

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, June 25, 2021
Volume 26, Issue 13
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Farmers' Market
open every Monday

Sartell Farmers' Market is open from 3-6 p.m. Mondays weekly, including July 5, in Bernick's Pepsi Arena lot, 1109 First St. S., Sartell. Meat, eggs, treats and new vegetables coming weekly.

Sports Buddies sought

Big Brothers Big Sisters Community-based mentoring program matches children 7- to 17-years-old in a new match who desire a match with a Big Brother or Big Sister. Once they are matched, they can stay matched until age 21. They are looking for Bigs to match with a Little and participate in spectating and interactive sporting activities. The requirement is a sixth-month commitment with one to two planned events throughout each month. Visit <https://www.bigdefenders.org/beabig/> to complete a form of inquiry. Visit www.bigdefenders.org or call 320-253-1616 to learn more.

Senior Dining
seeks volunteers

Catholic Charities Senior Dining is looking for volunteers to help in their satellite dining locations. Volunteers will assist Senior Dining Food Coordinator with before, during and after meal duties and to assist in setting up the food service line, serving food, washing dishes and packaging Meals on Wheels. Hours vary, approximated one to two hours daily for each shift. Contact Annie at annie.henriksen@ccstcloud.org or 320-229-4590 or visit www.ccstcloud.org to learn more.

Huskies Food Pantry
needs donations

Donate non-perishable food items and other goods to the Huskies Food Pantry. Current specific donation needs include culturally desired foods (i.e. Halal; Indian; African; Asian; etc.) and toiletries. All donations can be brought to the Huskies Food Pantry's location, Hill Hall Room 190. Email foodpantry@stcloudstate.edu with questions.

INSERT:
City of St. Stephen
newsletter

Equity audit reveals challenges for schools

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Equity Alliance MN presented its long-awaited report and recommendations at the June 21 Sartell-St. Stephen school board meeting, but not before 12 people, mostly opposed to the equity effort, spoke during the board's open forum period at the beginning of the meeting.

Equity Alliance staff outlined findings of its study that included reviewing data, focus groups with students, staff and community members and observations of the district's schools. The district's effort to address equity, which promises that each student, particularly students of color, receive the support needed to be successful in school, picked up support following last summer's killing of George Floyd. During a listening session in June 2020, students and parents shared stories of racism, and hurt-



photo by Mike Knaak

Steve Kron was one of 12 people who spoke during the open forum period at the June 21 Sartell-St. Stephen school board meeting.

ful comments about religion and gender.

During the open forum, when

speakers offer statements but the board doesn't comment, about three-quarters of the speakers criti-

cized the education equity project, and objected to the process and

Audit • page 3

Lights, seats plan at high school fields moves forward

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Installing lights and spectator seating at two high school athletic fields moved ahead June 21 when the school board authorized seeking bids for up to \$1 million for the improvements. The money comes from unspent funds in the building bond account that has been saved on lower-than-anticipated

expenses and boosted by higher-than-expected interest income on the bond money.

In other financial matters, the board also approved the final 2020-21 budget and a preliminary budget for 2021-22. Director of Business Services Joe Prom reported on the finances and enrollment. The district is anticipating 4,109 students enrolling this fall, compared with 4,092 in the revised total for

this school year.

Both years' budgets were boosted by funding from the federal CARES Act and American Rescue Plan stimulus funding. The district received about \$2.7 million from the two acts with a range of allowable uses including COVID-19 response items, summer-school programming, mental-health needs and strategies to offset learning loss as the result of the pandemic.

The Minnesota Legislature is facing a June 30 deadline to pass a state budget, which includes school funding.

The district's unassigned fund balance will increase from 12.8 percent of expenses to 13.64 percent or an amount of \$5,816,698. The district sets a minimum of 10 percent as its unassigned fund balance. The district spends about \$60 million a year.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

The Sartell Middle School marching band performs June 12 during "Slightly Summerfest" with colorguard flags whipping in the wind. Additional photo on page 3.

