



Free!



Storytelling
Workshop

Play with the microphones and learn to tell your own story.
This time, we make it up as we go along.

Kids workshop 4:30 pm ~ Adults 7 pm

Thursday, February 20th

Backus, Room B-6

Independent School District #361

Koochiching CountyInternational Falls, MN

MissionTo prepare all learners for a changing world by developing their potential within a climate of mutual respect and trust.

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Falls High School Cafeteria

5:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING: 4:00 P.M. WEE LIBRARY

PRELIMINARIES:

1.0

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

2.0

ROLL CALL

Gordon Dault _____Darrell Wagner _____

Michelle Hebner _____Dena Wenberg _____

Michael Holden _____Nordy Nelson _____

Willi Kostiuik _____Cory Nedland _____

3.0

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4.0

PREVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed

5.0

OPEN FORUM

5.1

School Board Appreciation Week

5.2

January Student of the Month: Dustin Helgeson

5.3

February Students of the Month: Keanna Carlson and Brady Walls

5.4

Engineering Class report

5.5

Social Studies Teachers

5.6

Public Open Forum

6.0

Approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 21 and the special meeting of January 27, 2014.

Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed

7.0

Approve the bills due and payable amounting to \$173,469.93. Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed

OLD BUSINESS:

8.0

Adopt revised Policy 414 Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse. Moved ____

Second ____ carried/failed

9.0

Adopt revised Policy 610 Field Trips. Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed

NEW BUSINESS:

10.0

Receive the 2014-15 Facility Plan for adoption in March.

11.0

Give administration authorization to order a 71 passenger school bus with receipt of bus and cost for lease or purchase in the amount of \$98,132.20 to be realized in the FY15 budget. Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed

12.0

Adopt a Resolution for Expulsion of Student “A”. Moved ____ Second ____ Roll Call:

13.0

Adopt a Resolution for Expulsion of Student “B”. Moved ____ Second ____ Roll Call:

14.0

Approve a pre-school round-up to garner interest for an additional pre-school class for 2014-15 with final approval in March contingent upon number of registrants. Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed

15.0

Program Consent: Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed

15.1

Accept donations in the amount of \$3287.51

12/10/13 Rainy River Comm College Voyager Baseball; Batting Cage\$511.90

1/17/14 Super One; Root Beer Floats & Ice Cream for Falls Elem Bronco Pride Celebration\$213.00

1/24/14 Riley & Tasha Burnell Memorial Fund; Elementary Playground Equipment\$883.94

1/29/14 Dean Blais; Bronco Hall Of Fame\$1000.00

1/31/14 Box Tops For Education; Falls High School\$478.67

2/3/14 Cookie Club (In Memory of Marlys Romslo); Falls Elementary Library\$200.00

Total\$3287.51

15.2

Appoint Tim Everson as the alternate Title IX Officer for the 2013-14 school year.

15.3

Appoint Melissa Tate as the alternate secondary Section 504 officer for the 2013-14 school year.

15.4

Appoint Kevin Grover as the alternate elementary Section 504 officer for the 2013-14 school year.

15.5

Approve a contract with Kevin Gordon for summer ice rental for July 7 to 18, 2014.

15.6

Approve a contract with the International Falls Figure Skating Club for summer ice rental for July 21 to July 25 in the amount of \$800.00.

16.0

Personnel Consent: Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed for Items 16.1 – 16.10

16.1

Approve the hire of Jenna Votaw as an Educational Support Professional effective February 10, 2014 and in accord with the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 4798.

16.2

Approve the hire of Vicki Burns as an Educational Support Professional effective February 10, 2014 and in accord with the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 4798.

16.3

Approve the hire of Sarah Valentine as an Educational Support Professional effective February 11, 2014 and in accord with the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 4798 and contingent upon passage of the Para Pro Assessment test.

16.4

Acknowledge Jenna DeBenedet and Jonathan Isenor as Type III van drivers for extracurricular activities.

16.5

Accept the resignation from Angela Dahle, Educational Support Professional effective January 16, 2014.

16.6

Approve the letter of request for Teacher Early Retirement Incentive from Ardel Henrickson pursuant to M.S. 122A.48 and conditions as outlined in the letter of request received January 23, 2014 and effective May 2014.

