

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 77
Mankato, Minnesota

April 1, 2024

The School Board of Independent School District No. 77 met in regular session on Monday, April 1, in the Mankato Room - Intergovernmental Center. Chair Sinning called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present at roll call: Patrick Baker, Christopher Kind, Kari Pratt, Liz Ratcliff, Erin Roberts and Shannon Sinning. Members absent: Kristi Schuck.

Mrs. Ratcliff made a motion, and Mr. Kind seconded, approval of the agenda together with a Personnel Addendum. The motion carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

MAPS Student Spotlight: Esther Njeru - East High School

Open Forum: Elizabeth Hanke wished to speak.

Information Reports: Kennedy Elementary School Report presented by Principal Steve Rustad and Mentor Coach Brittany Ward, Insurance Committee Report presented by Director of Business Services Amanda Heilman and National Insurance Services Rep Aaron Casper, Board Member Workshop/Committee Reports.

The consent agenda items outlined below were approved on a motion by Mrs. Pratt, seconded by Mrs. Ratcliff, and carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes of the March 18, 2024, regular Board meeting.

Personnel:

APPOINTMENTS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Sarah Brooks - Assistant Director of Nutrition Services at Northport beginning May 6, 2024. This is a Full-time, Non-Affiliated position with an annual salary of \$80,000.00 (prorated to \$12,308.00 for 40 days). She will be eligible for Category III Benefits.

Tamara Engel - Student Support Services Supervisor with the District beginning July 1, 2024. This is a Full-time, Non-Affiliated position with an annual salary of \$96,825.00. She will be eligible for Category III Benefits.

Christina Makela - Career Development Specialist for the District beginning July 1, 2024. This is a full-time, 12-month Non-affiliated position with an annual salary of \$85,825.00. She will be eligible for Category III Benefits.

Garrison Spangler - Building Technology Assistant at East High School for 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week, with a work year of 170 days beginning April 1, 2024. This is a Non-affiliated assignment, with an hourly rate of \$18.00. He will be eligible for Category I Benefits.

APPOINTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Kay Dedinsky - Long-term Substitute Teacher for Michelle Krahling at Franklin Elementary School beginning April 3 and ending May 24, 2024. She will be placed at step 10 of the B+30 lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Kathryn Johnson - Long-term Substitute Social Worker for Rebecca Sharpsteen at East High School beginning April 1 and ending May 24, 2024. She will be placed at step 10 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Jessica Larsen - Special Education Teacher with the Central High Night School Program for 2 hours per day/ 2 evenings per week (M/W) beginning March 7 and ending May 2, 2024. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Clare Sallstrom - Part-time (0.50 FTEs), Long-term Substitute Teacher for Elizabeth Freeberg at Prairie Winds Middle School beginning April 15 and ending May 10, 2024. She will be placed at step 10 of the M lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule.

Zoey Weller - Full-time (1.00 FTEs) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 19, 2024, for the 2024-25 school year. She will be placed at step 1 of the B lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

Caleb Wundermachen - Full-time (1.00 FTEs) Special Education Teacher, site to be determined, beginning August 19, 2024, for the 2024-25 school year. He will be placed at step 3 of the B+30 lane on the Teachers Association salary schedule, contingent upon obtaining licensure.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Trey Billmeier - ACES Child Care Assistant at Hoover Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/5 days per week beginning March 22, 2024. He will be compensated at the rate of \$13.75 per hour.

Gabrielle Kaiser - ACES Child Care Assistant at Washington Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/1 day per week beginning March 18, 2024. She will be compensated at the rate of \$13.00 per hour.

Kenna Reid - Health & Wellness Paraeducator at SUN for 7 hours per day/5 days per week beginning March 21, 2024. She will be placed at classification B22.5, step 4, in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Cadence Wasylik - ACES Child Care Aide Substitute at MAPS Center for Learning on an on-call basis beginning March 27, 2024. She will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Theresa Calsbeek - Adjust end date to June 7, 2024, for temporary increase in assignment as Title I Intervention Teacher at Jefferson Elementary School from 0.70 FTEs to 1.00 FTEs.

Mary Mccuskey Simpson - Voluntary decrease in assignment as Parent Educator at MAPS Center for Learning from 754.4 annual hours (0.52 FTEs) to 729.5 annual hours (0.50 FTEs) beginning March 11, 2024.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Shipra Chowdhury - Temporary decrease in assignment as Early Learning Paraeducator at MAPS Center for Learning from 16 hours per week (7M, 2 T, 3.5 W/TH) to 14.5 hours per week (5.5 M, 2 T, 3.5 W/TH) beginning March 11, 2024.