Sartell to shine on 'Town Ball Tour'

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell's star is bound to shine brightly Wednesday, June 30 when Fox 9 TV News features the city throughout the day and evening as part of its "Town Ball Tour" series.

"Town Ball Tour Sartell" will spotlight a variety of aspects of what makes the city unique: industries, restaurants, the river, parks, recreation, sports and more. There will be news features throughout the day, including interviews with many Sartell residents. A major highlight will be the Fox 9 News live-streaming of

Tour • page 2

School board thanks retiring superintendent

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

At the end of the June 21 Sartell-St. Stephen school board meeting, Board Chair Jeremy Snoberger read a statement from the board thanking retiring Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert for his seven years



Schwiebert

of service to the district. The district hired Jeff Ridlehoover to replace Schwiebert.

The statement:

"As a board we want to take a moment in this your last board meeting to thank you publicly for all the ways that you have impacted the Sartell-St Stephen School District these past seven years. Your passion and investment, not only in education as a whole, but in the Sartell-St Stephen School District has been

Thanks • page 3

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Tour from front page

a baseball game between long-time adult amateur rivals – the Sartell Stone Ponies and the Sartell Muskies. The game will start at 7 p.m. with Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum throwing the first pitch. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for senior citizens/students. Children who wear a jersey to the game will get in free.

There will be Fox 9 interviews with the two team's managers, as well as comments from players and spectators, including participants of a Youth Baseball Clinic before the adult game begins.

The Youth Baseball Clinic before the game is free for girls and boys in kindergarten through second grade. The event will take place from 5:30-6:15 p.m., but space is limited and advance registration is required. To register, contact Nikki Sweeter, Sartell's engagement specialist. Her office number is 320-258-7309. Her email is nikki.sweeter@sartellmn.com

A Fox 9 News crew – reporters, videographers – will spend the entire day exploring the city. Sartell is one of seven Minnesota cities chosen by Fox 9 for its "Town Ball Tour" series broadcast Wednesdays in June and July. So far, there have been programs about Waconia, Buffalo, Delano and St. Patrick. After Sartell June 30, the featured cit-

ies will be Minneapolis (July 14) and Faribault (July 21).

As in all of its Town Ball Tour productions, Fox 9 News will showcase the excellence of sports parks – in Sartell's case, the site of the June 30 game, St. Cloud Orthopedics Field, formerly Sartell Champion Field, which has undergone many updates and expansions during the past two decades. The ball field is located at 802 12th St. N.

Sartell residents are encouraged to tune into Fox 9 News throughout the day to see and hear feature stories about the city. In addition, the big game itself can be accessed live by going to fox9.com/live with the Minnesota Baseball Association and SchoolSpace Media.

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For information contact

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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we've fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357.

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photo by Carolyn Bertsch

The Sartell high school marching band performs June 12 at “Slightly Summerfest.” The bands theme this year is star-gazing.

Audit

from front page

survey questions and how Equity Alliance MN was chosen. Some speakers tied it to the current nationwide debate about critical race theory.

About 125 people attended the meeting, meetings which are usually sparsely attended. Judging by the applause for each speaker, it appeared two-thirds to three-fourths of the crowd supported critics.

The report breaks down the research results into six topics, referred to as dimensions.

For each dimension, the report compiles the research and offers suggestions. For the next step in the process, the school board will review the recommendations and work with school and community leaders to come up with priorities and an action plan. That process is expected to take two or three months.

The 72-page report is available on the district’s web site at www.sartell.k12.mn.us/equityaudit.

The six dimensions are:
Systemic equity for students. The report found students are concerned about racism, homophobia and discrimination against people with disabilities. About two-thirds of students said they had not directly engaged in activities to teach about race, culture or under-

standing of others. Staff members reported a desire to hire more staff of color.

Efficacy of programs. Staff members were not aware of evaluation cycles, making it difficult to improve student programs. Students of color were not comfortable bringing concerns to leadership or adults. Staff and leadership held a different view of the MTSS program, a framework used to provide targeted support to struggling students.

