

Minutes of December 19, 2021

A special meeting of the Lake Preston Board of Education was held on December 19, 2021, in the main gymnasium at the Lake Preston School. At 12:30, President Carlson called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Steve Carlson, Jerod Olson, Amanda Wienk, Michelle Kooima, Travis Denison, Megan Eichler, and Brett Anderson.

Also present were School Administrators Supt. Felderman, Business Mgr. Curd, Tech Coord Odegaard and Principal Solberg along with Donna Palmlund representing the Kingsbury Journal. There were several community members, students, and staff present along with board members from the Arlington School District and Administration and Board members from the Iroquois School District. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Carlson.

ACTION 68- Motion by Anderson, second by Denison to approve the agenda as proposed. All voted aye, motion carried.

President Carlson gave an opening statement and thanked everyone for attending. He noted that there would be time for public comment after the presentation by Superintendent Felderman and a report from Board Member Anderson. He asked that people keep their questions or comments to two minutes or less. He also asked for those to address the board with their comments or questions and to keep all statements from being derogatory in nature.

Superintendent Felderman presented information regarding average daily memberships (ADM) numbers and enrollment numbers for Lake Preston School along with the same information from DeSmet, Arlington, and Iroquois school districts. He explained that he did reach out to ORR, but with their recent consolidation talks, they did not want to add anything else to their plate at this time. He did not reach out to Hamlin. The Arlington school district has voted to keep all current cooperative sports but does not want to add any additional sports to the cooperative. DeSmet would entertain adding the Lake Preston students to their teams, but only if all activities were in DeSmet and with no mascot or color change. Iroquois has a current co-op with Doland but has stated that they would be interested in splitting with Doland and joining with Lake Preston because of the distance they travel to and from Doland.

Not only did Felderman present ADM numbers, but he also had a spreadsheet that tallied the overall numbers and classification that each partnership would result in. With DeSmet, they would remain nine-man and Class B for two years before jumping to Class A. With Arlington, they would jump to class A, but stay nine-man. With Iroquois, they would remain Class B and nine-man for several years. He noted that this is with current and projected enrollment numbers. He also presented the survey results from staff and students which were largely in favor of joining forces with Iroquois.

Brett Anderson reported on the cooperative committee meetings and what the breakdown of the numbers meant to him. With the cooperative of Lake Preston-Iroquois, he felt that there would be more opportunities for kids to play against kids of their own age rather than 6th graders playing against 8th graders. He mentioned that in the talks, there was discussion on cooperating down into the elementary, so they could start playing together earlier. He also felt that there would be more teams that could be broken down by grade as well. All-in-all, he was in favor with a cooperative sports venture with Iroquois.

President Carlson then opened the floor to public comment and went around with the microphone so each question could be heard and addressed. After roughly an hour, all public comments were addressed, and the board began discussing their options. All appeared to be in favor of dissolving with Arlington and joining Iroquois. Anderson asked if anyone would like to think on it, or if everyone was ready to vote tonight.

Old Business

ACTION 69- Motion by Anderson, second by Denison to dissolve the Arlington-Lake Preston co-op in both football and competitive cheer and move forward with a co-op between Lake Preston and Iroquois in all sports, excluding wrestling where we will stay the Kingsbury Knights. Business Manger Curd requested a roll call vote with the following votes being cast: Anderson - aye, Denison -aye, Carlson -aye, Kooima -aye, Wienk – aye, Olson -aye, Eichler -aye. Motion passes unanimously.

ACTION 70 - Motion by Anderson, second by Kooima to adjourn the meeting. All present voted aye, motion carried. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 12:30 PM in the Superintendent’s Conference Room.

Kristi Curd
Business Manager

Steve Carlson
President of Board

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