

SCHOOL

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Tim Everson said he supported Tate's proposal and agreed it is difficult for him to meet with his staff on a regular basis.

"When we have data, I need my staff to be able to utilize it," he said. "We really don't have a chance to look at and use all the data we have."

Everson explained agendas would be planned for early-out day meetings to ensure time would be "well spent."

Tate said while other school programs like Q-Comp, allow for teachers to meet as teams and look at individual goals, it is crucial staff comes together as a whole.

"I think it would be awesome for our culture...I think this would be a good start," she said, suggesting an early dismissal at 2:20 p.m. every Wednesday, but she was open to other options.

Board members were on board with the idea.

Darrell "Boxer" Wagner saw the idea as a positive one for the district.

"I think that all this data you've been collecting for years is not making any sense to collect it if we're not going to give teachers time to analyze it and do something with it," he said, triggering applause from a small group teachers in the audience.

There has been little discussion, Tate said, with staff and parents, but said she is sure her staff "would absolutely love it...They would embrace it."

Board member Willi Kostiuk told the two principals the board should take their advice.

"You're the professionals," he said. "I think it's a great idea."

Tate and Everson said they will put together a formal proposal and present it to the board for consideration at a future meeting.

In other business Monday, the board approved the resignation of Jay Boyle as head football coach, but with some hesitation from one board member.

Mike Holden voted against Boyle's removal and vocalized his resistance.

"I want to let the public know where the situation got," he said.

Referring to a Minnesota law protecting high school coaches from being removed from their position by upset parents, Holden said a parent group advocated for Boyle's removal.

"That's exactly what they wanted to do is get rid of Jay Boyle," Holden said. "They went after him with things like his win/loss record and the list goes on. And it's wrong. I will not vote for his resignation."

The board member recommended the school district follow the law and "not allow themselves to be runover by parents."

Kostiuk asked if Boyle was forced to resign.

"That parent group came in and showed what they were going to provide to the school board...and Jay chose to resign," Holden said.

The board Monday also agreed to reimburse and/or pay a stipend to teachers who will need further education in order to teach concurrent enrollment, or College in the Classroom, classes at the high school.

Everson said if teachers don't have a master's degree in their area of teaching, they will be required to take 16 semester credits in order to teach a concurrent enrollment course.

"We ask teachers to go out and find classes at different places," he said, adding there are about 12 teachers who will need to secure credit hours over the next two or three years.

"This has nothing to do with licensure, this is strictly to do with the college," he said.

The cost reimbursement agreement says any teacher who accepts reimbursement for credits and/or a stipend is required to teach a concurrent enrollment course for a minimum of five years after the last reimbursement or stipend is received. Teacher refusal or voluntary termination of employment within the five years would require all costs reimbursed to the district.

NOLAN

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would allow the train to move more quickly through Ranier and pass the Van Lynn Road crossing.

Also expressing concern about the lift bridge being kept in the down position was Marty Goulet, who said he represented investors interested in developing property along the Rainy River between International Falls and the bridge.

He said the development could involve mixed uses, including housing, as well as restaurants and lodging. The bridge in its down position would limit access by guests and visitors to Rainy Lake via the river.

County Commissioner Wade Pavleck also discussed concerns about the lift bridge and said it should remain in up position until a train is about to cross it. He pointed to the Voyageurs National Park concession

tour boat, which operates on Rainy Lake and is unable to access the park's headquarters on the river because of the bridge.

Wagner said all the concerns will increase as more and longer trains travel the tracks.

Nolan told the officials they had done a good job of documenting the concerns and discussions that have already taken place. He stressed they had explored solutions and suggested the one they believed would be most workable for all involved.

"I see you and hear you and will do everything I can," he said of solving the concerns.

"We'll make that happen," he said of discussions with state and federal officials to consider relocating the CPB facility. He said he'd be contacting CN officials to hear their views.

"I'll go to bat for this," he said.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

International Falls' new Fire Chief Adam Mannausau receives the chief badge from current Fire Chief Jerry Jensen and Falls Mayor Bob Anderson.

FIRE CHIEF

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Firefighters Civil Service Commission to the mayor for consideration. Those candidates took a 75-question written examination, an oral interview with department staff, and a peer interview by chiefs from fire departments in Virginia, Hibbing and Bemidji. The candidates were also interviewed by the mayor.

In related business, the council approved hiring Amanda Sears as firefighter engineer, the position Mannausau held. Councilors noted Sears represents the first female firefighter, and first female serving in the firefighter engineer position. Jensen said she would have been introduced to the council but was at training to become an emergency medical technician for the ambulance service.

Other action

Anderson told he council he would seek a meeting with the Koochiching County Board to discuss the process of annexing 122 acres of land owned by the city known as the Donahue property.

Councilor Cynthia Jak-

sa raised the issue and said a study of costs to install sewer and water to nearby property was conducted a couple years ago and included the Donahue property. The study was prompted by area residents who requested information on the costs of the services.

Jaksa said city policy calls for those services to be installed only on property within the city limits.

With an investor interested in developing housing on the Donahue property and the city's \$20,000 investment in the study, she said it would be in the best interests of city taxpayers for annexation to move forward.

She said developing homes, which will need water and sewer, will expand the city's tax base thereby reducing the burden on all city taxpayers.

Anderson said following the meeting with the county board, information on property included in annexation would be gathered. After that, he said a meeting with affected property owners should be scheduled.

Councilor Pete Kalar reiterated his concern people who do not want to be a part

of the city should not be forced through annexation.

Meanwhile, as part of the Play Streets Initiative, the council approved closing from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 11, July 9 and Aug. 13 two streets to allow for activities aimed at promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles to take place.

The streets to be closed are Ninth Avenue between Third Street and Fifth Street and Fourth Street between Eighth Avenue and Ninth Avenue.

Nancy Lee, Koochiching County Public Health Department and local coordinator of the Statewide Health Improvement Program known as SHIP, told the council 15-20 organizations and individuals will be asked to get involved by offering demonstrations of various activities including disc golf, exercises, yoga, and street hockey, to name just a few.

She also said the goal is to connect the Community Market and the Community Garden to the activities.

"People can find out about healthy activities they can do and learn about being healthier," she told the council.

Backus Community Cen-

ter will serve up to 250 healthy meals during the Play Street activities.

The council agreed to table the second and final reading of a contract ordinance awarding a bid for infrastructure installation to the multimodal district. The ordinance was tabled because city Attorney Steve Shermoen and Public Works Director Gary Skallman were not present at Monday's meeting to answer questions. The ordinance is scheduled to be revisited at the May 5 meeting.

Councilor Paul Eklund was also absent from Monday's meeting.

The council approved seeking bids for the reconstruction of 18th Street from Second Avenue East to Fifth Avenue East, and 20th Avenue from Shorewood Drive to the south end of constructed 20th Avenue. The project will include excavation, stabilization, culvert replacements, storm sewer replacements, and bituminous paving.

In addition, the council approved seeking bids for the reconstruction of 19th Street from U.S. Highway 53 to County Highway 24, also known as Second Avenue East.

PANTRY BOUND



Volunteers loaded the more than 1,100 pounds of food raised for The Salvation Army Emergency Food Pantry during the International Falls Outdoors Expo held at the end of March at the Evangelical Covenant Church, reports Bev Mayfield, Salvation Army envoy. In addition to the food, Mayfield said \$745 was also donated to the pantry during the expo.

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