Utilization of resources. The study found the district provided quality materials backed up with strong technology, but lacked resources for English-Language Learners. The report found a need for mental health and anti-bullying programs, increased cultural knowledge and diversity, and community concern about how the district spends its money.

Curriculum represents equity. Students are not satisfied with the curriculum, the report found. There’s a need for more professional development and to remove barriers for single-parent and low-income families.

Student-centered leadership. The study found high levels of positive rapport between adults and students but teachers dominated the discussions. The sense of community is affected by grade level and race. The staff says it thinks it’s important for students to lead, but that is happening less often than expected.

Inclusive communication. The consultants found a welcoming district. There’s a lack of multi-language signage and translations. While students felt safe in classrooms, they felt less safe in locker rooms and in counseling and school resource officer offices. Students thought racism is a problem while staff and leadership did not.

The report offered a series of recommendations for curriculum, board policies, professional development, community partnership and increasing student voice.

School board members, who received the report June 18, asked questions about the data and methodology but board member Patrick Marushin dug a little deeper. He asked Equity Alliance Executive Director Sebastian Witherspoon if there were any surprises in the research. Witherspoon said there were “not a ton of surprises.” But he said students in focus groups talked about a high level of anxiety and depression. In one group of 12, he said, they all said they suffered from anxiety and depression.

Students are doing well academically, he said, “but suffering is taking place.” He said his team has seen the issue in other places but not to the degree found in the Sartell-St. Stephen district.

Equity Alliance Director of Guidance and Programmatic Planning Tonya Sconiers said, “With high expectations, there needs to be high support.”

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Thanks

from page 2

evident to all in the ways you have shared your experience and leadership with us as well as in the relationships you have built. We want to say thank you for the way you have led and equipped us for the road ahead as well as the way you have supported and built a strong foundation here in 748.

Your knowledge and experience in the entire building project from planning to development, bonding to building, and budgets to implementation was such a gift to our district. Your hands-on time spent working with contractors and bid packages and project teams was a huge part of the success of these projects. I know you would be quick to say you had some great budget support from both Steve and Joe, and you did! You also built a great relationship with Lee and John, and the Bradbury-Stamm team, and I bet there were times they thought maybe the new HS was your main office, but that boots-on-the-ground time was so helpful.

Not only that but helping our administrators and staff prepare for the moves that were to come and considering curriculum and technology needs, and then helping each group to connect with each other as the pieces fell into place was a huge role you played. You worked with the city and other area leaders from the get go. From the community planning team that helped design the scope of the project, to the many community meetings, chamber meetings and other gatherings you attended, you were always reminding us why this was needed and helping us see the road ahead. You were always willing to be wherever you needed to be to share the vision of the district and the building project.

Your ability and gift to speak to senators and representatives, business leaders and govern-

ment leaders, large gatherings or small was a huge strength in your role. However we also saw you teach in elementary classes, talk with children in our schools and connect with students about the needs they saw in our buildings and district, and that was maybe your best communication. You always were student focused, and you cared deeply for our staff and community. Sartell-St Stephen was not another stop in your full career, it was your community, your home, and you cared about us all, as we know you still do.

One of the long-lasting gifts you shared with us was in the team you assembled to serve around you. From Kay, Krista, Joe and the entire district team, to Sasha, Sarah, Zach, Laura and Jason and the amazing staff that they serve with to meet the needs of our students, you built a great team.

Great teams don’t just happen, and we are excited to see what will continue to grow as these leaders, along with many who are still to come, grow in the foundation you helped build as our superintendent these past years.

As a board, we have experienced first hand your leadership, your friendship and your passion for our district. We have enjoyed working with you to meet the challenges that were set before us as a district head on, from budget crunches to building projects, vision and direction to classrooms and curriculum, and even this past year as we took on the challenge of Covid together, we appreciate your leadership. We know you will have a blast in retirement together with Deb, and we also know the Sartell-St Stephen School District will continue to grow and thrive in this community. But here tonight, we just want to say thank you. Thank you for everything you have done to bring us to where we are today, and thank you for being a part of leading this district!”

