

E/NL offers superintendent contract

By Luann Dart

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The Elgin/New Leipzig (E/NL) School District board of education has offered a contract to a new superintendent following finalist interviews last week. Sherlock Hirning, a former superintendent at the Divide County School District in Crosby, accepted the board's offer following negotiations, which included a special executive session Monday morning, April 21. Current Superintendent Russ Ziegler has submitted

his resignation to the district, effective June 30, after accepting a position as superintendent with the Richardton-Taylor School District. The E/NL board screened seven applications during an executive session as part of its regular meeting April 16. The field was narrowed to three finalists to interview April 19, including Hirning, Shane Sagert and Cheryl Peterson. Two representatives with Dakota Leadership Solutions, Jack Maus and Dr. Mike Bitz, assisted with the process. Maus, a retired superintendent, spent

ten years as a teacher, coach and principal in New Leipzig. Bitz is currently superintendent for the Mandan School District. To aid in recruitment of a new superintendent, the school board utilized the services of Dakota Leadership Solutions for a base fee of \$6,000. The North Dakota-based organization assists districts with recruitment, applicant screening, coordinating interviews, participates in negotiating a contract and provides up to ten hours of mentorship for the new hire during the first year of employment. During a ranking

process following the interviews last week, six of seven board members listed Hirning as their first choice. In a motion to offer Hirning a one-year contract, Amanda Petrick voted no, while the other six board members voted yes. Following negotiations, the board offered Hirning a starting salary of \$125,000 and a one-year contract. Hirning has served 27 years as a superintendent at school districts in South Dakota, worked in Kuwait for two years, then returned to North Dakota, where he was with the Divide County School

District for 12 years. During his interview, he asked the board about the district's budget, transportation, student test scores and if any board members had family members employed by the district. The Crosby Journal reported Hirning resigned as superintendent of the Divide County School District in a letter dated Jan. 31, citing "personal and family reasons" for his departure. Sagert was the Parshall school superintendent, placed on administrative leave earlier this year "pending the results of a second third-

party investigation in three months," the Minot Daily News reported Feb. 6. Sagert also served as superintendent for the Roosevelt Public School in Carson for a year in 2015-16. Peterson is listed as a principal with the Vallejo City United School District and served as superintendent of the Drayton Public School in 2023. However, during the interviews, Maus indicted none of the three candidates were currently employed. The newspaper could not verify that information.

Elgin/New Leipzig Public School Board Proceedings

ELGIN/NEW LEIPZIG PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 49 SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
February 14, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Elgin/New Leipzig Public School, Elgin
Subject to Board Approval
Board members present: Andy Rosin, Randy Fischer, Amanda Petrick, Chad Gappert, Chris Zimmerman, Lamont Gaugler. Also present: Superintendent Russ Ziegler, Secondary Principal Terry Bentz, Elementary Principal Jared Bollom, Luann Dart - Press.
Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Roll call was taken: All Present
Board Norms were read by the President.
Harding/Gappert motion to approve agenda with addition

of D under old business; second reading of policies - Motion carried.
Zimmerman/Gappert motion to approve minutes from January 10 and January 18 - Motion carried.
Gappert/Harding motion to approve financial report - Motion carried.
List of bills presented for payment.
6 in 1 Meats 917.00, Ace Dairy 1796.66, Advanced Business Methods 1240.42, Associated Supply 1743.99, Bismarck US Foods 12124.70, Braun Dist. 399.40, BSN Sports 1337.34, Cenex Fleetcard 74.55, City of Elgin 939.00, Continental Athletic, Supply 1984.83, D&E Supply 785.14, C Doll 38.61, Eckroth Music 397095, Elgin True Value 190.79, GS Publishing 677.30, Interstate Battery 185.40, Jostens 90.22, Linde Gas 41.12, Marco 3685.21,

Marco Tech 191.20, S Meyhoff 159.17, Northern Bottling 1223.20, T Pelkofer 2257.49, R Family Market 217.40, K Scholes 58.00, Steins 452.25, Stelter Repair 495.00, Sysco 823.00, Turtle Lake Mercer School 32300.00, WRT 368.28, Wutzke Elec 246.91
Gaugler/Rosin motion to approve bills for payment - Motion carried.
Superintendent Report given by Russ Ziegler. Topics discussed: Boiler going good, NCI Training, Budget, U of Mary Lead Teacher Training, teacher maternity leave
Elementary Principals Report given by Jared Bollom. Topics discussed: Student count 104 FT, 3 PT totaling 107, 14 staff, 4 shared positions, TSI Progress, DPI Feedback - everything looking positive, Swimming Lessons going good, Playground retrofit updates, NWEA Winter Testing is almost complete.
Secondary Principal's Report given by Terry Bentz. Topics discussed: Girls and Boys BB winding down - district tournament going on, Girls

