



2nd grade held a toilet paper competition the month of December. Over 1,439 rolls of toilet paper donated to the Zumbrota and Mazeppa Food Shelves. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Way to go 2nd grade!



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WHAT'S COMING UP?

- JANUARY 29TH—SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
- FEBRUARY 7—EARLY RELEASE
- FEBRUARY 12—WORK SESSION
- FEBRUARY 16—NO SCHOOL/FLEX DAY
- FEBRUARY 19—NO SCHOOL/HOLIDAY
- FEBRUARY 26—SCHOOL BOARD MEETING



Independent School District No. 2805
Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools
Monday, December 18, 2023

Member's Present: Angie Bredehoft, Jason Lohmann, Jean Roth, Jason Liffrig and Jake Rude
Member's Absent: Stephanie Miller
Also Present: Mr. Barnick and Board Clerk Secretary Amber Rasmussen

Angie Bredehoft called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jason Lohmann motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Jake Rude seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports: Mr. Stapleton reports Mrs. Prodzinski's Personal Finance classes have been invited and will attend a Finance camp hosted by the Rochester Public Schools at Rochester Mayo. The Student Government has made a change to its calendar and decided to move our Snow Week festivities to the week of 12/18. In conjunction with this event the students are raising money for Toys for Tots with the winning Advisory team going to shop for the toys in Rochester during that week. New legislation (see below) has made it possible for our students to work in the community and earn credits from us here at ZMHS. Ms. Lockner and I met on 11/9 with representatives from Zumbrota Assisted Living Facility to discuss options for our students. Thank you Mr. Schumacher for coordinating our new teacher/mentor meetings. Our new teachers meet monthly with their mentors to discuss practices and tips to help them assimilate to their roles here at ZM.

Mr. Rasmussen reports the Youth coding league had a great season. They will be presenting to the board in January. The Kindness Retreat was December 15. Our Lego Robotics team competed on December 13. These students have been meeting after-school on Tuesdays since September. We did not have any Z-M students place this year, but they have

a great deal to be proud of! 3rd grade will be hosting some folks from the Ronald McDonald House December 20.

Ms. Ahern reports 2nd Graders have designed and printed a Block Buddy to represent themselves or a realistic fictional character. The Block Buddies will then be used to write biographies. Once a week kindergarteners meet with 2nd grade buddies. We do a variety of community engagement activities. Z-M Primary School will be having our Holiday Activity from 8:30am– 10:30am on December 22nd. Special Education Students are in charge of organizing and facilitating a popcorn concession stand on Fridays. They are in charge of selecting and ordering the materials needed. They also run the popcorn stand on Fridays and sell popcorn to both staff and students. Students keep track of the money and use it to plan and organize field trips/ activities of choice.

Mr. Barnick reports student enrollment is up 3 from last month. He has worked with our administrative team to create a Strategic Planning Task Force Team, which will result in 40 total members with representation from students, teachers, parents, senior citizens, school board members, and local business owners. Last week he attended a New Legislation Work Group Meeting hosted by Gary Lee and MSBA at the SSC in Rochester to discuss ESST (Earned Safe and Sick Time). Attended the monthly great start meeting for new superintendents. He has met with the owner of Nexus with our Buildings and Grounds Director to discuss items that still need to be completed per our construction project.

There was no Old Business.

New Business.

1. Jean Roth motioned to accept the consent agenda along with the payment of bills. Jason Lohmann seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Angie Bredehoft thanked the community for the generous donations.

Cont. from page 2

- A. Approve Minutes: 11-27-2023
- B. Approval of Hires: Joan Callahan, MSHS Paraprofessional, effective 1-2-2024 , Linda Bean, MSHS Paraprofessional, effective 1-2-2024
- C. Approval of Resignations: Matthew Bryant, MSHS Paraprofessional, effective 12-1-2023, Ashley Lake, Food Service Director, effective 12-27-2023 and Haedyn Lenger, Cougar Care, Effective 12-7-2023
- D. Approval of Donations: \$40,000 anonymous donation to band program and 2008 Dodge Nitro valued at \$3500.00 - Falk Auto
- E. Approval of Bill Consideration : December - Jean Roth
 - 2. Audit Report. Smith Schafer gave the final audit report: General Fund expenditures and other financing uses exceeded revenues by \$7,741,604 in 2023 and ended the year with a total fund balance of \$2,124,551. The UFARS unassigned General Fund balance of \$609,998 at June 30, 2023 is 3.2% of general fund expenditures. The District has committed funds totaling \$248,384. The Food Service Fund expenditures exceeded revenues by \$92,427 for 2023 and ended the year with a balance of \$254,150. The Community Service Fund revenues and other financing sources exceeded expenditures by \$136,069 and ended the year with a balance of \$673,413. Jason Lohmann motioned to accept the audit as presented. Jean Roth seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - 2. Adoption of the Tax Levy: The total proposed Levy is \$6,775,464.86. Jason Lohmann motioned to approve the tax levy. Jean seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Roth-yes, Lohmann-yes, Bredehoft-yes, Liffrig-No, Rude-No. Miller absent. Resolution passed.
 - 2. Superintendent Goals. Mr. Barnick's 3 goals are: 1. Enhancing Visibility in School District and Community, 2. Development and initial implementation of a district strategic plan for ongoing improvement, and 3. District Leadership Team Collaboration and Development. Jason Lohmann motioned to approve the superintendent goals. Jean Roth seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Angie Bredehoft motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM.