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BLOTTER

For a complete blotter, visit the-newsleaders.com

May 25
4:55 a.m. Assist agency. River Oaks Lane. Dispatch requested Sartell officers to assist with a medical call. When officers arrived, it was determined to be a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to the St. Cloud Hospital with a Sartell officer. Sartell officers assisted in helping clear the house, property and holding perimeter while the initial investigation occurred.

May 26
9:07 p.m. Stolen-vehicle recovery. CR 120. While a Sartell officer was on their way to work a special detail, they noticed a vehicle that was making numerous driving violations. After a quick check of the license plate the officer learned the vehicle was stolen out of St. Cloud. The officer followed the vehicle at a distance until more units arrived in the area. The vehicle was stopped and had three occupants in the vehicle. One male was detained and taken to the Stearns County Jail.

Trail, shelter approved for Sauk River Park

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

Thanks to a grant from the Department of Natural Resources, a paved bicycle trail and a park shelter will be constructed at Sauk River Regional Park.

At its June 14 meeting, the Sartell City Council unanimously approved the plans and authorized advertising for bids for the new amenities.

Sauk River Regional Park is located off of CR 120 across from Epic Center (Walmart area) in south Sartell.

For years, Sartell city councils have gone back and forth, sometimes a bit contentiously, on exactly which amenities that park should include. The council on June 14, however, seemed to be in full agreement about the trail and shelter, as well as some security lighting and the possible addition of security cameras in the future.

The plans were presented to the council by April Ryan, a city engineer. The paved trail, she said, will be from 800 to 900 feet long. It will start at the park's parking lot and extend all the way through the wooded area to the Sauk River swimming beach, where the shelter will be built.

The shelter will consist of any open-sided structure with a permanent roof overhead and picnic tables underneath the canopy roof. The shelter structure will sit on a poured concrete slab.

The \$425,000 in DNR money will cover the cost - \$80,000 for the trail, \$207,000 for the shelter as well as security lighting and signage improvements. The grant also contains money (\$135,000) for some mountain-bike trails, work on which has already begun.

Construction of those projects is expected to begin this fall with completion anticipated in the spring of 2022.

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How to Choose a Pet Sitter

Hiring a pet sitter can be a more economical choice than a kennel if you have multiple pets.

If your pet struggles with behavior or social behavior issues, or is distressed when left at a kennel, a pet sitter might be a good option.

When you're ready to hire a pet sitter, there are some things to keep in mind to make sure you get a good fit for your pet.

1. **Read reviews.** Many websites have sprung up to help people find pet sitters, but you might want to ask your vet for recommendations first. If you do choose a sitter online, focus not just on reviews but on any verification or certifications offered by the website based on their past experiences with a sitter. Ask for contact info of previous clients you can contact for a reference.

2. **Check for bonding and insurance** to help protect you in case an accident happens on your property.

3. **Ask what kind of training and experience the sitter has.** Ideally the sitter will have some basic pet first-aid training and knowledge of pet health and safety.

4. **Schedule a visit.** Notice how the sitter gets along with your pet and how your pet responds.

5. **Ask which services are included.** Will they feed your pet or administer medication? Will they commit to timely vis-



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its with nice, long walks?

6. **Ask how often the sitter will update you on your pet's status.** This might be daily or a couple of times throughout your absence.

7. **Insist on a written contract** that lays out the services provided and the fees, and how and when the fees will be paid.

Your sitter also should ask

lots of questions about the pet's needs and daily routine, to be sure he can continue those routines while you're away.

If the sitter has not been vet-

ted by a third party, consider paying for an online background check to vet the person who will have access to your home and property while you're away.

Pine Cone Pet Hospital

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Opinion

Our view

Summer solstice, gratitude – but especially patience

Sunday, June 20 was this year's summer solstice or rather, the first day of summer. Some of us refer to this day as the longest day of the year, but what a lot of us don't know is the summer solstice symbolizes patience, gratitude and hope. After this last year when we were all still quarantined, this year many of us will feel this sense of gratitude and hope, especially as we slowly start seeing things get back to normal. But patience might not come as naturally to us. As our communities start to open up and festivals and parades bring in the crowds, one thing we should push ourselves to remember is to have grace with each other as we step back into normal.

