



Building a Bridge to the Future



ZM MESSENGER

In accordance with Governor Walz' executive order, masks are required in all ZM School buildings and grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

Whoo Hoo! The new primary playground is in!!

Primary students are excited to have their playground back and with all new equipment! Just in time for the snow and fun!



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WHAT'S COMING UP?

- 12/23 - Teacher Workday/No students
- 12/24-1/1/21 - Holiday Break
- 1/4/2 - School Resumes
- 1/4/21 - Organization and Work Session Meetings, 6:00 p.m.
- 1/13 - Early Release
- 1/18 - No School/Teacher Workday

Happy Holidays & New Year from ZM!!



Meal Distribution Notice: Three breakfasts and three lunches will be distributed Wed. December 30 to cover the January 4, 5, & 6, 2021 meals. Pick up will be at the regular distribution sites. Weekly meal distribution will resume Wed., January 6 from 1:30-2:00 p.m. at the designated sites.



If you are a 7-12 grade student you have the opportunity to become a member of the new ESports club at ZM. This club will have tournaments during the month of January with the possibility for more tournaments throughout the school year.

The two featured games in the tournaments will be Super Smash Bros. and Rocket League. The tournaments will be held in conjunction with the ESports club at Goodhue High School giving students the opportunity to play against both Goodhue and ZM students.

If you are a student interested in joining this new club, contact Mr. Warneke at nathanw@zmsch.k12.mn.us. More information will be made available in the coming weeks.



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The school board held their monthly work session on Monday, December 14 via Zoom. The following items were discussed:

- The following policies were submitted for board review and possible adoption at the December 21 meeting: #204 School Board Meeting Minutes, #205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings, #206 Public Participation in School Board Meetings, #208 Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies, #209 Code of Ethics, #210 Conflict of Interest, #211 Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, #212 School Board Member Development, #213 School Board Committees, #301 District Administration, and #302 Superintendent.
- Audit Report Presentation and Approval: Andrew Forliti of Smith Schafer & Associates presented the 2019-20 school audit. He reviewed the financial statements and gave a PowerPoint presentation. The audit was deemed a clean audit. The board approved the audit as presented.
- Construction Update: the middle/high school bid opening will be held December 17. The bids for the elementary school are scheduled to be held in late January.
- Budget Update and Review: Nicole Fitzgerald reviewed the current budget revenue and expenditures.
- Covid 19 Update and Discussion: Mr. Harvey said the Covid team will be meeting again next week. The county numbers have been holding fairly steady. There will be upcoming discussion on whether to bring the middle/high school students back after the Christmas break and before the first semester ends on January 15, 2021.
- Request for Proposals for Food Service Management Services: ZM's contract with Lunchtime Solutions will expire in the upcoming year and the school will need to advertise for proposals. This will begin after the Christmas break.
- Activities Director/Dean of Students: Interviews were held for the activities director/dean of students position. It was recommended that Tony Brown be hired for this position and the board approved his hire beginning July 1, 2021. Mr. Brown will also receive a \$10,000 stipend for administrative duties between January 19 and June 30, 2021.
- Superintendent Vacation Time: Due to Covid 19, Mr. Harvey was not able to use five vacation days this year and they will expire December 31. He requested that the board roll these days over for one year and the board did approve this request.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

The Truth in Taxation hearing and adoption meeting was held via Zoom beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A PowerPoint presentation of the audited balance as of June 30, 2020 and the fund balance projection as of June 30, 2021 was reviewed. The comparison of the proposed pay 2021 tax to the adopted pay 2020 was presented by business manager, Nicole Fitzgerald.

The public was given an opportunity to ask questions via phone or chat on the Zoom meeting or to email the board chair. There were none.

The board adopted a resolution that the levy to be levied in 2020 and collected in 2021 to be set at \$5,921,859.52 and the school board clerk was authorized to certify the proposed levy to the county auditor of Wabasha County, Minnesota.

The regular monthly meeting followed the Truth in Taxation meeting, again via Zoom.

Recognition and congratulations was given to the Triple A Award winners Annika Angerman and Soren Hellyer and the ExCEL Award winner Addie Voxland. These students will move on to section competition now.

Mr. Anderson's report was submitted and read by Mr. Harvey. Grade 6-11 registration information will be distributed in early January with registering planned for that month as well. Thanks were extended to Andrea Siewert and the FFA, Katie Kennedy and the 7-12 ZM student government, and to Tim Sanborn and the Mazeppa Lions for the monetary donation to purchase a holiday gift for all 7-21 students. The Triple A and ExCEL award winners were congratulated.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the elementary school. He thanked staff for the tremendous job they are doing this year amid all the issues. He also thanked Jessica Holst for her work with setting up the process for language arts curriculum development.

Ms. Ahern reported for the primary school. The new playground is a great hit with the students and the construction project is on schedule. There will be adjustment to the lunchroom/recess pods after break when the 7-12 grade students return. The science curriculum has been ordered and language arts is next. The Fastbridge assessment will begin after the holiday break.

Mr. Harvey reported that enrollment numbers were 1,264. Any board members wishing to attend the MSBA virtual conference in January should let Brenda know for registration purposes.

There was no patron input.

Old Business: The board approved the following district policies that were reviewed at the December work session:

- #204 School Board Meeting Minutes
- #205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings
- #206 Public Participation in School Board Meetings
- #208 Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies
- #209 Code of Ethics
- #210 Conflict of Interest
- #211 Criminal or Civil Action Against School District
- #212 School Board Member Development
- #213 School Board Committees
- #301 District Administration
- #302 Superintendent

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AWARD WINNERS AT ZM ANNOUNCED

TRIPLE A AWARD WINNERS FOR 2020

Congratulations to Annika Angerman & Soren Hellyer who have been named this year’s ZMHS Sub-Section Four Triple A award winners. This MN State High School League award recognizes seniors who have excelled in the areas of academics, arts, and athletics. These two seniors will move on to complete with other seniors in the sub-section category.



EXCEL AWARD

The ExCEL award—Excellence in community, education, and leadership, is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, leaders in their schools, and who demonstrate a strong commitment to community service. Congratulations to Addie Voxland for being named the ZM recipient of the MSHSL ExCEL award!



Congratulations to these outstanding ZM students!



FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-18

ZM Schools is offering free breakfast and lunch for children ages 0-18 through a state waiver program. This program is similar to the Grab ‘n Go meal program that ran this past summer. The waiver for the free meal program will only be in effect until December 31, 2020 or earlier if funds are exhausted. Meals are free to any child age 0-18. ZM requests that the distance learners (NOT the hybrid students) also use this form for ordering meals. (Students currently in school, including hybrid students, are already covered under the free meal program explained in the article above).

To order breakfast and lunch for the week, parents/guardians should complete and submit the form each **Monday by 8:00 a.m.** Meals will be available for pick up by an adult or child/student between 1:30-2:00 p.m. each Wednesday at Door 1 in Mazeppa or the Primary School Door in Zumbrota. It is important that the meals are picked up promptly between the required time frame. Questions? Call 507-732-1400.

Note that the parent/guardian needs to submit a new order form each Monday to ensure an accurate count for Wednesday pick up. The form is available on the school website (www.zmschools.us) under the “What’s Happening”.

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

FCCLA-Leo Club

The officers of the FCCLA-Leo Club recently put together thank you bags for the high school teachers, paras, lunch ladies, and office staff to thank them for all their work during these hard times and as a day brightener as they teach from empty classrooms!

The bags contained fuzzy socks, chips, a gift card, and a special saying.





Message From the Superintendent

Parents and Guardians,

A quick update to you from Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools. We want to give you a few pieces of new information and some reminders.

Thankfully, we did not see a major uptick in cases following the Thanksgiving break. This is undoubtedly because of the actions and precautions that many of you took during this time. In the past two weeks we have had 5 positive student cases and three positive staff cases. None of these cases have been traced back to the school as the origin. Three of the students are currently online learners. Fortunately, only one of these cases resulted in the quarantine of additional students and staff. With over 1400 in our school community our active cases still remain low. We are taking all the precautions to keep kids and staff safe and work with public health to determine our learning model. We are very fortunate to have our Pre-K-6 in session every day and look forward to planning for the return of our 7-12 in some form of in person school soon.

Changes will be coming to the quarantine rules for some and Tiffany will share that with you as soon as the changes can be made. The changes are a little more complex than the past rules and will require more tracking and communication for those involved. The changes in quarantine will be implemented after the 1st of the year. Some of these changes will be critical to maintaining our staffing and will help reduce the impact of longer quarantines on student learners. Although changes are happening in some cases, in other cases the 14 day quarantine will still be in effect. This includes people who live in the same household as a positive Covid 19 person. Tiffany will clarify this more next week as MDH just rolled this out to local public health.

It is still important to report positive student cases to Tiffany even if you are distance or online learning. Tiffany tracks reported cases with County indicated cases to help us get a clear picture of what is happening with our 7-12 learners. The County does not share case names with us, only the number of cases in our Community by age group. Knowing who these cases are will help us know when it is safe to bring 7-12 back into school. The other important factor is that students who have been positive and participate in activities are required by the MSHSL to do a 7 day return to play protocol. Knowing this information as soon as possible allows for players to get into the game and return to play. For instance, Dance is still doing ZOOM practices and a player could complete their return to play in a virtual format and be ready for when competition starts.