GCMR took second, Boys 2/17, There are 4 GCMR on honorable mention team, NHS Random Acts of Kindness, FFA Week is next week, Annual FFA Labor Auction scheduled later, Spelling Bee at Carson Feb 6 - ENL students took second and third. One to go to State, Regional Academics Competition March 8 and March 22, GCHS Prom April 6, Hospitality Room Donation from FIBT, Pre-registration for grades 6-11 on Tuesday 2/20, Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 12.
Above and Beyond - Freshman Class for helping up with the flood clean-up, Ameerah and Delany for bringing the leak to our attention.
School Board Highlights: Amanda Petrick was November and Andy Rosin was in December.
Committee Reports:
Finance Committee - Review budget numbers
Building Committee - Review Core Proposals, discussions include: doors and pool boiler, Elem flooring, HS flooring, Scissor lift

Gappert/Harding motion to put together an RFP for Pool Boiler and Pool Doors - advertise.
Roll Call Vote: Rosin - Y, Gaugler - Y, Fischer - Y, Zimmerman - Y, Petrick - Y, Harding - Y, Gappert - Y - Motion carried.
Old Business
Web Site Update - up and going, in process of updating Mascot and Colors - Winning colors were Teal/White/Black and the Mascot is Jaguars
Canvassed the votes
Rosin/Harding motion to approve Mascot and Colors
Roll Call Vote: Harding - Y, Gappert - Y, Petrick - Y, Rosin - Y, Fischer - Y, Zimmerman - Y, Gaugler - Y - Motion carried.
Working on logos - will meet with committee end of February
School Calendar - Changes to March
Rosin/Zimmerman move to rescind motion for Calendar Approval from 1/10/23 - Motion carried.
Rosin/Zimmerman motion to accept new calendar with

changes - Motion carried.
Second Reading of following: ABCE, ABEL, ACCA, DBC, DGB, DHBL, DHBE, FCAF, FHD, FFC, ABDA
Gaugler/Rosin motion to accept Policies with changes for second reading - Motion carried.
New Business
Petrick/Rosin approve contracts for 2nd Year after March 15 to be due back by April 1 - Motion carried.
Gaugler/Gappert motion to accept Pledge of Securities after review - Motion carried.
Superintendent Evaluation due March 13 - Link coming
Next Meeting is March 11 at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:39 p.m.
/s/Randy Fischer
Randy Fischer, President
/s/Gayle Beyer
Gayle Beyer, Business Manager
Published April 25, 2024

Elgin/New Leipzig Public School Board Proceedings

ELGIN/NEW LEIPZIG PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 49 SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
March 11, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Elgin/New Leipzig Public School, Elgin
Subject to Board Approval
Board members present: Andy Rosin, Randy Fischer, Amanda Petrick, Chad Gappert, Chris Zimmerman, Lamont Gaugler. Also present: Superintendent Russ Ziegler, Secondary Principal Terry Bentz, Elementary Principal Jared Bollom, Gayle Beyer, Business Manager, Luann Dart, Press.
Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Roll call was taken: Larissa Harding absent
Board Norms were read by the President.
Gappert/Zimmerman motion to approve minutes with move of Mark Meyer and add flag - Motion carried.
Mark Meyer to address the board regarding grants to the schools.
Gaugler/Gappert motion to allow Meyer and Dart to research grants for the school - Motion carried.
Rosin/Gappert motion to approve minutes from February 14 meeting - Motion carried.
Gappert/Zimmerman motion to approve financial report - Motion carried.
List of bills presented for

payment.
Advanced Business Methods 1240.42, Cenex 74.55, City of Elgin 939.00, D&E Supply 785.14, Elgin True Value 190.79, GS Publishing 677.30, Interstate Battery 185.40, Linde Gas 41.12, Marco 3685.21, Marco Tech 191.20, S Meyhoff 159.17, R Family Market 25.40, K Scholes 58.00, Stelter 495.00, Turtle Lake -Mercer School 32,300.00, WRT 368.28, Wutzke Elec 246.91, Assoc Supply 1743.99, US Foods 115.45, Braun Dist. 399.40, BSN 1337.34, Continental Athletic Supply 1984.83, Eckroth Music 397.95, Jostens 90.92, Northern Bottling 1223.20, T Pelkofer 2257.49, R Family Market 192.00, 6 in 1 Meats 917.00, Bismarck Foods 12,009.25, Sysco North Dakota 823.00, C Doll 38.61, Ace Dairy 1796.66, Steins 452.25
Rosin/Gaugler motion to approve bills for payment - Motion carried.
Superintendent Report given by Russ Ziegler. Topics discussed: No report at this time
Secondary Principal's Report given by Terry Bentz. Topics discussed: Girls and Boys Basketball, Both girls and boys earned team scholar award, Track practice started, Storm Boys Golf sign up, FBLA State convention, NHS has 6 new members, Regional Academics, Regional Science Fair, Emily Meyer moving on to State, Elem VB Started, Parent/Teacher

Conferences, Spring Break, Pre Registration worked well, Spring is testing time, PD day on April 19, Awards presentation on May 13, Graduation on May 19, SICC update meetings in Apr and May.
Elementary Principals Report given by Jared Bollom. Topics discussed: Student count 103 FT, 3 PT totaling 106, 14 staff, TSI 2nd quarter report due Mar 29, Student Engagement Results back - very positive, 2nd round of swimming going well, NWCA Testing on the 18th, NDSA testing on 4/15, Dyslexia Screening, Star Math and Reading Testing
Above and Beyond - Terry Bentz for wok on the BB co-op.
Committee Reports:
Co-op - Met a week ago with Mott, discussed logo and school song. Meeting on Monday to discuss.
Building Committee - Schedule Elem flooring for end of May, Still waiting on answers on free flooring, getting prices on gym floor, getting quotes for pool heater as single entity, Old boiler room, Landscaping - getting quotes, Pool doors, Floor scrubber
Finance Committee - ES-SER and Misc. Fund discussion
Negotiation Committee - addressed hourly staff and established date for Elem Principal/ Counselor contract
Gaugler/Gappert motion to go in to Executive Session at 7:24 p.m.
Football and Girls Golf reconciliation reviewed.
Gaugler/Gappert motion to accept and approve reconciliation - Motion carried.
New Business

Teacher resignation letter reviewed.
Petrick/Zimmerman motion to approve resignation - Motion carried.
Elementary VB work agreement.
Zimmerman-Gappert motion to approve with wage adjustment to \$40,560 - Motion carried.
Gate Prices - discuss to raise rates for next year - will discuss this over the summer.
Superintendent Search - policy and resumes reviewed.
Gaugler/Gappert motion to hire DLS to do our Superintendent Search.
Roll Call Vote: Gappert - Yes, Fischer - Yes, Zimmerman - Yes, Petrick - Yes, Rosin - Yes, Gaugler - Yes - Motion carried.
Flag in Gym - try to get donations from Legions and Bank in New Leipzig for drop in flag.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 p.m.
/s/Randy Fischer
Randy Fischer, President
/s/Gayle Beyer
Gayle Beyer, Business Manager
Published April 25, 2024

Elgin/New Leipzig Public School Board Proceedings

ELGIN/NEW LEIPZIG PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 49 SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
March 4, 2024
5:00 p.m.

Elgin/New Leipzig Public School, Elgin
Board members present: Lamont Gaugler, Chad Gappert, Chris Zimmerman, Amanda Petrick, Andy Rosin, Larissa Harding, Randy Fischer Also present: Business Manager Gayle Beyer.
Call to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge recited.
Roll Call: Lamont Gaugler, Chad Gappert, Chris Zimmerman, Amanda Petrick, Andy Rosin, Larissa Harding, Randy Fischer were present.
The purpose for this special board meeting is to discuss Superintendent Resignation.
Superintendent resignation letter reviewed.
Petrick/Rosin to approve resignation
Roll Call: Fischer - Y, Ros-

in - Y, Petrick - Y, Zimmerman - Y, Gappert - Y, Harding - Y, Gaugler - Y - Motion carried.
Review and discuss head hunter options.
Post Job
Gappert/Zimmerman motion to table until next regular board meeting while posting position on our own in the meantime - Motion carried.
Gaugler/Harding motion to go in to executive session at 5:25 - Motion carried.
Gaugler/Zimmerman motion to reconvene in to regular session at 5:47 - Motion carried.
Gaugler/Rosin motion to contact Elementary principal regarding his contract - Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.
/s/Randy Fischer
Randy Fischer, President
/s/Gayle Beyer
Gayle Beyer, Business Manager
Published April 25, 2024

New Leipzig Senior Meals

Fri., April 26: Lasagna, garlic bread, house salad, ice cream, milk, coffee
Mon., April 29: PBBQ ribs, baked potato, mixed vegetables, apricots, milk, coffee.
Tues., April 30: Taco salad, garlic toast, fruit cup, cereal bar, milk, coffee.
Wed., May 1: Cranberry meatballs, baked potato, green beans, blushing pears, milk, coffee.
Thurs., May 2: Hamburger stroganoff, seasoned noodled, peas and carrots, rhu-barb dessert, milk, coffee.