There are many restaurants that are still short staffed. Your wait times to get a table may be longer and your food and drink orders may not be served to you as quickly as you'd like. Know your servers are doing the best they can. Perhaps you can take that extra wait time to reflect on how fortunate you are to be able to eat in a restaurant again.

Most of us are eager to get back to our social gatherings, and attending parades, festivals and live music. In fact, one of the hardest parts last year was not being able to go and watch some favorite local bands while enjoying a cold IPA. But keep in mind there are members of our community who still need to be what some might call "overly cautious." Those who have a lower immunity due to other illnesses or diseases, elderly and even the younger kids who are not able to get vaccinated yet, still may be attending events with caution and with masks. Try to keep in mind wearing that mask might be the only way they are able to be out in public.

Days will begin to get shorter but now is time for our patience to be boundless. Tip your servers well, even if it took an extra 15 minutes to get your meal. Enjoy being out and about with your community, even if it means you might still need to talk to someone from behind their mask. After all, you never know whose life they might be trying to protect.

Gratitude and hope will come to most of us easily now as we start to emerge back into our everyday lives, but patience can be difficult when we just want things back to normal. Let's not forget where we were last year, and how far we have come.

Letters policy

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or mailed to 1622 11th Ave. S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space or to not publish.

Creativity abounds at Millstream Night Market

Leanne Loy
Editor



Maybe it's drawings or paintings you are drawn to. To see the world through another's eyes displayed on a canvas can remind us of those things we hold so dear. It can capture a beautiful moment, or a loved one's emotions in a stillness we might otherwise not have taken the time to admire.

Perhaps pottery is your jam. Collecting unique bowls, plates or cups with intricate designs and blending colors to decorate your home or office. A ceramic mug can express a feeling, or set your mood for the day, perhaps with a little help from the coffee inside it.

Music has often been described as, "the spice of life." I've heard many proclaim they simply could not live without it. Realistically, we can certainly survive without it, but what kind of survival would it be? Not a pleasant one for sure. As we made our way around the booths, it was visibly clear individuals were moving to the music playing in the background. For some of

us, it's a motion we just cannot control, and I for one am happy to see others enjoying it as well.

My daughter was immediately drawn in by the Great River Children's Museum's table where children were invited to make suncatchers. As she congregated among the other children and lathered on glue and tissue paper to her paper plate, I couldn't help but appreciate the joy those children were experiencing in simply creating. They weren't worried about being good at it, they just knew they wanted to create something. It's instinctual for us to be creative, whether we know we're doing it or not. And it's more important to our well-being to engage in others' art than we give artists credit for.

If you caught yourself flocking to some form of art while you were holed up in quarantine, don't forget about the artist that helped you through those times of isolation. Too often we expect artists to work for free, as though their time creating art isn't as valuable as say, someone who works all day in an office, or teaches or even runs a bank. Life is art, and try as we might, we just cannot live without it. So, thank your local artists, and appreciate the work they do. You probably relied on them last year more than you realized.

Hooray! Finally, we can get real haircuts

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



Hooray! After 15 months of virtual pandemic isolation, I can finally get a haircut – a real haircut.

In May of last year, with virus fears haunting every barber shop in the land, I attempted to cut my own hair. Sad to say, the attempted haircut was more like an attempted murder; it's a wonder I wasn't arrested.

What I did is grab with one hand clumps of hair and with the other hand's scissor-wielding fingers cut the hair clumps off fairly close to the skull – a kind of firm-but-gentle scalping. After the butchery, I stared into the mirror, thinking "well, could be worse."

That same day, next-door neighbors Richard and Martha popped over – masked and distancing. They are both about my age – verging on ancient. They are lucky to get their haircuts, in isolation, from a relative in another city. When they saw me, their jaws dropped.