16.7

Approve the letter of request for Teacher Early Retirement Incentive from Harmony Lennox pursuant to M.S. 122A.48 and conditions as outlined in the letter of request received January 28, 2014 and effective May 2014.

16.8

Approve the letter of request for Teacher Early Retirement Incentive from Elizabeth Johnson pursuant to M.S. 122A.48 and conditions as outlined in the letter of request received January 28, 2014 and effective May 2014.

16.9

Approve the letter of request for Teacher Early Retirement Incentive from Brenda LeDuc pursuant to M.S. 122A.48 and conditions as outlined in the letter of request received January 29, 2014 and effective May 2014.

16.10

Approve the letter of request for Teacher Early Retirement Incentive from Gigie Harder pursuant to M.S. 122A.48 and conditions as outlined in the letter of request received January 29, 2014 and effective May 2014.

Personnel Consent, (continued) Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed for Items 16.11 through 16.13

16.11

Approve the letter of request for Teacher Early Retirement Incentive from Mary Kay Hardwig pursuant to M.S. 122A.48 and conditions as outlined in the letter of request received January 23, 2014 and effective the last day of school of the 2014-15 school year.

16.12

Approve the letter of request for Teacher Early Retirement Incentive from Onida Kocinski pursuant to M.S. 122A.48 and conditions as outlined in the letter of request received January 23, 2014 and effective the last day of school of the 2014-15 school year.

16.13

Approve the letter of request for early retirement incentive from Jeff Veeder, Maintenance Director per the conditions as outlined in the letter of request received January 29, 2014 and effective November 30, 2015.

17.0

Policy Consent: Moved ____ second ____ carried/failed

17.1

Adopt revised Policy 102 Equal Educational Opportunity.

17.2

Adopt revised Policy 401 Equal Employment Opportunity.

17.3

Adopt Policy 401 Equal Employment Opportunity grievance procedure document

17.4

Adopt revised Policy 402 Disability Nondiscrimination Policy

17.5

Adopt revised Policy 413 Harassment and Violence

17.6

Adopt revised Policy 514 Bullying Prohibition Policy.

17.7

Adopt revised Policy 521 Student Disability nondiscrimination

17.8

Adopt revised Policy 522 Student Sex nondiscrimination

17.9

Adopt revised Policy 806 Crisis Management

17.10

Receive Employee Handbook for adoption in March.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION:

18.0

Administrative Reports:

18.1

Melissa Tate, FES/WEE Principal

18.2

Tim Everson, FHS Principal

18.3

Nordy Nelson, Superintendent

18.3.1

Open Meeting Law; Texting & Open Meeting law

18.3.2

E-cigarettes

19.0

Committee Reports:

CLOSED NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY SESSION: Moved by ____ seconded by ____ to close the meeting at ____ p.m. to discuss negotiation strategy for negotiations with Local 331.

REOPEN MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT ADJOURNMENT: Reopen and adjourn the meeting at ____ p.m.

Moved ____ Second ____ carried/failed

LOCALNEWS

KEDA discusses ongoing projects

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching Economic Development Authority met Wednesday and discussed various projects and interests on which the organization is currently.

KEDA Director Paul Nevanen continues to work with Point Trade Services, a consulting company, on expanding the foreign trade zone in Koochiching County, he said. Under the alternative site framework process, the county can expand the borders of the FTZ to include the entire county, so as to better meet the needs of businesses that wish to relocate there, he said.

“A lot of the active foreign trade zones are going to this,” Nevanen said. “So rather than trying to drive a user to a specific location, the user can go where it makes the most sense.”

The county’s application to expand the FTZ borders

under the ASF process is complete, he said, so once KEDA Board Chair Alan Rasmussen signs the application, it can be submitted. Because the review process involves the U.S. Department of Commerce and other federal agencies, the review process takes some time.

“It’s been running between four to eight to 10 months, depending on the load,” Nevanen said. “That’s the process of working with the feds.”