Kaleb Kirsch - Increase hourly rate to \$13.25 as ACES Child Care Assistant at Washington Elementary School beginning April 16, 2024. This is in addition to his ACES Early Learning Assistant Teacher assignment at MAPS Center for Learning and ACES Site Lead Substitute assignment at Washington Elementary School.

Lexi Reid - Increase in assignment as Health & Wellness Paraeducator at SUN from 6.75 hours per day/5 days per week to 7 hours per day/5 days per week beginning March 18, 2024.

Madeline Saye - Increase hourly rate to \$13.75 as ACES Child Care Assistant at Kennedy Elementary School beginning April 1, 2024.

Brinly Simmons - Increase hourly rate to \$15.00 as ACES Student Support Assistant Substitute beginning April 16, 2024. This is in addition to her Special Education Paraeducator assignment at Roosevelt Elementary School.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Rebekah Elledge - Adjust return date to April 15, 2024, for Board-approved leave.

Christina Makela - Mathematics Teacher at West High School, has requested a leave of absence beginning with the 2024-25 school year for the purpose of accepting the Career Development Specialist assignment.

Rebecca Sharpsteen - Adjust return date to May 28, 2024, for Board-approved leave.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Olivia Kuhlman - Special Education Paraeducator at Prairie Winds Middle School, has requested medical leave beginning March 19 and returning to work on April 15, 2024. She is eligible to use any applicable fringe benefits available.

Darlene Walters - Cook Helper at Dakota Meadows Middle School has requested leave under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act beginning March 14 and returning to work on May 1, 2024.

RESIGNATIONS (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Summer Gerber - 3rd Grade Teacher at Bridges Community School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be June 7, 2024.

Elizabeth Holmgren - Multi-Language Learner (MLL) Teacher at Bridges Community School and Hoover Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be June 7, 2024.

Amber Leonhardi - Teacher currently on leave, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be June 7, 2024.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Farhan Ahmed - 4-hour Evening Custodian at Kennedy Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 18, 2024.

Morgan Murphy - ACES Child Care Assistant and ACES Site Lead Substitute at Franklin Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 28, 2024.

Taryn Orser - Special Education Paraeducator at Prairie Winds Middle School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 2, 2024.

Jordyn Salzsiedler - ACES Child Care Assistant at Eagle Lake Elementary School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be March 26, 2024.

Joelle Weber - Special Education Paraeducator at Prairie Winds Middle School, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be May 15, 2024.

TERMINATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Avery Mersch - Early Learning Special Education Paraeducator at Franklin Elementary School, effective May 25, 2023.

Personnel - Addendum

APPOINTMENTS (NON-AFFILIATED)

Katlyn McCourtney - ACES Site Specialist at Lincoln Community Center beginning April 3, 2024. This is a full-time, Non-affiliated position with an annual salary of \$49,440.00, prorated to \$11,979.7 for 63 days for 2023-24. She will be eligible for Category II Benefits.

APPOINTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Faith Mosher - Cook Helper at Prairie Winds Middle School for 6.5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning April 1, 2024. She will be placed at classification A11, step 5,

in accordance with the agreement between the District and the Minnesota School Employee Association.

Rebecca Stark - ACES Site Lead at Roosevelt Elementary School for 3-4 hours per day/2 days per week beginning February 22, 2024. She will be compensated at the rate of \$16.75 per hour for this assignment. This is in addition to her ACES Student Support Assistant assignment at Roosevelt Elementary School.

CONTRACT ADJUSTMENTS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Isabella Ciolkosz - Change in assignment from ACES Site Lead at Kennedy Elementary School to ACES Site Lead Substitute on an on-call basis beginning April 1, 2024.

Chelsey Kunkel - Change in assignment from Special Education Paraeducator, classification B21.5, to Health & Wellness Paraeducator, classification B22.5, at West High School for 6 hours per day/5 days per week beginning April 1, 2024. She will be compensated according to her placement on the Minnesota School Employees Association salary schedule.

Arisa Leddy - Change in assignment from ACES Site Lead Substitute and ACES Child Care Assistant to ACES Site Lead for 3-4 hours per day 4/days per week, and ACES Child Care Assistant Substitute on an on-call basis at Kennedy Elementary School beginning November 28, 2023.