"What happened?" Martha asked.

"Whaddy'a mean, what happened?" I said.

"Your head!" she said. "Your hair!"

"What about it?" I asked defiantly.

They were both trying so hard to squelch laughter, and it's then I realized it was likely the most raggedly ridiculous haircut anybody had ever seen.

"Hey, who cares?" I said. "I'm stuck. I'm isolating. I ain't goin' nowhere. So nobody has to see this scalp job."

Still, thank goodness for baseball caps.

Martha and Richard giggled with sympathy; I laughed too.

In my heyday, in the 1960s, I had

beautiful long wavy black-brown hippy hair much admired by many I met.

"Hey, dude – your hair! Cool!"

That was then, once upon a time. This, alas, is the winding-down now. All my hairs' sinuous waves and their black-brown shades are long gone, having been evicted by scruffy ghost-white tufts.

My parents, after their heads turned gray because of six hyper kids, weren't kidding when they'd sigh their constant lament years ago: "Nobody's gettin' any younger."

Some months ago, I attempted a second self-haircut.

"Is this one better?" I asked my good neighbors.

"Well, kind of," Richard said.

"No," Martha said. "Sorry, Dennis. It's not. No, no and no. But it's OK. Hair grows. Give it time. You can always try it again."

A few months ago, I was watching a TV interview on which movie actor George Clooney said that for years he used one of those cheap gizmos called a "flowbee" to trim his own hair. It's like a comb with a razor blade embedded in its upper reaches.

Neighbor Martha, who saw the same interview, told me she could order a flowbee-type cutter through a catalog she gets. Three bucks.

"Get it," I said. "Worth a try."

One day, Martha brought me the

flowbee look-alike. I hesitated. What if, while I'm using it, the razor in it cuts off my ear, like Van Gogh's? Yikes. Days later, I summoned the courage and combed and combed my head, wisps of hair falling onto the floor.

I looked in the mirror. The haircut, I knew right away, looked just as bad as the last one and the one before that. Maybe even worse.

That same day, Richard and Martha popped over.

"Well?" I said.

"Well what?" they asked.

"My George Clooney flowbee haircut," I said. "How do you like it?"

Squirming, they said nice, very nice.

"Well, do I look like George Clooney now?" I asked with utmost mock seriousness.

Richard, trying to muffle his chuckle, burst out laughing.

Marty said oh well, Clooney is not that good-looking, anyway.

"Still, Dennis, a good haircut wouldn't do you any harm," she added.

I got even when they popped into my house some days later.

"Gee," I said, "Too bad the pandemic's over."

"Why?" they both fairly shouted.

"Because you both looked so much better with your masks on," I said.

They gave mock-sour frowns. Then Richard scoffed: "Yeah, well, look who's talkin'!"

That's what I love about good neighbors. Even during a pandemic, they know how to turn frequent frustrations into so much sly fun.

Have an opinion? Share it: news@thenewsleaders.com

PUBLIC NOITICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING • SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748
MAY 17, 2021 • SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jeremy Snoberger. Members present: Snoberger, chair; Jason Nies, vice chair; Amanda Byrd, clerk; Matt Moehrle, treasurer; Patrick Marushin, director; Tricia Meling, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

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

During the public comment opportunity, Samantha Huber, 2292 Wyoming Court, spoke on the topic of open enrollment for the district.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Moehrle to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A.4.a – A.4.e AS PRESENTED BELOW. All in favor. Motion carried.