Truth in Taxation Hearing
Independent School District No. 2805
Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools
Monday, December 18, 2023

Angie Bredehoft called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Jason Lohmann motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Jean Roth seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Scott Marine gave a presentation of the Truth in Taxation and Levy report suggesting a total levy of \$6,775,464.85. This will be brought to the regular meeting following the Truth in Taxation for approval.

Angie Bredehoft adjourned the meeting at 6:42 PM

Stephanie Miller, Clerk



The following students were selected to participate in the Southeast Minnesota Band Directors Honor Band held on Saturday January 13th at John Marshal High School in Rochester, MN. This group was selected from 39 different schools in the Southeast Minnesota regions. The students were divided into two different bands, one consisting of 6th—8th Graders and the other 9th and 10th. They spend the day rehearsing and concluding with a fantastic performance. We are so proud of their accomplishment.



9-10 Honor Band Members: Evan Kutscheid, Evan Stiments, Riley Redepenning, Nate Donovan and Tanner Jennebach

7-8 Honor Band Members: Erik Postma, Kason Hill, Ivy Smith and Ella Miller.

Kindergarten & 2nd grade STEM Buddies! Strong work with the Ozobots!



The 74th Annual Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther College in Decorah, IA was held on January 7th and 8th. Three Zumbrota-Mazeppa students participated in the festival. They included Raymond Li, Katelynn Albrecht, and Brinna Fruth. These students were 3 out of approximately 1000 that attended this festival. Students rehearsed both Sunday and Monday on their mixed choral pieces with director Andrew Last, women's piece with Jill Wilson and the men's piece with Mark Potvin. Andrew Last chose vocal pieces for the mixed choir which included "Cover Me with the Night" by Andrea Ramsey, "I Am Not There" by Nick Johnson and "Ring Out Ye Bells!" by Marques L.A. Garrett, Samuel Carlton, and Dan Forrest. Along with the three SATB pieces, the men's chorus sang "Wild Mountain Thyme" by Karen Marrolli, and the women's chorus sang "Never One Thing" arranged by Corie Brown. The Zumbrota-Mazeppa high school students attended a concert on Sunday evening in which the Linn-Mar Changer Singers and two all freshmen Luther College choirs performed. The ZM students had the opportunity to socialize with other students at a dance and then stay overnight in the dorms. Zumbrota-Mazeppa students also received individual voice lessons with Luther College vocal professors. Due to the weather forecast, the Monday night Festival Grand Concert was moved up to noon instead of 5pm. During the concert, we learned that Raymond Li was an honorable mention vocalist, heard the Director's Chorus sing and the Festival Choir performed. The overall sound was amazing and the students enjoyed themselves immensely.



No School February 16th and 19th!



January News from the School Nurses:

We are still seeing respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses. Please keep children home if/when they have symptoms to help prevent spreading illness to others.

Please let the school office staff know if your student is home with an influenza-like-illness (ILI). ILI is defined as a fever of 100.0 degrees F or higher, and cough or sore throat (in absence of a known disease other than influenza).

**It is important for parents to report symptoms keeping students' home as we are tracking symptoms for state health monitoring.

When should I keep my child home?

-If a student has a fever of 100 degrees or more, the student should stay home until 24 hrs AFTER the temperature has returned to normal (without the use of a fever reducing medication.)

-If a student has diarrhea or has vomited, the student should stay home until symptom free for 24 hours.

- If a student has a rash that may be related to a disease, or the cause is unknown, please see a doctor before sending the student to school.

- If you are keeping your child home because of an illness, please call the school to report specific

symptoms and/or diagnosis.

- If your child tested positive for strep, your child should stay home until 24hrs after the antibiotic treatment has started.

Please help us keep all our students healthy by following these recommendations.

Human Growth and Development:

Letters were sent home with all students 4th – 6th grades regarding upcoming Human Growth and Development classes. This information is designed to give accurate information of body development and change that occur during the period of puberty.

4th grade: 2/8/24 and 2/9/24

5th grade: 2/22/24 or 2/23/24

6th grade: 2/2/24

There is parent information available on the ZM school website under Parents; Health Services tab. If parents would like to view the full video before the classes in February, they can come into school to do so. Please contact Tiffany Boraas, LSN with any questions/concerns at 507-732-1420.

Immunizations:

Please check the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus to see if your child is current with school immunizations. Letters will be sent home with 6th and 11th grade students reminding them of immunizations are needed before 7th and 12th grade.

Before 12th grade students are due for their second Meningococcal booster, which is due at age 16 and is now a MN state requirement for 12 grade students before attending school in fall.