Michael Sathoff - Change in assignment from ACES Site Lead Substitute to ACES Site Lead at Eagle Lake Elementary School for 4-5 hours per day/5 days per week beginning December 4, 2023. He will be compensated at the rate of \$16.75 per hour. This is in addition to his ACES Child Care Assistant assignment at Eagle Lake Elementary School.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (NON-AFFILIATED)

Kiana Montes-Chrisman - ACES Site Specialist at Lincoln Community Center has requested leave under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act beginning May 13 and returning to work on July 29, 2024, with a reduced work schedule of 4 hours per day, until returning to full schedule on August 12, 2024.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE (INSTRUCTIONAL)

Lexandra Larson - Business Education Teacher at West High School has requested unpaid leave beginning April 1, 2024, and continuing through the end of the 2023-24 school year. She is eligible to use any applicable fringe benefits available.

RESIGNATIONS (NON-INSTRUCTIONAL)

Hannah Hoosline - Benefits Secretary with the District, has submitted a resignation. The last day of employment will be April 15, 2024.

Jamie Schloemer - Special Education Paraeducator at Rosa Parks Elementary School, has submitted a resignation for the purpose of retirement. The last day of employment will be June 6, 2024.

The following gifts and grants were received by the School District:

Mankato Area Hockey Association - Anthony Ford donated the following:

- \$500 for MAPS Adapted Floor Hockey Programs
- \$500 for West High Girls Hockey Program

Rex and Karen Sparks donated \$100 for MAPS Futures Program - Parent Night

BENCO donated \$250 for Mankato Area Public Schools FFA Program

SPX donated the following:

- Graphic Design Contribution (\$100 value) for East High Athletics Program
- State Tournament Autograph Posters (\$257.50 value) for Mankato East Boys Basketball Program

Mankato Ballet Company donated \$950.50 for Bussing 2nd graders Art Field Trip to West High School

The following donations were donated for East High School VEX Robotics Program:

- \$50 from Kathy Thielges
- \$100 from Matthew and Brandy Crawford
- \$1,000 from Peggy and Melisa Walters

The following donations were donated for Community Education Mankato Matchup - VEX IQ Tournament:

- \$50 from Scheels
- \$100 from Dr. Scott Allen
- \$200 from Family of Wayne Wollmuth
- \$250 from OFC
- \$250 from MVTL
- \$250 from Mankato Rockers
- \$250 from Snell Motors
- \$250 from WS3
- \$250 from Big Dog
- \$1,000 from MEI
- \$1,000 from Arnolds and Case IH

Mrs. Ratcliff made a motion to accept the gifts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kind and carried on a 6-0 voice vote.

On February 15, 2024, the District received four bids for Employee Group Health Insurance. In accordance with the Health Insurance Transparency Act (HITA), the bids were opened with one member of the largest bargaining group. On February 29, 2024, the District employee insurance committee met and reviewed the bids and discussed the merits of each. The District and its employee insurance committee have been

evaluating a transition to self-insurance for several years. This transition would mean that instead of paying fixed premiums to an insurance company, the school district would directly fund its employees' healthcare costs. This shift would provide the district with more control over healthcare expenses, potentially leading to cost savings and the ability to customize benefits to better suit our employees' needs. With the large bid rate proposals received, the insurance committee and administration are recommending to the school board to transition to self-insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield effective July 1, 2024. The monthly rates will be as follows:

PLAN	SINGLE	FAMILY
Basic +	\$1508.00	\$4062.50
\$750 CMM	\$1212.80	\$3199.30
\$3250 CDHP	\$1025.70	\$2709.85
\$6350 CDHP	\$816.40	\$2156.05

Mr. Baker made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Pratt approval of Blue Cross Blue Shield Employee self-insurance Health Insurance bid, as described. The motion carried on a 6-0 roll vote.

There being no further business to consider, Mrs. Ratcliff moved and Ms. Roberts seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was declared adjourned at 6:59 p.m., on a 6-0 voice vote.

Clerk _____

Attest:

Chairperson _____

SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 77
Mankato, Minnesota

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1. Ratcliff/Kind approval of agenda with personnel addendum. 6-0
2. MAPS Student Spotlight - Ether Njeru
3. Open Forum - Elizabeth Hanke wished to speak.
4. Information: Kennedy Elementary School Report, Insurance Committee Report, Board Member Reports.
5. Pratt/Ratcliff approval of Consent Agenda Items: Approval of Minutes of the March 18, 2024, regular meeting; Personnel. 6-0
6. Ratcliff/Kind acceptance of gifts. 6-0
7. Baker/Pratt approval of 2024-25 employee health insurance renewal rates. 6-0
8. Ratcliff/Roberts adjournment at 6:59 p.m. 6-0

Independent School District No. 77
Mankato, Minnesota
By: Erin Roberts

The complete minutes and all documents relating to this meeting are on file and available for review in the Superintendent's Office, 10 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2 and on-line at www.isd77.org.