



Building a Bridge to the Future



ZM MESSENGER

SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

I hope this update finds you and your family safe and well. The Governor of Minnesota gave us information on a plan moving forward for the next month. Starting March 30 and running through April 30 Minnesota schools will be teaching through Distance Learning. This is a new way of delivering education during this critical health crisis.

During the past week our school community has been preparing for Distance Learning. This new approach will be new for teachers, parents, and for students. One important factor that will make this successful is communication. The framework of a Distance Learning plan is in place, but the reality is that we will make it more perfect once we start the implementation.

Teachers will refine and improve this delivery method through feedback from you and our students. I appreciate your support as we move through this. We are very grateful to have the resources in the State of Minnesota and in Zumbrota-Mazeppa to be able to deliver education in this fashion. Other States and regions have had to simply cancel the year. To that extent, we are very fortunate to use our resources to continue to educate.

I am very proud of the work our staff has put into this and the support we have been receiving from parents and guardians. Please note that this will be very different for you and your

child. You will likely be more involved in your child’s education. If something is not working or you need support, please reach out to your child’s teacher(s).

A reminder that the school buildings will be closed to the public. Our staff are completing essential work for the district and when possible doing telework as instructed by the State. You can still call offices and email staff for anything you may need.

Our district’s Distance Learning Plan is posted on the school website. Note that as this moves forward it can be changed and when it does specific grade levels and students will be notified.

Our district will continue to provide Emergency Worker Child-care and Grab and Go Lunches for students during this time. The State of Minnesota has also requested a waiver from the Federal Government to cancel MCA tests for this Spring. So, there will be no MCA tests this Spring.

Thank you for your support and stay posted as we will give more information as we have it.

Mike Harvey Zumbrota-Mazeppa
Superintendent of Schools

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CONSTRUCTION CLASS HOME

The ZM Vocational Construction house is a beautiful 2,005 square foot home at 470 Lancaster Blvd in Zumbrota. The school board set the minimum bid at \$299,000. If you are interested in this quality home, contact the advisor, Brandon Roth, at 507-273-2992 for home details or call the ZM District Office at 507-732-1400.





In an effort to follow the USDA and Minnesota Governor Walz's orders to minimize the possible transmission of COVID-19, ZM will be bundling the Grab 'n Go meals currently being served.

BEGINNING MARCH 30
ZM WILL OFFER GRAB 'N GO
LUNCH/BREAKFAST
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY ONLY
FROM 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.



Students do not need to be present to pick up the Grab 'n Go meals.

The USDA is allowing meal pick up by anyone representing children ages 0-18, again in an effort to reduce disease transmission.

Primary School – 799 Mill Street, Zumbrota, Door 17

Elementary School – 343 Third Ave NE, Mazeppa, Door 1

If you need meal delivery, contact Katie Kennedy at 507-732-7848 or by email at katiek-sw@zmsch.k12.mn.us or call the District Office at 507-732-1400.

Monday's Grab 'n Go meal will contain 2 lunches and 2 breakfasts

Wednesday's Grab 'n Go meal will contain 3 lunches and 3 breakfasts

Thank you for your cooperation as ZM strives to provide meals for our children while decreasing the spread of COVID-19.

Zumbrota-Mazeppa employees are here for the district families and most importantly, our students! Please keep in touch and up to date through email, the web page, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Some of the offices may have limited hours, depending upon MN Department of Health and state or federal instructions; however, you should be able to reach the offices via phone or email during regular hours. ZM is committed to serving our district residents through this difficult, unusual time and updates will be available on the website as they become available.

District Office: 507-732-1400

Primary Office (Grades PreK-2): 507-732-7848

Elementary Office (Grades 3-6): 507-732-1420

Middle/High School Office (Grades 7-12): 507-732-7395



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The ZM School Board held their monthly meeting on March 23 in the elementary gym. The usual business was conducted, including payment of bills.

Recognition was given to the Bank of Zumbrota for their donation to the soccer program, the Zumbrota VFW Post 5727 for their robotics donation, and to the Zumbrota Telephone for their after-prom donation.

Reports: Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on meetings, the principals were not in attendance. Their reports were available for review, along with the activities director's winter sports report.

