



Building a Bridge to the Future



ZM MESSENGER

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK

The Minnesota School Boards Association set aside the week of February 17—21 to recognize the dedicated people who serve on our public school boards. This week was designated to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our society.

ZM Schools joined with all public school districts to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor our local board members for their commitment to the communities of Mazeppa and Zumbrota and to the children the school serves. Please take time to thank the six members of the ZM Board for their time and for the effort it takes to maintain our school district.

Current ZM members and their years of service include James Wendt, 21 years; Jean Roth, 5 years; Angie Bredehoft, 3 years;



Jason Lohmann, 3 years; Amanda Peters, 1 year; and Stephanie Miller, 1 year.

CONSTRUCTION CLASS HOME

The ZM Vocational Construction Class has been busy constructing a beautiful 2,005 square foot home at 470 Lancaster Blvd in Zumbrota. **An open house will be held March 14 from 10:00 am—12:00 pm.**



The school board set the minimum bid at \$299,000. An option to buy the adjoining lot is open to the winner bidder on the house. The adjoining lot asking price is \$50,000. Bids will be due to the Superintendent’s Office by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 20. The school board will officially approve the winning bid on March 23 at the regular monthly school board meeting. If you are interested in this quality home, contact the advisor, Brandon Roth, at 507-273-2992 for home details or call the ZM District Office at 507-732-1400.

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Get your Donkey-ball tickets now! Fun begins Mar. 13!



Scheduled conferences for grades 7-12 will be held March 9 (note change of date). PreK-12 conferences will be held March 24 and PreK-6 on March 26, all from 4:00-8:00 pm. Please take advantage of these conferences to follow your child’s progress as the school year moves forward.



ZM's Speech team opened their season with a 4th place overall finish at Kasson-Mantorville. The team is coached by Tom Erslund.



As part of February's Kids Heart Challenge, our K-2 kids reached the \$5,500 incentive, so Mr. Rasmussen & Ms. Amy got to dress up in their most incredible costumes. To date, our kids have raised \$7,989.16 of the \$8,500 goal! If we reach it, we all get to dress up as our favorite hometown hero or superhero—Stay tuned!!



Board Minutes, continued from page 6

NEW BUSINESS: The consent agenda was approved as follows:

Approval of Minutes

- 1/27/2020 Regular Meeting
- 2/10/20 Work Session

Approval of Hires

- Sally Grove, Paraprofessional, beginning 2/18/20
- Jon Wicks, Assistant Baseball Coach
- A. J. Yusten, 9th Grade Baseball Coach
- Adam Warweg, 7th Grade Baseball Coach
- Madison Miller, Afterschool Lead Teacher, beginning 3/4/20

Approval of Resignations

- Anna Stahosky, After School Lead Teacher, effective 2/19/20
- Patricia Steffes, Art Teacher, retirement effective May 29, 2020
- Pamela Peterson, Language Arts Teacher, retirement effective May 29, 2020
- Margaret Starkson, Paraprofessional, effective 2/7/2020

Approval of Tenure

Approval of Reassignment

Approval of Childcare Leave

Approval of Terminations

Approval of Fundraisers

Approval of Donations

Nuvera Communications \$650 for elementary

Approval of Grants

Approval of Lane Changes

Andrea Siewert, MA+10

Approval of Bill Consideration

Chair Roth noted the end of year retirement of long-time teachers, Pamela Peterson and Patricia Steffes, and thanked them for their many years of service.

The board approved the call for bids for the primary and cougar care project. The community ed and technology contracts were approved as presented.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ms. Roth recently attended an officer training at MSBA. Minutes were available from the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative, Goodhue County Education District, and the Southeast Service Cooperative.

There were no future agenda items and the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



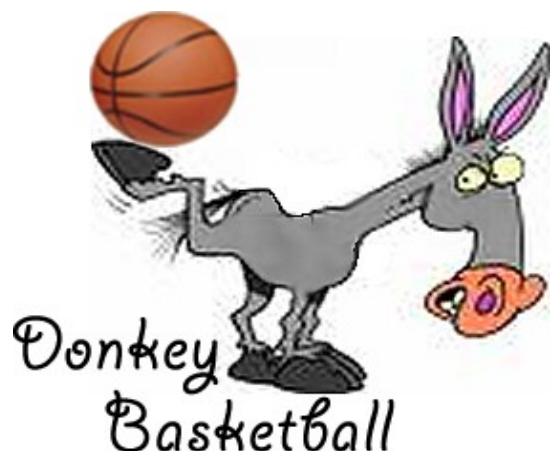
Four ZM wrestlers earned a berth at state - congratulations to Lucas Schiell (2nd at 106 lbs), Luke Krier, (1st-126 lbs and the Section Champion), Gabe Tupper, (2nd-182 lbs) and Ethan Kovars (1st-195 lbs) for advancing to the MSHSL State Tournament February 28 & 29. Best of luck to all four!