Nevanen continues to meet with architect Jim Lucachick to review plans to renovate the vacant Northome Care Facility, he said. They’re looking at how best to reconfigure the facility to make the best fit for a potential facility manager, he

Paul Nevanen

said. North Itasca Electric Co-op also conducted an energy audit of the facility at no cost.

“We’ll take the energy audit information, as well as Jim’s drawings, and we’re going to regroup tomorrow in Bemidji with a potential manager,” Nevanen said. “We’ll look at moving forward, how would the ownership structure look like, what it would cost, what resources would be available.”

After speaking to the North Itasca Co-op Board in December, Nevanen said Chief Executive Officer Jared Echternach contacted him and said the NICB wants to support KEDA’s efforts. The NICB has agreed to support KEDA with \$2,000 per year for three years, he said.

“They certainly understand the challenges and the need for this type of work,” Nevanen said. “So I was really pleased that they would support our organization.”

International tourism agreement reached

Heart of the Continent Partnership, National Geographic announce collaboration

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Heart of the Continent Partnership has become a partner with National Geographic Society to create an online regional geotourism initiative, highlighting northeastern Minnesota and Ontario.

Representatives and local officials launched the effort Wednesday in Duluth with the signing of an agreement between the two organizations.

The finished results will include an indepth website and smartphone applications. The site will be linked with existing National Geographic Society geotourism sites and the National Geographic Society Maps homepage.

“The National Geographic Maps Division is pleased to have the opportunity to spotlight this region and, in doing so, support and sustain it as one of the world’s most treasured places,” said Jim Dion, director of tourism programs at National Geographic Maps. “The online Geotourism MapGuide will celebrate the abundant and diverse scenic, cultural and historical attributes of the binational Heart of the Continent region from the unique vantage point of those who live there.”

Users will be able to create custom travel plans spanning the border based on their interests, and find information about communities, events, attractions and businesses throughout

CONTRIBUTED ILLUSTRATION

A map shows the region. The Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung National Historic Site, which features mounds along the Rainy River at Stratton, Ontario, is expected to be added to the project.

the region, reports a news release from the organizations. Event organizers and small businesses will be able to add content to the site, which will be overseen by an internationally represented standards committee, in conjunction with NGS.

“Not only is this geotourism website project a terrific example of what can be done when we work together as a bi-national region,” said Doug Franchot, one of the co-chairs of the project, “it will also put the Heart of the Continent on a global stage with one of the best international brands around – National Geographic.”

The Heart of the Continent Partnership has raised more than \$200,000 for the project, with the involvement of municipalities, economic development agencies, tourism groups, state and provincial parks, grant foundations, public funders and private firms. The project is one of the largest volunteer collaborations taken on jointly by Minnesota and Ontario, and involves stakeholders from more than 25 agencies on both sides of the border.

When it is complete, the group believes the project will ultimately lead to in-

creased tourism in both countries.

Drawing input and involvement from a wide spectrum of local stakeholders, the geotourism project will help sustain and enhance the geographical character of the region by highlighting the natural, cultural and historical resources and historic gateway communities in the Heart of the Continent binational region.

Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place — its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.

National Geographic Society’s Maps Division has partnered with a host of regions to create a framework for engaging communities and creating a regional geotourism infrastructure in locations across the world. Some examples in the United States include the Four Corners Region, Greater Yellowstone, the Central Cascades and California’s Redwood Coast. The Crown of the Continent region in British Columbia and the city of Montreal are areas in Canada that participate in the NGS geotourism program.

Gas prices see slight increase

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have risen 2.6 cents in the past week, averaging \$3.21 per gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota. This compares with the national average that has increased 1.6 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.28 per gallon, according to gasoline price web-

site MinnesotaGasPrices.com.

Regular gas prices in International Falls, according to the site, ranged from \$3.17 to \$3.34. Local prices for mid-grade fuel were listed at \$3.49, premium fuel was priced at \$3.69 per gallon and diesel fuel ranged from \$4.09 to \$4.95.

Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices Sunday were 34.4 cents per gallon lower

compared to the same day one year ago and are 1.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has decreased 1.9 cents during the last month and stands 26.8 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

GasBuddy operates MinnesotaGasPrices.com and over 250 similar websites that track gasoline prices at more than 140,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada.