



Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Oct. 2, 2020
Volume 25, Issue 20
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Farmers' Market open until Oct. 12

Sartell Farmers Market is open from 3-6 p.m. Mondays through Oct. 12 in the Bernick's Pepsi Arena parking lot, 1109 First St. S. Come stock up on your winter storage vegetables including potatoes, squash, onions, apples and much more. Also available is great treats including caramel corn, pretzels, fudge, honey, salsa and many canned items.

Candidate forum set for District 13

The League of Women Voters, St. Cloud Area, will conduct a video-recorded forum featuring candidates for Minnesota Legislative District #13, House and Senate. Due to pandemic constraints, there will not be an in-person audience. The forum will be recorded and uploaded for later public viewing. Constituents are invited to email questions to lwvstcloud@lwvmn.org no later than midnight Monday, Oct. 5. Questions should be brief and relate to issues legislators would customarily address. Candidates for Senate District 13 are: Jeff Howe and Michael Willemson. Candidates for House District 13B are Benjamin Carollo and Tim O'Driscoll and candidates for House District 13A are Lisa Demuth and Katy Westlund.

Free lunches extended through Nov. 6

There is no charge for breakfast and lunch meals through Nov. 6 for all Sartell-St. Stephen school district students. Regardless of their learning model breakfast and lunch are available at no cost. In-person students should follow the procedures for each building. Secondary students may purchase a la carte items if they wish. When students are not in school (Hybrid/Distance), there are two options for pick up: 11 a.m.-noon, High School Door 23; 4-5 p.m. Middle School main entrance. Advanced registration is not required; students need not be present in the vehicle to receive meals. The free meals are made possible through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

List your event in our calendar

If your group or organization is active again after being idle because of coronavirus, send us your event information for our calendar. Send information including time, date, place and a short explanation to news@thenewsleaders.com.



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

SHS Football season resumes and Spirit Week at ORELC
(Above) Friends wave scarves on the playground at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center Sept. 29. They are Aaliyah Ramirez (left) and Evelyn Fronden, both age 5 and of Sartell. Fronden is wearing her sweatshirt inside-out for Spirit Week. (At right) Sartell varsity football players practice Tackle Wheel drills Sept. 29 on the SHS field.



Sartell school board candidates

Moehrle lists knowledge, involvement as pluses in school-board bid

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A wide-ranging knowledge combined with community involvement are just two qualities listed as qualifications by candidate Matthew Moehrle, a candidate for the Sartell-St. Stephen school board.

Another plus is that Moehrle



Moehrle

Moehrle • page 3

Gentile advocates strongly for equity in schools

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Taryn Gentile, a candidate for the Sartell-St. Stephen School Board, strongly believes that all viewpoints and potential outcomes – both benefits and detriments – must be scrupulously considered before making any kind of decision



Gentile

Gentile • page 4

Mother of five, Mehling wants to serve on board

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

With four children attending four different school buildings in the Sartell-St. Stephen School District, Patricia “Tricia” Mehling said she is well qualified to become a new member of the school board.



Mehling

Mehling • page 4

Incumbent Nies has vested interest in district's excellence

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Jason Nies, incumbent Sartell-St. Stephen School Board member, said he has a vested interest in wanting to be re-elected to the board in the Nov. 3 election.

“As a resident of Sartell for over 30 years, an alumnus of Sar-



Nies

Nies • page 9

Council approves new zoning map

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

At long last, after a year of studies and fine-tuning, the City of Sartell now has a new land-use zoning map.

At its Sept. 28 meeting, the Sartell City Council unanimously approved the new zoning map that eliminates the R5-PUD (Planned-Unit Development) category.

In its action, the council unanimously approved the zon-

ing map, the zoning district amendments and the rezoning of some parcels.

The new map and the meticulously detailed amendments were the result of studies, public surveys, a public open house, city-staff input and working out complex details with a planning consultant, real-estate people, developers, businesses, residents and many others. That extensive work came in the wake of a citywide moratorium on R5-PUDs, which began Sept.

23, 2019. The moratorium was implemented when it was decided that PUDs are not helpful in zoning and that by eliminating them there will be more options to zone parcels of property with more exactitude and flexible uses.

The new map includes the following zoning designations: single-family residential, two-family residential, multi-family residential (large apartment buildings), rural residential, light industrial, heavy

business, general business and medical professional. The map, with various colors to highlight the mix of zoning, can be viewed on the City of Sartell's website.

At the meeting, Sartell City Administrator Anna Gruber outlined the year-long history of how the new zoning amendments and the new map came to be. A city survey, Gruber noted, brought responses from 589 residents, many of whom stressed

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Zoning

from front page

the need to maximize safety, the natural environment, economic development and housing options.

A theme – at times a conflict – developed between single-family residential neighbors and the

building of big apartment complexes in or near neighborhood homes. At a public hearing in early September, about two dozen residents of the Huntington neighborhood shared concerns about increased property crimes and increased traffic in their area, which they said is caused by so many apartments in that vicinity.

At the Sept. 28 council meet-

ing, Gruber said statistics show that crimes are not driven in the majority by the presence of multi-family developments (apartment buildings).

The new zoning plan, however, will make an effort to allow for the development of multi-unit dwellings but preferably near commercial and/or industrial areas rather than single-family home neighborhoods.

In discussing the plan before voting on it, council members did emphasize there will always be a need for a variety of housing – single-family, two-family duplex, townhomes and apartment buildings. Many people these days, it was noted, need apartments, such as students returning from college and looking to start jobs in the city or empty-nesters who feel the need

for a smaller place to live (apartment).

Because the future is always unpredictable, the zoning plan is bound to not be perfect, one council member noted, but it is a good working document and can be changed to fit circumstances as they arise.

“It’s a living, breathing document subject to change,” Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum said.

Blotter

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the Sartell Police Department at 320-251-8186 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301, or access its tip site at tricountycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

Sept. 15

5 a.m. Agency assist. Riverside Avenue N. An officer assisted Stearns County on a crash with potential injuries. A driver had swerved to avoid hitting a deer but went off the road and hit a tree. No injuries were observed but the driver was shaken up. Mayo paramedics arrived on scene, but the driver refused treatment. The vehicle was towed.

Sept. 16

8 a.m. Traffic stop. Seventh Street N. An officer was preparing to clear from a traffic

stop and observed another vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed which violated the 20-mph school zone posting. The officer stopped the vehicle and spoke with the driver who claimed to have just moved to the area. The driver failed to provide a driver’s license. The officer discussed the infractions with the driver and gave a verbal warning.

Sept. 17

8:10 a.m. School patrol. Seventh Street N. An officer patrolled the school drop-off area near Riverview Intermediate School and Sartell Middle School to ensure motorist and pedestrian safety.

Sept. 18

11 p.m. Noise. Seventh Street N. Officers went to an apartment for a noise complaint. Officers saw people getting into vehicles in the parking lot. When officers went inside to make contact with the resident,

they could hear voices but knocked multiple times with no answer. One of the officers walked around the back of the building and made contact with a man who was the renter of the loud unit. Officers did not note any signs of impairment and notified the renter that if the noise continued, they would come back and issue citations.

Sept. 19

6:10 p.m. Crash. CR 120 and Hwy. 15. Officers were dispatched to a crash. A driver exiting Hwy. 15 was preparing to turn right onto CR 120 and believed the vehicle in front had turned right. The driver was looking at oncoming traffic to confirm they could turn right while the light was still red. The driver did not see that the car in front of them had in fact not turned yet and they rear-ended them. Mayo assisted for injuries. Citation to be mailed.

Sept. 20

9:15 a.m. Traffic stop. Seventh Avenue N. An officer observed a vehicle speeding. The officer made contact with the driver and warned them for speed.

Sept. 21

10:15 p.m. Traffic stop.

Ninth Avenue N. and CR 1. An officer observed a vehicle with a taillight out. The driver was given a verbal warning for the equipment violation. No further action needed.

Sept. 22

4:50 p.m. Juvenile problem. Pinecone Road N. A caller reported their child had gotten into a vehicle with an unknown man at the high school when the child was supposed to be at home. The officer was delayed in his response to this call because of other priority/emergency calls coming in. The officer called the complainant and was notified the man was in fact the juvenile’s significant other and no police assistance was needed.

Sept. 23

8:10 a.m. Traffic stop. Seventh Street N. An officer observed a vehicle speeding in a school zone. The driver told the officer they had to accelerate to get up the hill otherwise the vehicle would stall. The officer observed the vehicle had legitimate issues and gave the driver a verbal warning.

Sept. 24

6 p.m. Welfare check. Seventh Avenue S. A 911 caller reported a man believed to be suicidal and in need of medical attention. The man told officers he wanted to go to the hospital. An officer transported the indi-

vidual to the emergency room.

Sept. 25

6:45 p.m. Collision. Second Street S. A two-vehicle accident happened in a business’s parking lot. The officer spoke with the complainant roughly two hours after the event. The complainant said a vehicle hit them and they exchanged contact and insurance information. The driver who caused the crash gave false information. Officers are working with the business to get video to identify the driver at fault.

Sept. 26

12:50 a.m. Assault. Second Street S. On the way to an assault call, officers were advised the victim was attempting to start fights with other people. Officers contacted complainant and the two individuals involved in the altercation. The victim did not complain of any injuries and did not want any charges made. Both parties involved were talked to by officers and verbally trespassed from the establishment by staff. The individuals stated they understood and left.

Sept. 27

9:30 p.m. Agency assist. Sundance Court. Officers assisted Benton County in checking a residence for a juvenile runaway. The juvenile was located in a surrounding city.

Sept. 28

5 p.m. Assist person. Pinecone Road S. A community service officer assisted an individual with getting fingerprinting done for their nursing license.



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Reaching Everybody!

Newsleaders

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Moehrle

from front page

and his wife have two young children in the school system.

Moehrle is one of four candidates vying for three open seats on the school board in the Nov. 3 election. Those seats were occupied by Lesa Kramer and Pam Raden, who both chose not to file for re-election. The other position is served by incumbent Jason Nies, who did file for re-election. The other two candidates are Taryn Gentile and Patricia Meling.

The Sartell Newsleader asked the candidates school-related questions. The following are Moehrle’s responses:

Background

Moehrle described himself as a full-time stay-at-home dad who is also a part-time trial and appeal lawyer with the Rajkowski Hansmeier law firm in St. Cloud. He was a full-time lawyer with that firm from 2005-2017. He has successfully argued cases at all levels of Minnesota’s state court system, including at the Minnesota Supreme Court, and he is licensed to practice law at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Moehrle has a law degree from the University of Minnesota as well as a civil-and-structural engineering degree from Northwestern University (Illinois).

Experiences

Moehrle is a frequent volunteer at Pine Meadow Elementary School for kindergarten and first-grade classrooms and extension programs. He is a volunteer coach for the Sartell Swarm fast-pitch softball program. He also has extensive experience as a prior board member (treasurer and president of the Stearns-Benton Bar Association, president of the 7th District Bar Association).

In addition, he noted his long-time work as an attorney is very relevant to the kind of work a school board does. He specializes in civil trials and appeals for which he must quickly learn and analyze complicated new issues and topics and then communicate them with others clearly, effectively.

He listed other relevant skills: interpreting statutes and ordinances; working with experts and replying to their findings and opinions; reviewing medical and psychiatric records; being decisive. Moehrle possesses skills relating to school law, commercial construction, finance and forensic accounting, business contracts and dealings, premises liability and insurance coverage.

“I want to give back to my community by serving in this way,” he said. “I am financially responsible both in my personal and professional life, and I have the time needed to dedicate to the job.”

Virus crisis

Moehrle said he is impressed

by the district’s overall response to the pandemic.

“My wife and I chose distance-learning for our kids to start this school year with the hope we’ll be able to send them in person later in the year, and from that perspective I think remote learning this fall is much improved from last spring.”

It is a challenge, he added, to strike the proper balance between everyone’s physical well-being and the emotional health and social development of the students. Moehrle said he agrees there must be an ongoing focus on data and science-based solutions. Covid plans, he said, are very detailed.

“The main need to change or add to them would be in response to any new data or findings about the disease.”

Equity

Moehrle strongly favors student equity efforts so each student has an equal opportunity to succeed. An equity assessment plan approved by the board and an upcoming action plan will be helpful tools, he said.

After an equity audit is completed, results can be studied, he said, and then any action plan would likely start by educating and exposing students to other races, cultures and religions. There will need to be training to intervene if racially- or culturally-motivated harassment occurs. The ultimate goal of equity efforts, he said, is to turn out respectful and empathetic adults.

Moehrle grew up in a St. Paul suburb that was, like Sartell, 91 percent White. Then he attended a diverse university in the Chicago area where he came to realize he would have benefitted learning more about equity and diversity before he graduated from high school.

Passionate ideas

Moehrle emphasized he did not enter the race with any specific agenda.

“That said, though, I think one area of education that’s relatively more interesting to me is student health – specifically nutrition, exercise, physical activity and mental health, including anything from motivation and happiness at school to the prevention of bullying.

The return to a “normal” school year will likely take more time now that pandemic numbers seem to be heading in the wrong direction in the Midwest, Moehrle said.

He said he is concerned about two issues that could be exacerbated by an ongoing pandemic: an increase in cyber-bullying as students spend more time on electronic devices for school and diminished physical health caused by a decrease in activities.

“Thoughtful long-range planning will be important due to all the health challenges faced by students in the coming few years,” he said.

Other comments

Now that new school facilities have been completed, he said, the school board can concentrate on improving all students’ education and character with equity efforts strengthened.

“I think the partnership between the community and the

school district is best served by open communication and transparency about the school board’s planning and direction,” he said, “and I would work to improve on that.”

He said he has heard complaints that some residents who felt blindsided by the need to

pass an operating levy so soon after the facilities levy was approved in 2016.


“My goals are to listen to the constituents’ thoughts and concerns and then better communicate the district’s long-term plans to the public.”

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 748
(SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the General Election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 748, Sartell-St. Stephen, State of Minnesota, in conjunction with the state General Election on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2020 for the purpose of electing three (3) school board members for four (4) year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the ovals(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

☐

Jason Nies

☐

Patricia Meling

☐

Matthew Moehrle

☐

Taryn Gentile

☐

write-in, if any

☐

write-in, if any

☐

write-in, if any

The precincts and the polling places for this General Election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district, which have been established by the cities, towns or townships located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state General Election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 2 & 16, 2020

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Amanda Byrd
School District Clerk



**Wear a mask
in public spaces.**



**Get tested if you
have any symptoms.**



**Answer if your health
department calls.**



STAY SAFE MN

Gentile

from front page

that affects all residents in the school district.

She is also a passionate advocate for equity in schools.

Gentile is one of four candidates vying for three open seats on the school board in the Nov. 3 election. Those seats were occupied by Lesa Kramer and Pam Raden, who both chose not to file for re-election. The other position is served by incumbent Jason Nies, who did file for re-election. The other two candidates are Patricia Meling and Matthew Moehrle.

The Sartell Newsleader asked the candidates many school-board related questions. The following are Gentile’s answers:

Background

Gentile competed two years ago for a school-board position, but did not win. She is vice president for fiduciary services at US Bank in the area of private wealth management.

Gentile earned a law degree from the Hamline University School of Law and earlier a bachelor’s degree in business communications and legal studies in business from the University of St. Thomas.

She and her husband, Bryan, have two children – Tyler, 17 (her step-son) and Arya, a 5-year-old pre-schooler.

Experiences

Currently, she is secretary of the St. Cloud Pride Board and

participates in the Envisioned Equity for All group. She also participates in and/or leads several committees at US Bank. She is often tasked with risk analysis for products, services and/or methods to ensure the most value for the most people while also considering the bank’s risk parameters and goals.

Accomplishments

As a teenager, she received several volunteerism awards, including the Prudential Spirit of Community Award and the Girl Scouts’ National Young Woman of Distinction Award. Volunteerism and seeking social justice have been and remain, she said, “very important” to her.

Qualifications

She noted several, including a strong background in legal and financial matters, making risk assessments for short- and long-term, critical-thinking skills, championing new ideas, an ability to “think outside the box,” learning new approaches and speaking up for what she believes.

“Additionally, having two children with a large age gap forces me to consider what is best for both our oldest and youngest learners . . .,” Gentile said. “I want to help this district succeed and improve.”

Virus crisis

So far the school district has done a great job with its Covid-19 response, she said, combining in-person and distance-learning options. Giving families the options of hybrid

learning was also a “great idea,” she added. With mask-wearing, distancing and shifting learning spaces for new needs are all helpful, she added.

“That being said, the pandemic brings to light other problems that aren’t unique to just our district,” Gentile said. She gave examples:

Some parents have no option between sending children to school and keeping them home for distance learning because they had to go to work.

Other parents had to keep children home to distance-learn because they had to take care of younger children while parents went to work.

Many questions remain, she said.

“How can we support our families during this unusual time in our world?” “Are our distance-learners engaged in the same way as our in-person learners?” “How can we ensure we don’t have educational disparities between those who are distance-learning and those who are in-person learners?”

Gentile said those questions will persist into the school year and even once full in-person learning is possible. The district, she said, while grappling with those issues, must also fulfill its goal of closing the achievement gaps between student subgroups, such as non-special-education and special-education students and students who receive non-free lunches or free/reduced-price lunches.

“It will be vital to ensure

the district is making progress toward this goal, even with the potential for educational disparities during distance learning,” she said.

Equity

Gentile is very much in favor of equity and an equity audit, adding the subject is impossible to ignore after listening sessions at the board revealed so many stories of inequities and inequalities among students.

After an equity audit, an equity coordinator should be hired to ensure the issues are addressed, she said, adding that could include changes to the learning curriculum, more training for education on issues of equity, obtaining student input and feedback when drafting policies, and other possible ideas.

“A fully realized plan must be put in place, and I want to be a part of helping to build an even better educational experience in our district.”

Passionate ideas

She named many, with equity at the top of her list, adding everyone must begin to understand the difference between equality and equity – equality meaning everyone gets the same thing or is treated the same way, equity meaning everyone receives what they need in order to be on an equal footing with those around them.

“And it isn’t just about race,” she said. “Equity pertains to all sorts of protected classes. Race certainly is a part of it, but it can also include sexuality, gender, religion, ability/disability, age,

socio-economic status or any other protected class.”

Pretending there is no equity issue, she said, not only devalues the district, its students and families but also robs students of an educational experience that prepares them for the world.

An equity audit will cost money, she noted.

“But that doesn’t mean we have to rely only on the state, federal and taxpayer funds to foot the bill. The Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation provides grants within our district and is a great resource, and there are other grant providers out there that could help as well.”

The district, she added, should hire a grant writer to tap those resources.

Other comments:

“People come to Sartell-St. Stephen to live because our school district is consistently rated as one of the best in the state,” Gentile said. “We have great programs and great opportunities for students across academics, athletics and arts.”

To continue the excellence, she added, will require a certainty that students are prepared for life in Sartell and elsewhere.

“We should take a critical eye to the mission and values of our district,” she said. “It is time for us to revamp our Value Statements to put equity at the forefront, like our neighboring districts in the Sauk Rapids-Rice and St. Cloud area already have.”

Meling

from front page

Meling is one of four candidates vying for three open seats on the school board in the Nov. 3 election. Two of the seats were occupied by Lesa Kramer and Pam Raden, who both chose not to file for re-election. The other position is served by incumbent Jason Nies, who did file for re-election. The other two candidates

are Taryn Gentile and Matthew Moehrle.

The Sartell Newsleader asked the candidates many school-board related questions. Meling gave the following responses:

Background

Describing herself as a “stay-at-home mom,” Meling and her husband, Shaun Meling, are the parents of five children: Nolan, 12; Liam, 10; Grayson, 8; Emma, 4; and Asher, 2.

Meling has a communications degree from the College of St. Benedict. She also has teacher training through the Barton Training Program through Level 7. “Barton” is a tutoring program in which specially trained tutors work to help students with dyslexia learn spelling, reading and writing skills.

Experiences

“I am a full-time parent to my five children, fully invested in their education,” she said. “I do my best to maintain strong communication for all of my children at the multiple (school) buildings they attend.” Her oldest child, Nolan, is a seventh-grader at Sartell Middle School; Liam is a fifth-grader at Riverview Intermediate School; Grayson is a second-grader at Pine Meadow Primary School; and Emma is a pre-schooler at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center. The youngest child, Asher, 2, often attends the school district’s Early Childhood Family Education program.

Since 2009, Meling has been a member of the Sartell Mothers of Preschoolers group, serving as its co-director for two years. She currently serves on the Sartell/Sauk Rapids MOMS Club Board as membership VIP for the last

two years.

Qualifications

Meling said she has both the drive and the time commitment to ensure that not only her children but all children in the district have an “amazing education experience.”

“With four kids in four different buildings, I understand the pulse of our schools, and I want to continue to ensure our schools are excellent,” she said. “I have the desire to serve our community. Being at home affords me the time to fully invest myself in the daily activities the school board demands. I love hearing differing viewpoints and perspectives to further my understanding of topics to widen my view.”

Virus crisis

Meling said she is confident and grateful the school district has taken a holistic approach to coping with the pandemic by using guidelines proposed by the Minnesota Health Department and the National Centers for Disease Control.

“I agree our youngest learners need to be in person as much as possible,” she said. “I feel the district has considered and addressed all health concerns to ensure our kids’ and staff’s safety first while also ensuring the quality education we expect in this dis-

trict. I’d just want to continue to ensure our staff has good support and resources to make sure they have what they need to provide the in-person/hybrid/distance-learning options.

Equity

Meling said she is very much in favor of student-equity efforts and the need for an equity audit to be done so a plan of action can be formulated.

“A plan,” she said, “would include effective training for staff to recognize and help improve equity for all. Also, it could make sure that all involved have been heard and all issues addressed.”

Passionate ideas

Meling’s passion, she said, is to do what’s right for students, staff and the community.

“Maintaining positive relationships with our community and doing my best to keep our board fiscally responsible are very important,” Meling said. “As a mother of five, I hope to help streamline the communication more fully. I want to be as transparent as possible and make sure the community feels they have all the information they need.”



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People

Forty-five Sartell students were named to the spring semester dean's list and president's list at St. Cloud Technical & Community College. Students on the president's list maintain a grade-point average of 4.0 and dean's list students maintain a grade-point average from 3.5 to 3.99.

Students on the president's list are **Alicia Anderson, Brandon Blotnicki, Emily Brew, Jason Conley, Tatum Decker, Brandon Hejhal, Alexis Hollermann, Mason LeMieur, William Lenneman, Janey Peterson, Ezra Pixomatis, Javada Ringwelski, Jarroon Walther, Amanda Woods** and **Jacqueline Yanez Nunez**.

Dean's list students are **Istahil Ahmed, Brian Amundson, Tyler Anderson, Aydia Beckers-Schotl, Hannah Bous, Ashley Bryant, Haley Chisum, Phillip Connell, Erika Evers, Aydin Hanson, Sorin Hocking, Ethan Hubert, James Jorud, Brandon Josephs, Trinitie Kedrowski, Nathan Kieffer, Timothy Koopman, Christian Kowalke, Thomas Lee, Morgan Maser, Jennifer Morisette, Susannah O'Donoghue, Brian Poppe, Jasmine Samuelson, Martin Schendel, Amanda Silva, Natalia Silva, Lind-**

sey Widvey, Mackenzie Wilard and Dexter Williams.

Hannah Yackley of St. Stephen graduated from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse with a bachelor's degree in microbiology and with highest honors with a major in Spanish.

Maren Arneson of Sartell was named to the spring semester dean's list for achieving at least a 3.75 grade-point average at Oregon State University, Corvallis.

Kendall Kearney and **Matthew Rickers** of Sartell were named to the summer dean's list for earning at least a 3.5 grade-point average at North Dakota State University, Fargo.

Benjamin Grant, son of Dawn and Jerry Grant of Sartell, is scheduled to participate in the White Coat Ceremony Saturday, Oct. 10 at North Dakota State University, Fargo. He is a student in NDSU's Doctor of Pharmacy program. Grant will take the oath of a pharmacist during the ceremony. Each student receives a white coat symbolizing his or her duty to patients and colleagues as they enter the pharmacy profession.



2020 Sabres Varsity Fall Sports



Football

10/9/20	7 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Home
10/16/20	7 p.m.	Bemidji	Away
10/23/20	7 p.m.	Moorhead	Home
10/30/20	7 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
11/6/20	7 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Home

Volleyball

10/8/20	7 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
10/12/20	7 p.m.	Willmar	Away
10/13/20	7 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
10/15/20	7 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
10/20/20	7 p.m.	Rocori	Home
10/27/20	7 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away
10/29/20	7 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Home
11/2/20	7 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Away
11/5/20	7 p.m.	Willmar	Home
11/10/20	7 p.m.	Bemidji	Away
11/12/20	7 p.m.	Moorhead	Home
11/17/20	7 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
11/19/20	7 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
11/23/20	7 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Home
11/23/20	7 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Home





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Wondering Where To Vote on November 3rd?

- Most of Sartell Voting Precincts have changed since the last General Election in 2018.
- Sartell has 7 precincts, and the best way to find out where you vote is at MnVotes.org.
- At MnVotes.org, you can view your ballot, check your polling place, see if you are registered and much, much more. Check it out!





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Rays of Hope Walk is Saturday

By Ellarry Prentice
news@thenewsleaders.com

A little lake, surrounded by lots of hope.

That will be Lake Francis in Sartell on Saturday, when loved ones will walk along the shore to support those who've lost someone close to them. The fourth annual Rays of Hope Walk on Oct. 3 will begin with a remembrance ceremony at 10 a.m. followed by a walk around the loop at 10:30 a.m. The site is located by the Sartell Community Center at 850 19th St. S.

The remembrance ceremony will take place at the Angel of Hope statue. Nestled along the shores of Lake Francis, it is a place where people can gather to grieve the loss of their child or loved one. Below the statue, inscribed in pavers, are names of loved ones who've passed away.

This year, participants have the option of participating in the in-person walk or a virtual walk. Registration for the in-person walk is open to teams and individuals and begins at 9:30 a.m. in the community center. There is a fee for both adult and youth ages 13 to 17. Children 12 and under can participate for free. Awards will be given to the top individual and the top team.

Instructions for participating in the virtual walk can be accessed at Eventbrite.com by searching for Rays of Hope Walk on the website. Participants are asked to follow those instructions on the day of the walk, at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Remembrance signs will be

available to purchase. Signs include a photo of a loved one along with a memorial message.