7-12 students- We understand that online learning is less than the desired mode of learning for many in the 7-12 building. Unfortunately, because of the circumstance and executive orders this is not possible. In speaking with teachers, students who struggle the most are the students who do not log in every time there is class or only log in for part of the time. Attending online class is the best way to ensure success. If your child is struggling, reach out to the teachers for assistance. Many are scheduling individual ZOOM meetings and calls with students. We have three weeks left in the semester so there is time left. If many assignments have been left undone to this point it will be a challenge, but possible. Teachers want your children to be successful and will work to make sure this happens. It is however difficult to do weeks of work in the last day or two of a semester.

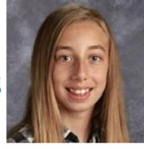
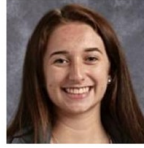
Lunch- Lunches and Breakfasts are still available for free for 7-12 students. Parents can order a weeks' worth of lunches and breakfasts Monday morning and pick these up on Wednesdays. As stated this Spring the more lunches we serve the better for the district and food service. The required labor in ordering and assembly between 100 meals and 400 meals is small and we can benefit from the economies of scale by preparing and serving more lunches.

Thank you again—We are working very hard to keep your kids in school. A big thank you to all our staff for the work they are doing in this effort.

Michael Harvey, Superintendent of Schools

Some Holiday Smiles from ZM!





**Congratulations,
Blue Jacket Bright Futures
recipients!**

Congratulations to our seven members who are receiving a free FFA jacket through the Blue Jackets Bright Futures program!

They were selected through an application process, which was organized by the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

Congratulations to Jack B, Ella D, Kayla E, Rachel E, Kaylee P, Owen T, and Logan W.

Thank you to the following businesses/organizations who sponsored our members' FFA jackets:

- Zumbrota Ford
- Olmsted-South Wabasha Corn & Soybean Growers Association
- C & G Hardware of Goodhue - Charlie & Grace P.

School Board Minutes, continued from page 2

The consent agenda was approved, including payment of bills.

1. Approval of minutes
[11/23/2020 Meeting](#)
[12/14/20 Work Session](#)
2. Approval of Hires
Robin Stutz, Paraprofessional, beginning 12/14/2020
Megan Ryan, Long-term Substitute Teacher, 1/4/21-3/31/21
Anne Idler, Long-term Substitute Teacher, 1/18/21-5/26/21
3. Approval of Resignations
Brianna Albers, Cougar Care, effective 8/23/2019
4. Approval of Retirement
Brenda Windhorst, District Office Secretary, effective 4/1/2021
5. Approval of Tenure - none
6. Approval of Reassignment - none
7. Approval of Childcare Leave
Jamie Ringstad, 4/23/21 to end of the 20-21 school year
8. Approval of Terminations - none
9. Approval of Fundraisers - none
10. Approval of Donations - none
11. Approval of Grants -none
12. Approval of Lane Changes - none
13. Approval of Bill Consideration
Ms. Bredehoft December and Mr. Lohmann January

The middle school/high school construction bids were approved as presented in the amount of \$11,580,863.00.

The board approved the learning model beginning January 4, 2021 as follows:

1. CDC and MDH change in guidance on quarantine times
2. Grades 7-12 will return to the A/B hybrid schedule
3. Sports will resume and the school will continue to monitor for cases.

Tiffany Boraas, Covid 19 Coordinator, informed the board that asymptomatic testing will be offered every two weeks for staff beginning in January. Schools are required to offer this, but staff is not required to participate. The board approved the recommendation to extend Mrs. Boraas' contracted hours through June 30, 2021.

The board approved the purchase of a Mazeppa property that will allow the school to construct a parking lot in the summer of 2022 across from the large gym in Mazeppa.

Dawn Guse was in attendance to request permission to allow her to organize a trip in May 2021 to Washington D.C. for this year's high school seniors instead of going through the Close-Up organization. This will allow this year's seniors to experience the DC trip without being exposed to hundreds of other students from around the United States. She will organize and chaperone the trip and students. The board approved this request.

Board Comments and Reports: Chair Roth thanked the ZM staff, nursing staff, students, and families for their cooperation and work this school year. There were no new minutes from the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative, Goodhue County Education District, or the Southeast Service Cooperative.

Pertinent Dates:

1. 12/23 - Teacher Workday/No students
2. 12/24-1/1/21 - Holiday Break
3. 1/4/2 - School Resumes
4. 1/4/21 - Organization and Work Session Meetings, 6:00 p.m.
5. 1/13 - Early Release
6. 1/18 - No School/Teacher Workday.

There were no future agenda items and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ZM

