Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of Black River Falls on Monday, February 17, 2020 in the District Office Board Room.

School Board President, Mary Jo Rozmenoski, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Mary Jo Rozmenoski, Patty Jacobson, Scott Barton, Amy Hoffman, Laurel Meek, Nehomah Thundercloud

Board Members Absent: Mary Jo Radcliffe

Mary Jo Rozmenoski confirmed the public meeting notice with Marti Herzberg.

Mary Jo Rozmenoski made a motion to move agenda items 7.1 Focus on Purpose – 6th-8th Grade Social Studies, 8.1 Extra and Co-Curricular Handbook Updates, and 9.4 Capital Maintenance Projects to take place prior to agenda item 6.1 Strengthening Families Program Overview. Amy Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment – None

Stephanie Brueggen and Jeremiah Vangen updated the Board on the work being done in 6th – 8th grade social studies.

Jay Weinman updated the Board on changes that he’s proposing for the new Extra and Co-Curricular Handbook.

Kent Weinman presented Capital Maintenance Project details. Nehomah Thundercloud moved to approve the projects as presented. Scott Barton seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

LuAnn Meyer gave an overview of the Strengthening Families Program that’s provided by the UW Extension Office.

Dr. Severson presented county wide data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Dr. Severson informed the Board that staff voted on two options for the 2020-2021 school calendar. She presented the option that received the most votes. Laurel Meek moved to approve the calendar as presented. Patty Jacobson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Board held a discussion regarding the increase in public tax dollars being allocated to private voucher schools in the state. Carol Hornby spoke to the Board encouraging them
to pass a resolution in support of public education and asking to consider resolutions that would vocalize this support. Dr. Severson shared the disparity in accountability between the public and private voucher schools as well as the fact that our current school finance structure (public tax dollars) cannot support two parallel systems. Mary Jo Rozmenoski moved to make a resolution that articulates the support of public schools and works to limit future growth of voucher schools. Nehomah Thundercloud seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion did not pass 4-2.

Scott Barton moved to approve the employment recommendations as presented. Amy Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Laurel Meek moved to approve the monthly expenditures as presented. Scott Barton seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Severson presented information on the District’s facilities and the long term capital maintenance projects that are in need of immediate attention. Public facility informational meetings will be held on March 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the HS Commons and March 30 at 6:00 pm at Forrest Street. In early April, a community wide survey will be created and sent out to the community in late April. The Board will know the results of the survey at the May or June Board meeting and will be able to make a decision regarding a potential referendum to address these needs.

Laurel Meek moved to approve the budget center allocations as presented. Nehomah Thundercloud seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

The Board will review the second readings of the presented policies again in March.

Nehomah Thundercloud moved to approve the meeting minutes from January 20, 2020 as presented. Laurel Meek seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Melanie Floyd and Laura Simonson presented a report comparing their school’s achievement gap reductions from the beginning of the school year to the present.

The Principals presented updates on activities in their schools.

Items were reviewed from the State Education Convention that was attended in January.

Future agenda items – Graduation date for 2021 and information on the District’s student clubs and their purposes.
At 8:12 p.m. Laurel Meek moved to adjourn. Amy Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

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Mary Jo Radcliffe, Clerk                  Marti Herzberg, Recording Secretary