The event is hosted by What Would Bri Do Inc., a non-profit established in memory of Bri-Anna Kruzel, who passed away unexpectedly in September 2013. Kruzel, who was just 18 when she passed away from unknown causes, devoted much of her young life to volunteering through organizations close to her heart, including Girl Scouts and Big Brothers Big Sisters, and was very involved with the Sartell Community Ed dance program.

Established by Kruzel's family and friends, What Would Bri Do is dedicated to supporting people and organizations in need while being a force for positivity in the world. According to its mission statement, What Would Bri Do helps individuals cope with loss, supports their healing, nurtures their physical and emotional well-being, and brings hope for the future, as "no one should grieve alone." During the past five years, What Would Bri Do has supported many causes that BriAnna believed in and distributed approximately \$50,000 to those in need.

Currently, What Would Bri Do is committed to building a space for people who are grieving. Funds raised at this year's Rays of Hope Walk will be used to build Bri's Lodge. The grief lodge in Central Minnesota will provide support for people who've lost a child at any age, a spouse, a parent, or a sibling; who've experienced a miscar-



riage or stillbirth; who've lost a loved one to suicide; or who've experienced a loss in their community.

Throughout their grief journey, BriAnna's parents, Tami and Randy Kruzel, said they struggled to understand and cope with their loss. In February 2018, the Kruzels visited a lodge in Wisconsin that provides a peaceful space for people to gather with others who've experienced a painful loss. There, they spent several days with other couples who'd also lost children. The Kruzels "left this weekend with the sense of hope in their grief journey and made it their personal mission to bring a similar concept to Central Minnesota," states What Would Bri Do's website, wwbdinc.org. They were "truly inspired by their dedication to supporting those who have lost a child."

For more information about Saturday's Rays of Hope Walk, visit www.eventbrite.com, and type "Rays of Hope Walk" in the search bar at the top of the page.

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Nies

from front page

tell High School, a parent to two graduates and two children in our district and a board member for the past eight years, I have a vested interest in maintaining the high standard and reputation that has been established in our great district,” Nies said.

Nies is one of four candidates vying for three open seats on the school board in the Nov. 3 election. Two of those now-open seats were served by Lesa Kramer and Pam Raden, who both chose not to file for re-election. Besides Nies, the other competing candidates are Taryn Gentile, Patricia Meling and Matthew Moehrle.

The Sartell Newsleader asked the candidates many school-board related questions. The following are Nies’s answers:

Background

Nies is a senior solutions architect for ePlus Technology, for which he has worked for 16 years. He was elected to his first term on the school board in November 2012, his second term in November 2016. A 1989 graduate of Sartell High School, Nies and his wife, Kim Thyen Nies, have four children – MacKenzie, a 2015 SHS graduate; Tristen, a 2018 SHS graduate; Mitiku, an eleventh-grader at SHS; and Genet, a ninth-grader at SHS.

Nies earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from St. Cloud State University.

Experiences

He has been school-board chair for two years and vice chair for one year. During his eight years on the board he has served on the following committees: communications and technology, finance and operations, Benton-Stearns Education District, community outreach, curriculum, instruction and assessment, facilities steering, negotiations, liaison to the Senior Connection (senior-citizen group) and participant in the Stearns County Collaborative.

Virus crisis

“Students, teachers and administrators have done a tremendous job adapting to unprecedented times,” Nies said. “The commitment and compassion of the entire staff during this pandemic is truly amazing.”

Nies added he feels grateful for the parents/guardians in the district. They agreed to help transport students and demonstrated so much patience while logistics of drop-off and pick-up procedures were worked out. They also showed steadfast patience in coping with new grade configurations.

“Since there is no playbook for this pandemic, everyone’s continued flexibility and patience is greatly appreciated,” he said.

The district, Nies noted, has implemented many procedures to keep staff and students as safe as possible: mandatory face-coverings, social distancing and a renewed focus on hand-washing and sanitation. Other policies include staggered lunch times, creative use of spaces to minimize cross contacts, limited locker use and limited bus use.

In addition, the district added temperature scanners at the main doors of all schools and hand-sanitizer products throughout all buildings. Buildings and buses are cleaned thoroughly during and at the end of each day.

“We continue to closely monitor daily Covid-19 counts in Stearns County and meet regularly with our District Covid Committee that consists of district staff, parents/guardians and local doctors,” he said.

Equity

Nies said he is very much in favor of equity efforts. In the short term, he said, progress has been made in adjustments to student handbooks with regard to hate symbols, and there have been some curriculum changes regarding a few of the books used in English classes, he added.

Nies said for the long-term he would like an equity audit done.

“That will provide an extended equity road map for our district that includes staff development. It is very important for the students in our district who

have faced discrimination. It is also important for every student in our district that we can equip all of them to be respectful and welcoming humans.”

Passionate ideas

“In the coming years,” he said, “we need to continue the excellent tradition this district has developed while making sure we address the equity needs of all our students. We will also need to continue to deal with Covid and the financial implications this pandemic will have on our district and continue to be accountable to all the taxpayers in the district.”

Other comments:

The Sartell-St. Stephen School District achieves its excellence, Nies said, because of great parents/guardians, great teachers, great administrators and great community support.

“If we remember all the decisions we make need to be fiscally responsible and in the best interest of the students,” he said, “we will continue our tradition of excellence.”

Howe, Willemsen face off for state senate seat

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

An incumbent and a relative newcomer are competing to be elected to serve the people of Minnesota Senate District 13.

The incumbent is Sen. Jeff Howe (R-Rockville); his challenger is Michael Willemsen (DFL-Sauk Rapids). Senate District 13, covering parts of Stearns and Benton counties, includes the cities of Sartell, St. Joseph, Avon, Cold Spring, Paynesville and Sauk Rapids.

The winner of the race will be determined in the Nov. 3 general election.

The following are profiles of the two candidates:

Howe

Howe was chosen in a special election in 2018, over contender Joe Perske (DFL-Sartell), to serve in his current seat in the state legislature. Former Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville) had been a longtime legislator for that senate district, but two years ago she became the state’s lieutenant-governor and so resigned from her senate seat.

Before his 2018 special-election victory, Howe had served in the Minnesota House, representing residents who live in House District 13A.

Raised on a farm near Chokio, Howe is a retired small-business consultant who has a long military career. In 2017, he retired as a lieutenant colonel after serving for many years in the Minnesota National



Howe

al Guard. He was also a major in the U.S. Navy, worked as an avionics technician aboard the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk and was deployed to Iran during the Iranian American hostage crisis (1979). Years later, he was deployed twice to Iraq and earned two bronze stars.

Howe earned a bachelor’s degree in elective studies from St. Cloud State University and served for nearly 30 years as a volunteer firefighter for the Rockville Fire Department. He and his wife, Sheri, have four grown children.

In the Minnesota Senate, Howe serves on the following committees: Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance; State Government Finance and Policy; Transportation Finance and Policy; Elections; and Taxes. He has authored or co-authored many bills during his time in both the House and Senate, especially legislation regarding transportation, public safety and veterans’ issues.

In the Senate, Howe joined other Republicans in unsuccessful

efforts to end Gov. Tim Walz’s executive emergency powers, maintaining such powers upset the balance among the branches of government. He has also criticized the governor and Democrats for how they dealt with the riots in Minneapolis after the death of George Floyd and criticized the governor for what Howe termed “disrespectful” remarks toward National Guard members.

Howe served on the oversight committee examining the Minneapolis riots and lawlessness in general. He supports what he calls “common-sense” police reforms but strongly opposes any de-funding of police departments.

Howe, who describes himself as a “pro-life conservative,” emphasizes the qualities of personal responsibility, duty, commitment and integrity. He supported pandemic-relief funds for companies and employees, particularly for food-handling industries. He also is trying to strengthen the State Trooper program, which has had trouble recruiting new troopers – mainly, Howe, said because of noncompetitive wages.

He is strongly in favor of the efforts to re-open schools safely with a combination of in-class sessions with safety precautions and distance learning or some hybrid of the two.

Willemsen

In 2016, Willemsen of Sauk Rapids ran against Sen. Michelle Fischbach for Senate



Willemsen

District 13 but lost to her by a nearly 2-1 margin.

Willemsen was a site supervisor for a group home. More recently, he began working as an eligibility specialist for Benton County Human Services, helping financially-challenged people apply for and obtain services.

He describes himself as an optimist with socialist values who has strong faith in the innate intelligence of people.

His campaign slogan is “Keep Minnesota Nice.” Among his campaign pledges and legislative goals are the following:

Build an economy that works for all Minnesotans, not just the wealthy few. A level playing field, he said, would provide everyone an opportunity for success.

Invest more in families and schools.

Increase local government aide to help lower property taxes.

Support and strengthen labor unions.

Work for racial equality, equality for LGBTQ people,

women’s rights, a woman’s reproductive rights and strong family planning.

Making higher education more affordable.

Create jobs by investing in infrastructure and increase broadband access in rural areas.

A renewed focus on ending poverty.

Change what he calls the “inherent inequities” within the criminal-justice system.

Legalize marijuana and expunge the records of those who have been arrested and/or incarcerated due to marijuana-related laws.

Work to create a comprehensive mental-health care system.

Make a single-payer health-care program with universal access, affordable for all.

Support small businesses and do not tax them.

End subsidies for industrial agriculture.

Increase the minimum wage to at least \$15 per hour.

Make childcare more affordable.

Pass a statewide tenants’ bill of rights.

Advocate to encourage plant-based diets and less or no consumption of meats.

Work to create renewable energy, “green jobs and a progressive strategy to deal with climate change in Minnesota and elsewhere.

“We are the land of 10,000 lakes and we need to provide clean water for future generations,” Willemsen said.

Opinion

Our View

Let’s shatter the stigma

Think about what you did in the last 11 minutes.

In that short amount of time, someone in America died by suicide.

Data released this year from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show the suicide rate has climbed 35 percent since 1999. If that statistic isn’t alarming enough, experts say social limitations and economic pressures brought on by COVID-19 have heightened the risk.

Even before the pandemic, the nation’s suicide rate peaked to historic highs, with rates at the highest level since World War II. It’s still too early to predict the scale of impact, but social isolation is likely to drive up suicides across the world.

Often a result of an untreated mental health condition, suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem – one that often shocks small, close-knit communities such as ours. There were 48,344 suicides in America in 2018, but this data doesn’t account for the number of suicide attempts, not to mention the number of residents impacted by depression who have recurrent thoughts of suicide.

Mental illness doesn’t always end in suicide. Still, one in five people are living with a mental illness such as depression, anxiety, bipolar, personality and eating disorders, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Mental illness is real. And it does happen here – to people of all ages and socioeconomic statuses. We must shatter the stigma still attached to it, dispelling the belief it’s something “made up” or something one can simply “snap out of” or something they can control “if they only tried.” Awareness efforts have improved how mental illness is perceived and acknowledged, yet ignorance and judgement continue to hinder those who are suffering and need help.

Furthermore, the National Alliance on Mental Illness says that, for a group of people who already carry such a heavy burden, stigma is an unacceptable addition to their pain.

Stigma is rooted in shame. Supportive environments are key to removing barriers that prevent many people suffering with mental illness from getting help.

Oct. 4-10 is Mental Illness Awareness Week. This year’s theme is, “What People with Mental Illness Want You to Know,” and, as journalists, we believe it’s an important one. When people who live with mental illness share their stories, it helps us better understand the impact. That impact touches not just people who live with mental illness, but their families as well.

By listening to their stories, “we understand the difficulty people face in obtaining care and treatment in a timely way,” said Sue Abderholden, executive director of the NAMI. “We understand the discrimination people face when their insurance won’t cover the treatment they need, their employer doesn’t understand the accommodations needed, or the school doesn’t understand how to support a young person.”

“When we listen – really listen – we also hear people’s hopes and dreams,” Abderholden said. “We learn the determination and courage it takes to walk this journey. We learn that hope is a verb and recovery is possible. We learn the importance of reaching in and providing support to our loved ones or friends when they are struggling.”

We all can do our part to fight the stigma. Here are a few ways:

Share Stories

Talk openly about mental health. If you’ve struggled with mental illness, consider sharing your story. It reminds people they’re not alone. Shame lives in the darkness. Bringing stories of emotional suffering that others can resonate with into the light weakens that shame.

Support an Organization

There are several organizations on the local, state and national level that exist to fight the stigma and help those who are struggling. Consider supporting their mission or participating in an event that raises awareness and funds for mental illness.

Set an Example

Avoid insulting comments about people and avoid judging others to be “less than” you. Oftentimes, when we do this, we don’t know their story; rather we make assumptions and fail to take into consideration what they’re going through or that their behavior is impacted by mental illness, not a direct reflection of who they are as a person.

Show Compassion

Mental illness is not anyone’s fault. It’s not something they choose to live with. Be compassionate toward people who are suffering emotionally, just as you would if they were suffering with a physical illness. When they realize you truly care and are willing to listen and offer support without judgment, they will begin to open up and take the first step toward treating their mental illness.

Yes, capitalize Blacks. And Whites too

Dennis Dalman

Reporter



and Whites. It was published in the Sept. 18 Newsleader.

Recently, the news office received an answering-machine message from an anonymous woman who said she was angry about how I capitalized Blacks but not whites in that column. It was, she suggested, a trendy political correctness or a kind of grammatical reverse discrimination.

“What?!” I said to myself, aloud, after hearing her message. I was positive I’d capitalized BOTH of those words.

Immediately, I checked the column stored on my computer. Here is a sentence from that column:

“That psychological divide should not surprise us because there has been a separation (physical, psychological) between Whites and Blacks through centuries of slavery.”

Where did that woman get the notion I hadn’t capitalized whites, too? Does she need a new pair of reading glasses?

Then I checked the printed version of the column in the newspaper. That woman was correct; the Whites had been decapitalized. What happened is that a well-intentioned newspaper proofreader, not knowing the rules had changed, had de-

For many years, I would wince when writing a sentence such as, for example: “There is a diverse population living in the Twin Cities area, including Latinos, Vietnamese, Somalians, **blacks**, Native Americans and **whites**.”

That sentence is like a smile with two missing teeth. Why shouldn’t whites and blacks be capitalized too, like the others in that list? It didn’t seem right, didn’t make sense.

Just last June, the Associated Press Stylebook announced the word blacks, when referring to African-Americans, should be capitalized: Blacks. The AP Stylebook, used in newsrooms throughout the world, has long been a compendium of usage for newswriting style – for example, how to abbreviate states, when and when not to spell out numbers, and so forth.

One afternoon, the editor and I were talking on the telephone when he happened to mention the AP Stylebook now recommends capitalizing the words black/blacks when referring to people.

“Good!” I said. “It’s about time.”

Then he said, “We should probably capitalize the word white too.”

“Yes, absolutely,” I said. “Why one if not the other?”

I could just imagine the uproar if we capitalized Blacks but not whites. We’d be accused of reverse racism. It makes eminent sense, at long last, to capitalize both: Whites, Blacks.

In early September, I wrote a column about racial issues in which I capitalized every mention of Blacks

Voting should always be important

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



still need to go.

This crazy year has made it obvious that elections and politics are able to affect every aspect of our lives. It’s easy to think actions in Washington and St. Paul do not have a direct impact on us. But as we have seen, especially in the past few months with Covid-19, that myth should be forever shattered. Who we elect to be president, governor, senator, and even mayor, matters. Every individual and political party who runs for office has different ideas for what she/he would do if elected. If we want politicians to work for us and make good policy that benefits our communities, state and country, we have an obligation as citizens to make sure we’re voting in the right people for the job.

It is heartening to me to see this year many more avenues than usual are being employed to get people to the polls. Social media apps and websites have prominent announcements with links for users to register to vote. Radio and television ads from a variety of sources also have stressed the importance of voting. Notably, the NBA has instituted a campaign,

By the time this column is published, our country will be just over a month away from an election that has been talked about for a very long time. Ever since Donald Trump’s win in the Presidential election of 2016, endless talk ensued about whether he would win another term or be defeated at the polls. Voters on both sides have been highly motivated, sharing news stories online, getting friends and family registered to vote and donating money to their favored side. Based on how much we’ve heard about politics in these past four years, I wouldn’t be surprised if voter turnout Nov. 3 ends up being one of the highest percentages in recent memory. Seeing all of this engagement now, I wonder why voting and elections aren’t always a top priority.

I certainly recognize the stakes in this election are very high. Whatever you think of Trump, his policies and attitude have brought out strong reactions from many people of all walks of life in our nation. The Covid-19 pandemic, which still continues to rage, and has now killed more than 200,000 Americans, has shown how necessary steady and fact-based leadership is. And the recent passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an icon for women’s rights and a trailblazer in the legal profession, has illuminated how far we have come as a society and where we

capped those words, making them “whites” instead of “Whites.”

And I agree totally with the woman who called. It’s absurd to capitalize one and not the other.

Language matters, including when referring to races, cultures, nationalities. At one time the word negro was common in speech and print. That word (negro) is Spanish for the color “black,” and thus Spanish explorers used it when referring to the people they encountered on the African continent.

Later, for most publications, it was decided to capitalize it: Negro. In speech, that word was often drawled out as “nigro” and all too often it morphed into racist contempt as the “n” word.

Still later, during the 1960s, “Afro-American” and “blacks” became the way to refer to Negroes. Through the years, there were many other words used to demean people: broads or babes for women, kikes for Jewish people, faggots for gays, Injuns for Native Americans. Even peacenik hippies were guilty of using some demeaning words: for example, chicks for young women.

Some who rant loudest against “political correctness” are those who miss using with impunity the “good old words” from the “good old days.” Some, sad to say, still use the “n” word boldy with an in-your-face defiance of evolving norms.

That hideous, hurtful word especially deserves to bite the dust. Language matters, names matter; mutual respect matters.

led by its players, to promote voting among fans and even to use stadiums as polling places.

These are the kinds of things we should be doing every time an election rolls around. Whether it’s for national or local office, the focus should be on educating people about the election and making it clear that people can vote early in person or absentee, as well, if they choose. In a democracy like the United States, voting is a right, and we should be doing everything possible to make it possible for people to vote. After all, our politicians represent those of us who vote, and so if we want politicians to represent everyone in the country, we need everyone to vote.

So while it is encouraging to see the energy and passion that is in the political process this year, I hope 2020 teaches all of us to keep this going long into the future. Politics shouldn’t be abstract happenings that go on far away. Our government officials make decisions every day that have immense consequences right here at home. The best way to make sure good decisions are made and hold politicians accountable for bad ones is to vote and make our voices heard.

Connor Kockler is a student at St. John’s University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.

Public notice

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748
AUG. 17, 2020
SARTELL MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chair Jeremy Snoberger. Members present: Snoberger, chair; Jason Nies, vice chair; Amanda Byrd, clerk; Patrick Marushin, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director; Pamela Raden, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Nies to APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

During the public comment opportunity, Eva Hesse, 807 First Ave. N.; Mike Chisum, 900 Celebration Circle; Kristen Petersen, 827 Ninth Ave. N.; Taryn Gentile, 1067 Lawrence Circle; Kim Thyen-Nies, 310 Seventh Ave. S.; Summbla Anjum, 1609 Blackberry Circle, all spoke in support of the equity audit proposal that did not pass at the Aug. 5 school board meeting.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A.4.a-A.4.d AS PRESENTED BELOW. All in favor. Motion carried.

A.4.a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on July 20, 2020

Minutes of the special school board meeting held on Aug. 5, 2020

A.4.b. Checks in the amount of \$927,995.46 as presented:	
General Fund	688,113.72
Food Service Fund	2,676.80
Transportation Fund	28,175.48
Community Service Fund	7,207.02
Capital Expenditure Fund	199,358.31
Summer Rec Agency Fund	62.63
Activity Accounts	2,401.50
Check numbers 179034 – 179173	

ACHs in the amount of \$1,478.06 as presented:	
General Fund	1,058.29
Community Service Fund	247.88
Activity Fund	171.89
ACH numbers 202000003-202000011	

Receipts in the amount of \$1,918,744.71 as presented:	
General Fund	1,060,940.65
Food Service Fund	84,455.00
Community Service Fund	13,075.16
Capital Expenditure Fund	500,000.00
Building Fund	812.84
Debt Service Fund	248,635.88
Activity Fund	2,401.50
Internal Service Fund	8,423.68
Receipts 47804 - 47879	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$507,773.50 as presented:	
General Fund	33,603.52
Food Service Fund	27,127.13
Transportation Fund	300.60
Community Service Fund	3,968.26
Capital Expenditure Fund	8,175.95
Debt Service Fund	2,385.00
Internal Service Fund	432,213.04
Wire transfers 202000032-202000074	

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$1,688,319.94 as presented:	
Building Fund	1,688,319.94
Check numbers 601057 to 601093	

A.4.c. Accept the following donations:
Mark and Kim Doman Endowed Fund of Central Minnesota Community Foundation, Sartell Middle School, \$1,000, general

remodeling of old high school.

A.4.d. Accept the resignation of Annabelle Anderson, ORELC, Para, 8/4/20; Rochelle Dyer, SMS, eighth-grade social studies, 7/21/20; Kristen Kloskin, PMPS, Para, 7/23/20; Ed Krafnik, SMS, Para, 8/5/20; Jayme Steinbach, DSC, food service director, 8/21/20.

Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Construction Manager Lee Gruen reported on the River-view Intermediate renovation project. The steam lab is essentially complete with only minor items still unfinished. The gymnastics area will be finished and cleaning will begin. A punch-list should be completed this month as the project is wrapping up.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, Superintendent

Superintendent Schwiebert thanked everyone who spoke during the public comment opportunity earlier in the meeting and reported on the status of the building re-configuration. All classroom items have been moved two to three times in finalizing the building reconfiguration. The Riverview Intermediate project is the furthest behind. This is due to a delay in shipping on new lockers and a leak in the roof from the storm this past weekend. The building does not currently have air conditioning, but had a new air recirculation system installed which included an ionization enhancement. The Middle School project is complete and the building is begging for students to return. Four members of the community filed for three school board seats for the November election. The candidates are the following: Jason Nies, Taryn Gentile, Matthew Moehrl and Patricia Meling.

District Finance Report:

Director of Business Services Joe Prom provided an update on district finances.

Educational Equity Report: Chairperson Jeremy Snoberger presented an update on educational equity in the district and the process of rebuilding the multicultural committee.

School Board Committee Report:

Treasurer Patrick Marushin reported on the policy committee meeting held on Wednesday, Aug. 12. The committee reviewed the policies in the meeting’s agenda along with policy 102 – Equal Educational Opportunity.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE #1-11:

New Employees/Changes:

Richeal Deming, Transportation, bus driver, \$23.75/hour, new position, 8/31/2020; Allison Eikmeier, DSC, assistant food service director, \$45,000, replacing Shelby Tanner, 8/10/2020; Michael Knight, SMS, eighth-grade social studies, \$40,002, BA, Step A, replacing Rochelle Dyer, 8/26/2020; Charles Kuklok, RIS, custodian, \$17.61/hour, RIII, Step 1, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, replacing Burton Ramsey, 8/3/2020; Judith Landen, SFX, Title I Services – St. Francis Xavier, \$28.85/hour, BA, Step A, 77 hours, new position, 9/8/2020; Shelby Tanner, DSC, food service director, \$75,000, .9 FTE, replacing Jayme Ericson, 7/1/2020; Luke Thorn, DSC, Level I – information technology, \$19.05/hour, 8 hours/day, 174 days/year, new position, 8/28/2020; Kristi Tomczyk, SHS, ninth-grade soccer coach, \$3,878 (8.35 percent), BA, Step C, \$44,045, replacing Eric Koplitz, 8/17/2020.

Leaves of Absence:

Bahaa Kadhém, SMS, lead dustodian, LOA, 7/30/20-8/24/20, Brittny Schoephoerster, RIS, assistant principal, LOA, 11/5/20-1/4/21, Kerry Trnka, SHS, math teacher, LOA, 9/25/20-1/4/21,

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Nies to APPROVE TRUTH IN TAXATION (TNT) TENTATIVE HEARING DATE FOR DEC. 21, 2020, AT 6 P.M. LOCATED AT SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Nies TO APPROVE 2020-

2021 SCHOOL YEAR RE-OPENING PLAN RESOLUTION TO START IN LEVEL TWO AND INCLUDE IN-PERSON LEARNING FOR PRE-K-GRADE 5 AND HYBRID LEARNING FOR GRADES 6 THROUGH 12. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Byrd TO APPROVE EMERGENCY ADOPTION OF POLICY 808 – COVID-19 FACE COVERING POLICY. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICY 522 – TITLE IX SEX NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY, GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AND PROCESS. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Future Board Work Session – Wednesday, Sept. 2 – District Service Center @ 6:30 p.m.

Future Board Meeting – Monday, Sept. 21 – Sartell Middle School @ 6:30 p.m.

Official Review of Policies:

The Board had the official review of policy: 201, 202, 203, 203.1, 203.2, 203.5, 203.6, 204, 207 and 709.

The Board had the official first reading of revisions to policy 205 and 613.

The Board had the official first reading of adoption of proposed policy 630.

Correspondence:

Letter from Sartell Youth Recreation Center thanking District for support of Athletic Complex Project.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:05 p.m. was made by Nies and seconded by Raden. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, Clerk

Publish: Oct. 2, 2020

Teach Good Money Habits

Money is a fact of life — one that kids should know about and understand early. According to a KeyBank report, 76 percent of current college students wish they'd had more help to prepare for their financial futures.

This underscores how important a financial education is for your child. Yet seminars, workshops and classes on personal finance are not typically included in primary and secondary education.

This puts the pressure and responsibility on adults outside of schools — parents and other family members — to teach children about the value of a dollar.

Here are just a few ways to educate your kids about money at any age.

Create a savings jar. Have your children add in money they earn or receive as gifts. It is best to use a clear vessel, such as a glass jar, so they can see the money grow.

Encourage them to take the coins and bills out every day and count them. They will quickly grasp the diligence it takes to save and the excitement of seeing their savings grow.

Show them the value of a



dollar. When you take your kids to the store and they point out a toy, show them the price tag. Teach them what the numbers mean and how many dollars something costs. Children are incredibly tactile, so take extra cash with you to the store and count out

the money together. If you choose to purchase the item, let your child hand the money to the cashier.

Teach them about opportunity cost. Kids, especially older children, tend to pick up this lesson quickly. Essentially opportunity cost is

about weighing purchasing decisions. Talk your children through the multiple spending options for their money and let them make the final decision.

Teach them about investment cost. Think of the neighborhood lemonade

stand. If your children make \$10 selling lemonade during your yard sale, have them pay you for the cost of the lemons and sugar. You could also charge them a small rental fee for using the front yard. This will help them understand profit.

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