Bacon, director of transportation, Jeff Lee, Clay County Sheriff's Department and Deric Swenson, Moorhead Police Department, presented information regarding the options-based school emergency response protocol.

Cass-Clay Unified School Response has started the process of implementing options-based protocols for hostile/armed intruder incidents. Moorhead Area Public Schools is among the first Cass-Clay districts to implement options-based training.

Traditional lockdowns limit choices during an emergency and do not account for better survivability options during an incident. Based on analysis of past incidents (Thurston H.S. – Oregon; Columbine, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Orlando nightclub and others) several state and federal agencies now recommend enhanced options-based protocols based on the “run-hide-fight,” “get out/hide out/take out” and A.L.I.C.E. models. These options-based protocols increase survivability, disrupt an active-shooter's plan, and help teachers and students regain control of the situation – rather than wait for law enforcement response.

Options-based school emergency response is a protocol that allows school personnel to act independently and use their professional judgment to best protect their students in an active-shooter/armed intruder incident. It decentralizes decision making, eliminates code-words and empowers teachers to make decisions immediately for their students' safety.

Steffes arrived at the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

**UPDATE ON SCHOOLWIDE TITLE PROGRAMMING FOR ELLEN HOPKINS AND ROBERT ASP ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:** Lynnelle Dirksen, principal of Ellen Hopkins Elementary, and Chris Triggs, principal of Robert Asp Elementary, provided brief summaries of their 2017-18 building improvement plans and goals for each site.

Both sites include class-size reduction for primary grades as a strategy to support student growth as part of their schoolwide plans. Ellen Hopkins would use a portion of its Title I funding to hire an additional kindergarten teacher and Robert Asp would use a portion of its Title I funding to hire an additional first grade teacher. The one-year assignments would reduce class size in those grade levels to allow for higher success in the classroom.

Burgard moved, seconded by Steffes, to approve the 2017-18 Ellen Hopkins and Robert Asp School Improvement Plans as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

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**2017 GRADUATE ACT RESULTS:** Missy Eidsness, assistant superintendent of learning and accountability, provided information related to the ACT results. The report shows trend data for average ACT scores over the last five years and the percentage of ACT-tested students ready for college-level coursework or work. The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement test in the areas of English, mathematics, reading and science designed to measure skills and knowledge needed for success in the first year of college. Scores range on a scale from 0-36.

Average composite ACT scores for Moorhead graduates increased slightly from 20.3 in 2016 to 20.8 in 2017, which is .7 below the Minnesota state average of 21.5. The number of Moorhead students who tested was 408. Moorhead tested an additional 21 students from 2016, to reach an all-time high of students tested for a graduating class.

The percentage of graduates ready for college-level coursework is 27 percent compared to the state average of 31 percent.

**CERTIFICATION OF 2017 PAYABLE 2018 PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY:**

Brandon Lunak, acting superintendent, reported the school board is required to certify to the county auditor the school district's preliminary 2017 Payable 2018 Property Tax Levy by October 1, 2017. The district will certify the maximum levy; certifying the preliminary levy in this manner allows for changes prior to the final levy certification in December. Changes are made for a variety of reasons such as changes to Health and Safety projects or changes to the district's enrollment figures.

Preliminary figures indicate that the school district portion of the property tax levy decreased 1.04% from a year ago to \$17,477,742.62. Last year's levy amount was \$17,661,669.96. The Community Service funds increase is due to an increase in population on the census. The figures presented are preliminary and may change in the coming weeks.

School districts are no longer required to hold a separate Truth in Taxation hearing, but are required to discuss the payable 2018 levy and the current year budget (fiscal year 2018) at a regularly scheduled board meeting and allow the public to speak. This will occur at the December 11, 2017 board meeting at 7 p.m. The final levy certification will be approved at this same meeting.

Steffes moved, seconded by Fagerlie, to approve the maximum for 2017 Payable 2018 Proposed Property Tax Levy. Motion carried 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Brief reports were heard related to the Instruction and Curriculum Advisory Committee, Early Childhood Family Education Advisory Committee, Robert Asp PTAC, S.G. Reinertsen PTAC, Activities Advisory Council, Citizens Finance Advisory Committee and Dorothy Dodds PTAC meetings.

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**OTHER PERTINENT ITEMS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD:** Lunak requested board members to contact Michelle if planning to attend the September 26 Dorothy Dodds Elementary School Ribbon Cutting, September 29 Homecoming Parade and September 30 MHS Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Hearing no objections, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

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Matt Valan, Clerk