Mr. Harvey reported enrollment was at 1,321. SMS will attend the April 13 work session to give their financial report.

There was no patron input.

Old Business: The following 2020-21 school year extended contracts were approved::

- Counselor(s) - Five (5) days for Angela Hunstad and ten (10) days for Chelsie Lockner (\$1,763 plus ten days for the new counselor)
- Technology Coordinator - 40 days (\$15,294)
- Brandon Roth - 23 days (\$7,792)
- Tim McAthie - 20 days (\$7,647)
- Andrea Siewert - 20 days (\$5,417)

The board approved the hire of a 1.0 FTE custodian and 0.5 FTE special education administrative secretary beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

The board approved the bid from Southern Minnesota Woodcraft for \$195,150 for the primary school building and Cougar Case casework supply package.

No bids were received for the 2019-20 construction house as of the March 20 bidding deadline. Since there were no bids and no one was interested in the adjoining lot, the school will build on that lot in the next school year. The current year's house will continue to be advertised with the minimum bid set at \$299,000.

The bid of \$725.00 from Douglas Stegemann for the 2005 Montana van was approved. The school bus transportation bid from Kennedy Transportation for the 2020-2022 school years with the opportunity to extend the contract after those two years for the 2022-2024 school years.

The revised district policies were approved:

- #643 Controversial Issues
- #645 Assurance of Mastery (this policy will be discontinued as per MSBA recommendation)
- #646 Educational Choice Program
- #722 Public Data Requests
- #730 Snowmobiles

- #740 Food Service (this policy will be discontinued as per MSBA recommendation)
- #803 Drills and Emergencies (this policy will be discontinued as per MSBA recommendation)
- #811 Distribution of Information
- #812 Security Policy
- #810 Salespersons and Solicitors

New Business: The consent agenda, along with payment of bills, was approved s follows:

1. Approval of Minutes—2/24/2020 School Board Minutes and 3/9/2020 Work Session Minutes
2. Hire of Emma Utley, Cougar Care, beginning 3/16/20
3. Approval of the resignation of Ashley Clark, Program Teaching Assistant, effective 3/13/2020 and Marianne Warweg, Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings, effective 4/3/2020,
4. Approval of Tenure for Chelsie Lockner and Lenora Oliver.
5. Approval of Reassignment - none
6. Approval of Childcare Leave - none
7. Approval of Terminations - none
8. Approval of Fundraisers - none
9. Approval of Donations from the Bank of Zumbrota \$200 for soccer, Zumbrota Telephone \$100 for after prom, and Zumbrota VFW Post 5727 for robotics,
10. Approval of Grants - none
11. Approval of Lane Changes - none
12. Approval of Bill Consideration: Ms. Miller - Reviewer and Ms. Peters - April

Mr. Harvey reviewed the Goodhue County Education District's budget and contracted services. The current ZM costs were outlined and discussed. Mr. Harvey will continue to monitor the costs and services provided to ZM.

Mr. Harvey discussed the COVID-19 situation and how it relates to distance learning that will begin March 30. He also discussed bus transportation and funding for SPED transportation. The school is waiting for guidance from the state level as to what funding will be available and what will be reimbursed. It is not clear whether special education funding will become available for one on one paras or transportation.

Mr. Harvey informed the board that students are not allowed to work on the construction house during the school closure time. Since the house needs to be finished, there was discussion on whether to ask for volunteers or to post for workers.

Wendt/Miller motion to approve advertising for workers to finish the 2019-20 construction house.

Mr. Harvey informed the board that schools are waiting for the Minnesota State High School League to make a decision whether spring sports will continue. There was also discussion on whether to refund the spring sports fees and whether to pay the spring coaches' salaries. More information will need to be available before final decisions are made.

School Board Meeting Minutes, continued from page 4

The board approved tenure for Brandon Roth.

Other items discussed included future school board meetings and whether they should be live streamed instead of meeting as a group. Due to the restrictions on public meetings, it was felt the April 13 and 27 meetings should be off-site and via phone or live-streaming. Mr. Harvey updated the board on the school construction project. If things shut down more, he is not sure construction will begin; however, bidding is moving forward in the expectation things will continue. Mr. Harvey will bring the fund balance policy back at a later date. Ms. Roth thanked the school administration and employees for their work and professionalism during the COVID-19 epidemic. Minutes were available from the Southeast Service Cooperative and the Goodhue County Education District. There were no minutes from the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative.

There were no pertinent dates due to the school closure and there were no future agenda items. The closed session was not held at this time. The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM BEFORE SCHOOL CLOSURE



Elementary students enjoyed the Read a Latte afternoon with hot chocolate and good books



1st graders made a marble maze out of Legos



FFA made a yummy staff breakfast



Gustavus Adolphus Honor Choir Participants



Work Session Minutes

The school board held their monthly work session on March 9 in the elementary media center. Items for Discussion included:

1. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Review:
SMS representatives, Todd Netzke and Nicole Fitzgerald, presented budget information, along with the 2021 budget projection and the projected enrollment numbers.
2. 2020-21 Personnel Discussions:
The technology coordinator, activities director, and peer coaches are under the teacher master agreement; however, in order for them to not lose tenure, they need to be on a Teacher on Special Assignment contract also. These contracts will be on the March 23 agenda for approval.

Extended day contracts for the following will be on the March 23 agenda for approval:

- Counselor(s) - 5 days and 10 days (\$1,763 plus 10 days for the new counselor)
- Technology Coordinator - 40 days (\$15,294)
- Brandon Roth - 23 days (\$7,792)
- Tim McAthie - 20 days (\$7,647)
- Andrea Siewert - 20 days (\$5,417)

The addition of a special education administrative assistant (0.5 FTE) will be on the March 23 agenda for approval. This person will help with special education paperwork and transportation.

Addition of a custodial position. This hire will add back the reduced position from a few years ago. It will be an action item on March 23.

Nursing services. Tiffany Boraas gave a school year update on the current needs at ZM. The student load has increased steadily, and she requested the hire of an additional nurse in the next year to help with this need. Ideally she would like to see a licensed school nurse and an LPN for PreK-6 and a licensed nurse for grades 7-12 and Christ Lutheran. There will be more discussion on this at a later date.

3. Strategic Planning Information and Discussion:

Mr. Harvey checked with various companies that facilitate strategic planning and many are not available for a few months. He presented a five-year action plan with manageable goals to the board that he would facilitate and that would tie in with the Minnesota Department of Education's pathways. The board was in favor of this proposal and gave their approval to his pursuing this route.

4. Building Project Updates and Discussion:

Mr. Harvey noted that the casement (cabinet) bids are due March 18. The site survey and boring samples are being completed this week, and the final Cougar Care and Primary building meeting is on Tuesday.

5. Policy Review:

MSBA does not consider the following policies mandatory so there are no updates to review.

- 643 Controversial Issues
It is recommended that this policy be discontinued as ZM has adopted the recommended MSBA policies 618, 619, and 620 as replacements.
- 645 Assurance of Mastery
- 646 Educational Choice Program
- 722 Public Data Requests
- 730 Snowmobiles
- 740 Food Service
It is recommended that this policy be discontinued as ZM has adopted MSBA policy 534 Unpaid Meal Charges.
- 803 Drills and Emergencies



Work Session Minutes, continued from page 5

- It is recommended that this policy be discontinued as ZM has MSBA's 806 Crisis Management policy adopted.
- 811 Distribution of Information
- 812 Security Policy
- 810 Salespersons and Solicitors

6. Covid 19 Response:

Mr. Harvey discussed a possible response to a Covid 19 outbreak. He said the school would follow the Minnesota Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control's recommendations. He said a mister has been purchased that is able to disinfect rooms more efficiently.

7. Cougar Care and Primary Pre-construction Prep:

All rooms will be cleaned out and storage will be in the primary gym with a protective floor covering placed on the new gym floor. Teachers will be responsible for boxing and labels items of value and the boxes will be placed on pallets and shrink wrapped, and then moved from the hallway to the gym via a pallet jack.

8. Last Day of School:

Teachers will have an early out on the last teacher day in order to prepare for the construction. No one will be allowed in the primary/cougar care buildings once construction begins.

9. Items for the March 23 meeting include discussion on a new fund balance policy and a closed session after the regular meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Elementary Ignite students make "cellphones" and HS students attended a Rochester school board meeting for integration and achievement



Elementary students of the month recognition