Pictured are Ethan Kovars, Lucas Schiell, Luke Krier, & Gabe Tupper.

Also, congratulations to the Pine Island/ZM gymnastics team; they competed at state on February 21 & 22 at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium. The team placed sixth!



ZM FFA will be hosting



Free donkey rides for children age 12 and under with a donkey ride coupon (primary & elementary students will be receiving a ticket order form and coupon prior to the show). Contact FFA Advisor, Ms. Siewert, at andreaac@zmsch.k12.mn.us if you have questions.

Get your tickets from a FFA member or at the door the night of the event. You can also purchase in the school offices beginning March 2. \$7 Advance, \$10 at door, Preschool free.



FRI., MAR 13

7:00 PM

ZMES GYM

MAZEPPA



**Save a life
Give Blood**

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

9:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

ZMMS/HS GYM

PLEASE CALL 732-7395 FOR APPT.

**THANK YOU FOR GIVING
THE GIFT OF LIFE!**



"Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude" ~ Zig Ziglar



The Boys Basketball Team spent some time reading to 2nd grade

Few Items to Mark on Your Calendar...

- ★ PAC Meeting for Spring Sports, 3/2 beginning 6:00 pm, ZMHS
- ★ ZM Family Expo, 3/7 from 9:00-11:00 am ZMHS Gym
- ★ Chili & Mac Cheese Cook-Off, 3/7 from 11:00-12:30, ZMHS Cafeteria
- ★ Donkeyball, 3/13, ZMES Gym, 7:00 pm
- ★ Blood Mobile, 3/20 from 9:00am-2:00 pm, ZMHS Gym

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The ZM School Board met on February 10 in the ZMMS/HS Media Center for their monthly work session.

Rebecca Sjolander, Integration and Achievement Coordinator, was in attendance to review the district's achievement and integration plan, along with the budget worksheets. She informed the board that three goals were required; ZM previously had two goals and teacher equity is the newest goal. In addition, there is \$13,000 in incentive revenue available for ZM, which will be put toward a summer kindergarten session. The board approved the 2020-23 Achievement and Integration Plan as presented.

Ms. Ahern was in attendance to report on the need for an additional special education teacher beginning in the 2020-21 school year. She said the number of special education students has risen from 191 last year to 202 as of February this year, along with the needs of the students. She recommended a 1.0 FTE teacher be hired, with 0.5 as a DCD at the middle/high school level and 0.5 for the higher-level special ed students. The board approved the hire of an additional SPED teacher beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

The 2020 Pay Equity report was reviewed and approved.

Strategic Planning: Mr. Harvey would like to put a task force together to audit our student options at ZM. He will present more information at the February 24 meeting.

Administrative Restructure/Administrative Reduction: Mr. Harvey presented a restructuring beginning in the 2020-21 school year for the principals. Ms. Ahern will be the primary principal and SPED Director; Mr. Rasmussen will be the elementary principal; and Mr. Anderson will be the middle/high school principal with Mr. McAthie as the dean. The elementary dean position will be discontinued. There would be an estimated saving of \$14,000. This possible restructuring will be an action item at the February 24 meeting.

Administrative Secretary Addition: Mr. Harvey proposed adding a 0.5 administrative secretary for special education in an effort to assist Ms. Ahern with the special education paperwork, along with other duties. This will be a March board meeting action item.

House Bidding Process: A draft expense sheet of the costs so far this year was presented to the board. A bidding timeline was presented as follows: 2/24 - minimum bid set by the school board; 3/14 an open house will be held; 3/20 - bids will be due to the Superintendent's Office by 10:00 a.m.; and 3/23 - board will approve the winning bid.

Mr. Harvey informed the board that a potential bidder might be interested in purchasing the adjoining lot. He suggested that this option be available for the high bidder and if the high bidder wants the lot, that would be part of the purchase price and payable on the closing date in full. The board suggested \$50,000 for the adjoining lot and if the bidder does not want to pay that price, the school can build on the lot next year. This will be an action item, along with setting the minimum bid, at the February meeting.

The Buildings and Grounds contract was available for review by the board. It will be an action item at the February 24 meeting.

Peer Coach Position Approval: Aaron Schumacher and Todd Petterson were the only two teachers who applied for the Q Comp peer coach positions. They would each be a 0.5 FTE in the positions. This will be an action item February 25.

