

School Board Meeting  
Wednesday, September 18, 2024 7:00 PM Central

Morgan Conference Room  
310 Somerville  
Morgan, MN 56266

Brycen Christensen: Present  
Ash Heibel: Present  
Jennifer Rose: Present  
Tim Sandgren: Present  
Christine Sherman: Present  
Jeff Sorenson: Present  
Joe Sullivan: Present

Present: 7.

#### 1. Call To Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Sullivan at 7:00pm.

2. The Cedar Mountain School District respectfully acknowledges that the areas in which our schools are located are the ancestral homelands of the Dakota people. We pay our respects to these stewards both past and present.

#### 3. Public Comments

No public comments.

#### 4. Approval Of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda. This motion, made by Tim Sandgren and seconded by Christine Sherman, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

No discussion.

#### 5. Reports

##### 5.a. Superintendent's Report

The school year is off to a good start thanks to the principals and staff. The facilities committee is meeting on October 17 with Apex. The non-certified negotiations committee will meet with AFSCME bargaining team soon to begin negotiating a contract. The annual MSBA conference is coming up in January. The spring MCA results are in. We are trending below the state average. Principals have been asked to create academic improvement plans. See full report for details.

##### 5.b. Principals' Reports

Julia Garms / Elementary Report: We have a small kindergarten class, but we have Cougar Jumpstart at 27 students and some other families call and have inquired about it. We've had lots of positive things about this. Back-to-school conferences were a huge success. Feedback from parents online and in person was very positive. Parents loved meeting the teachers and had the ability to come in. New staff- John Schmitt, Ellie Wilker, Sam Seifert, John Raney, Kendal Kindt, Kayla Fischer have all been doing phenomenal. The other staff have been stepping up, helping guide them. We had our first early-out Wednesday (now called Cougar

Wednesdays) and it was a huge success. 26 students signed up for this. Michelle Thooft was able to get 4-H to come and is able to come on most early-out Wednesdays. Team sports, free play, recess, crafts, and more are available for students during this time. There is a link that is sent out every Friday to plan for the month ahead. Parents had a lot of good feedback. Marcie Firlie came in for bus safety and Renville County's Police Chief came in as well. Rachel, Molly and Sam had a great start to preschool this year. Lunch and recess are going well. Fall Festival (thank you to Jolene and CPAC) went so great! The staff have been very flexible and going with the flow since we've had many things going on. READ Act- we've had our first early out where staff had a chance to dive in. Some staff members have finished unit 1. Our first debriefing is coming up (next Wednesday) where I (Julia) will do presentations. Intervention is a big part of the READ Act. Michelle is in charge of the intervention program. We're screening students and Fastbridge testing will be at the end of this month. Preschool screening is coming up. We're meeting to schedule these. We were invited by the Franklin Legion for a flag retiring ceremony. The elementary will walk to the park to see this. Homecoming is coming up, and we have tons of activities for the elementary school. Brittany Johnson is doing excellent as the new senior advisor. See full report for details.

Misty Riebel / MSHS Report: Enrollment is at 223. We are continuing to work on programming and gaining greater enrollment. Thank you to Jeff Widness from HMI (Home Menders Inc) Duluth for the pencils at the MSHS (donated 2000 pencils). Thank you to Weelborg Ford in Redwood Falls for the windshield event. CPAC has worked to donate all the homecoming shirts, so thank you to them. The 6th grade orientation was successful and had good parent feedback. Students felt that they were comfortable in the small groups. Student handbooks were updated. Cell phone policy and attendance are the heavy focuses at the MSHS. The first day of school went very well. Students shared that they are feeling better as the year has started and are excited to be here. Blue Crue is back up and running. Thank you to Mrs. Tietz for picking this up. The Student Council has been busy planning homecoming activities during the upcoming week. Pep fests will be happening throughout the week. Professional development for staff, we're looking at Fastbridge progress monitoring for 6-11. MTSS is meeting regularly to look at how MDE can support our development of the MTSS handbook. PBIS committee is formed and meets regularly. We are working on realigning our committees. Staffing over the past month we have successfully filled all but 1 of our MSHS positions. The one position that is open would be a 1.0 FTE position, but we are looking at what those needs would be. Personal development- MDE cohorts, MASP, PLC cohorts. No push-back from kids regarding the cell phone policy. See full report for details.

#### 5.c. Activities Director/Comm Ed Report

Jeremy is focusing on how to run and use the large scoreboard and working with Ms. Sorenson on visuals, hoping to have most of that part done by the basketball season. Mr. Guetter has been running the scoreboard so far. See full report for details.

#### 5.d. Board Committee Reports

None

### 6. Consent Agenda

Motion made to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by Jennifer Rose and seconded by Tim Sandgren, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

No discussion.

6.a. Approve Minutes

6.b. Approve Bills. Wire Total \$177,016.65. Checks Total \$162,872.69.

6.c. Accept Donations

Donations have been acknowledged.

6.d. Approve Personnel Items

7. Approve Preliminary Pay 25 Levy

Motion to approve the maximum preliminary certification. This motion, made by Jennifer Rose and seconded by Jeff Sorenson, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The preliminary levy certification has been posted by MDE. The first "levy run" typically contains errors. The final calculations will be completed by the end of September. Seth Johnson will work with MDE to correct the calculations over the next few weeks. The final levy will be approved by the board at the December 18 meeting in conjunction with the truth and taxation hearing. The superintendent recommends approving the maximum preliminary certification.

8. Superintendent Search

Motion to contract with the South Central Service Cooperative. This motion, made by Jeff Sorenson and seconded by Brycen Christensen, Carried.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Jeff Bertrang and Harold Remme- Reviewed packet handout. This is a free service. South Central Service Cooperative would like to enter into a contract even though it is a free service. South Central Service Cooperative would like to discuss with the school board and community members to understand what is wanted/needed for Cedar Mountain in a Superintendent. We help find candidates. After we get applications, we review, screen candidates, conduct background checks, and hold interviews for the position. We'll be asking the district for information in case candidates ask more about the district. We'll be onsite for interviews. Then we'd keep holding rounds of interviews until a candidate is selected. The recommended timeline is to hire a superintendent at the March 2025 board meeting. Committee members will also help with interviews in order to give feedback to the school board. The most common is to post for either an interim superintendent or a superintendent for a 3-year contract. It is also possible to split a superintendent with another district if all parties agree.

9. Next Meeting Date - October 23 at Franklin, 7 pm

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm by Chair Sullivan.