Mr. Harvey reviewed the two copier services bids. He recommended that the school stay with Tri-State Business Machines as the service has been very good and the bid estimate will be \$67 a month less than the last contract. He did mention he was interested in software that the other company, Loffler, uses for printing management. He will speak with Grant Voth regarding the possible use of this software. It is compatible with Tri-States' machines. The board approved the Tri State Business Machines contract as presented.

A boiler update was given. The company is willing to install two boilers with ten-year warranties for \$58,462. This will be an action item on February 24.

Bidding for Transportation Contracts: Mr. Harvey recommended that the school post for a two plus two transportation contracts which will allow for renegotiation after the first two years. Sealed bids will be due to the District Office on March 16 by 10:00 a.m. The board approved a two plus two transportation contracted.

ark Land and School Land Sales: Mr. Harvey informed the board that he is waiting for Nexus to tell him how much land is needed for the elementary building project. The board discussed moving ahead with the purchase and sale of the land and this will be an action item February 24 if the information is received.

Staff School Perceptions Survey: Mr. Harvey would like School Perceptions to conduct a staff survey with the goal being overall school improvement. He also suggested a student survey should be completed, especially with the strategic planning discussions that are upcoming.

MASBO Training for School Finance: Mr. Harvey was planning to attend these sessions but decided four days was too long to be away from school at this time. Nicole Fitzgerald will attend these training sessions.

Instructional Coach Position through GCED: A grant from GCED will primarily cover this position. ZM will post for this.

Addition of a Custodial Position for 2020-21: It was recommended that the district approve a 1.0 FTE custodian beginning in the 2020-21 school year at an estimated cost of \$40,000 a year. A custodial position was reduced in 2016-17. This will be a March agenda item.

SSC Career Navigator Position: This position is part of STEM Forward where this navigator works with counselors, teachers, and local businesses to promote student career options.

Construction Update: Nexus representatives were on hand to review the construction plans for Cougar Care and the Primary. Bids will be issued in March with work beginning this summer.

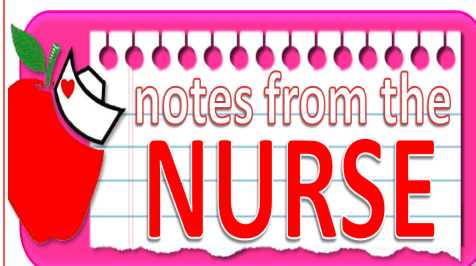
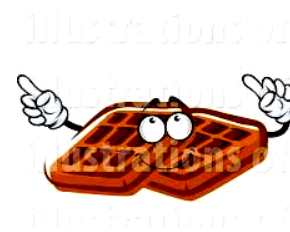
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DAD'S BELGIAN WAFFLES ARE RETURNING!!

The Boys/Girls Track Team is once again sponsoring Dad's Belgian Waffles as part of their fundraising efforts. Please attend and enjoy a great breakfast while helping out our track team!



Saturday, March 28, 2020
8:00 a.m. — 12:00 Noon
ZMHS Cafeteria, Zumbrota



Health Offices Update: Zumbrota Mazeppa schools currently have 2 nurses on staff. One full time Licensed School Nurse (RN) and one full time Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). We have one nurse in Zumbrota who covers K-2 grades and 7-12 grades this nurse also covers Preschool and Christ Lutheran as needed and one nurse in Mazeppa who covers 3-6 grades. These nurses rotate schedules between sites so that they work in both buildings and are

familiar with all students.

The health offices have been very busy this year. We are seeing an average of 1000+ students per month through the health offices for injuries, illnesses, medication administration and health conditions. Please be sure to have current emergency contact information in the Parent Portal.

Immunizations:

Please check the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus to see if your child is current with school immunizations. Letters were sent home with 6th grade students reminding them of immunizations are needed before 7th grade.

Letters were also sent home to 10th and 11th grade students who need their Meningococcal booster, which is due at age 16 and is now a MN state requirement. **Students entering grade 12 in the fall of 2020 will need this immunization before starting school.**

We are still seeing symptoms of influenza (sudden onset of fever with cough and or sore throat), strep throat and the stomach illnesses (vomiting/diarrhea). Please keep your children home if they are symptomatic.

Guidelines for children returning to school after illness:

A student should not come to school if they have had a fever of 100 degrees F or more in the past 24 hours. Students are required to be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. If they aren't feeling well and need medication in the morning before school, please consider keeping them home to prevent spreading illness to other students/staff.

A student should stay home if they have had vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours or if they have an undiagnosed skin rash.

Eagle Bluff 5th Grade Field Trip March 4th – 6th



If your child needs to take medication on this trip, please make sure you bring

the medications to the school by 2/29/2020. If you are a chaperone, you will administer medication to your own child. Please do not bring in medication the morning of the trip. Thank you for your cooperation.

SNOW WEEK

ZM celebrated Snow Week during February 10-13. Students enjoyed talent shows, dressing up, and generally having fun!





SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

Minnesota’s Governor Walz proclaimed February 26 as “School Bus Driver Appreciation Day” to bring attention to the statewide driver shortage and to encourage Minnesotans to appreciate school bus drivers across the state. The theme for this year’s event was “Driven to serve: One stop at a time,” to promote the benefits of being a driver and to raise awareness about the shortage facing districts across the state.

ZM is happy to contract their busing needs through Kennedy Transportation. Kennedy’s have seventeen regular drivers and six substitute drivers who consistently have provided safe, reliable transport to school and sporting activities for all ZM’s students. We appreciate Kennedy Transportation and their great drivers!

School Board Minutes, *continued from page 4*

Policy Review: The following policies were presented for review and possible approval at the February 24 meeting: #523 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy, #532 Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds, #534 Unpaid Meal Charges, #601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals, #603 Curriculum Development, #611 Home Schooling, #613 Graduation Requirements, #616 School District Accountability, and #618 Assessment of Achievement.

School Vehicles: Mr. Harvey recommended that the 2005 Montana van be put out for bids. This will be a February 24 action item.

MDE School Start Approval: The Minnesota Department of Education approved ZM’s request to start school early this fall due to construction. The approval letter was available for review.

The regular monthly board meeting was held February 24 in the ZMMS/HS Media Center. The usual business, including payment of bills, was conducted.

REPORTS: Emma Plank gave the middle/high school report. Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school, Mr. Rasmussen for the primary/elementary school, and Ms. Ahern for special education. Mr. Harvey reported the enrollment was steady at 1,315. The treasurer’s report to the board was available for review.

There was no patron input.

The board approved the call for open market bids for the sale of the 2005 Montana van with the notice being published in the local paper and due to the district office by 10:00 a.m. on March 20, 2020. The board approved the recommendation that beginning in the 2020-21 school year, Ms. Ahern will be assigned as the primary principal and SPED Director; Mr. Rasmussen as the elementary principal; and Mr. Anderson as the middle/high school principal with Mr. McAthie serving as the dean of students. The elementary dean of students position will be eliminated.

The board set the the 2019-20 vocational construction house bid at \$299,000. The open lot minimum bid was set at \$50,000 and contingent on being high bidder on the house. The district reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Head of Buildings

and Grounds contract was approved as presented. The board approved the purchase of two boilers in the amount of \$58,462. The board gave the district permission to move forward with the city of Mazeppa for the land sale adjacent to the bridge in Mazeppa and the purchase of land next to the Mazeppa school for school construction.

The board gave approval for Aaron Schumacher and Todd Petterson as Q Comp peer coaches beginning in the 2020-21 school year, each serving in a 0.5 FTE position. Also approved was the academic excellence award guidelines beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

The following updated district policies: #524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety

Policy, #532 Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds, #534 Unpaid Meal Charges, #601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals, #603 Curriculum Development, #611 Home Schooling, #613 Graduation Requirements, #616 School District Accountability, and #618 Assessment of Achievement. Note was made to add “9” to the first sentence in the graduation requirements policy.

Pertinent Dates:

- Mar 2 - PAC Meeting, 6:00 pm, Zumbrota
- Mar 4-6 - Grade 5 to Eagle Bluff
- Mar 5 - Grade 4 Concert, 7:00 pm, Mazeppa
- Mar 7 - ZM Family Expo, 9:00-11:30, ZMHS Gym
- Mar 7 - Stabilize Families Chili & Mac ‘n Cheese Cook-off, 11:00-12:30, ZMHS Cafeteria
- Mar 9 - School Board Work Session, 7:00 pm, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa
- Mar 9 - Grade 7-12 Scheduled Conferences
- Mar 11 - Early Release
- Mar 12 - Grade 9-12 Mid-Winter Band Concert, 7:00 pm, Zumbrota
- Mar 13 - FFA Donkeyball, 7:00 pm, Mazeppa Gym
- Mar 19 - Grade 3 Concert, 7:00 pm, Mazeppa
- Mar 20 - End Third Quarter for K-6; Early Childhood Screening; Bloodmobile 9:00-2:00 pm, ZMHS Gym
- Mar 23 - No School/Staff Development. School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa
- Mar 24 - PreK-12 Conferences, 4:00-8:00 pm & Bookfair
- Mar 26 - PreK-6 Conferences, 4:00-8:00 pm & Bookfair
- Mar 28 - Track Waffle Feed, ZMHS Cafeteria, Zumbrota

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