A.4.a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on April 19, 2021
Minutes of the school board work session held on May 5, 2021

A.4.b	Checks in the amount of \$1,298,159.99 as presented:
General Fund	684,413.24
Food Service Fund	98,075.29
Transportation Fund	323,978.98
Community Service Fund	10,021.14
Capital Expenditure Fund	179,673.53
Activity Accounts	1,055.98
Internal Service Fund	941.83
Check numbers 181002 – 181192	
ACHs in the amount of \$5,196.99 as presented:	
General Fund	5,090.64
Food Service Fund	55.00
Activity Accounts	51.35
ACH numbers 202000118-20200132	

Receipts in the amount of \$5,683,940.53 as presented:	
General Fund	5,225,592.81
Food Service Fund	283,687.64
Community Service Fund	159,272.99
Building Fund	84.85
Activity Accounts	4,801.69
Internal Service Fund	10,500.55
Receipts 48731 - 48859	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,407,641.48 as presented:	
General Fund	977,272.87
Food Service Fund	43,588.51
Transportation Fund	17,721.34
Community Service Fund	28,999.72
Capital Expenditure Fund	1,250.00
Building Fund	117.00
Activity Accounts	1,193.02
Internal Service Fund	337,499.02
Wire transfers 202000569-202000639	

A.4.c Approve resolution accepting the following donations: Sartell-St. Stephen Pre-K-5 PTO, ISD #748, \$310.02, donation for classroom supplies at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center; Sartell-St. Stephen Pre K-5 PTO, ISD #748, \$368.34, donation for classroom supplies at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center; Sartell-St. Stephen Pre-K-5 PTO, ISD #748, \$574.83, donation for classroom supplies at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center; Sartell-St. Stephen Pre-K-5 PTO, ISD #748, \$694.52, donation for classroom supplies at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center; Sartell-St. Stephen Pre-K-5 PTO, ISD #748, \$288.69, donation for classroom supplies at Riverview Intermediate.

A.4.d Accept the resignation of Aimee Gilmore, SHS, SPED, end of school year. Release from employment of Neil Anderson, RIS, custodian, 5/10/21.

A.4.e Approve 2021-2022 Academic Calendar Holidays for Individually Contracted Employees and Superintendent.

Student Representative Report: Courtney Snoberger

Snoberger reported on happenings around the district. Oak Ridge kindergartners have finished virtual conferences and have lots of fun year end activities planned, with field day being Wednesday and Friday. Pine Meadow students have fun year end activities too and are halfway done with virtual music concerts. Riverview met with future third grade students from Pine Meadow and will have their field day on June 2 along with many other year end activities. Students have been working on the School Forest, including some new benches and landscaping projects. Sartell Middle School students welcomed back live guests for their band and choir concerts for the first time in seventeen months. The year-end kickball tournament

has returned this year and is in progress. Sartell High School students had their last distance learning day last Friday. The musical “The Addams Family: Concert Version” went extremely well. The orchestra had their concert last week, band performs tonight and the choir will perform next week. Due to the pandemic many spring sports will be playing into June. Senior awards night will be on May 26 and graduation on June 5. NHS held their induction banquet for new members and student council held a “Run for Rustie” event for a scholarship in memory of Rustie Froemming. The senior-junior powder puff football game was last week; with the seniors victorious.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert reported the location for graduation will be decided on May 27, the weather forecast will determine if it can be outside versus inside. The senior grad party will be held at the stadium on Thursday ending around 10:30 pm. The senior parade will be held the following Friday with fireworks in the evening. Special thanks to Liberty Bank for supporting the fireworks. Benches are being installed at the Riverview School Forest. Bill Galarneault’s family is donating a bench in memory of Bill, which will be placed at Riverview Intermediate School. The June board schedule will include a work session on June 2 at 5:30 p.m., Finance and Operations committee meeting on June 15 at 3:30 p.m. and the regular school board meeting is on June 21 at 5 p.m.

Sartell High School Gender Sexuality Alliance Club Report:

Students from Sartell High School reported on the Sartell High School Gender Sexuality Alliance Club.

District Finance Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert provided an update on district finances.

COVID-19 Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert and Director of Human Resources Krista Durrwachter provided an update on how the district is moving forward with COVID-19.

Enrollment Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert reported on the current enrollment numbers for each school.

School Board Committee Report:

Clerk Byrd reported on the Career and Technical Education video she received from Joe Schulte.

Superintendent Schwiebert reported on the Benton-Stearns meeting.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Nies to APPROVE #1-29:

New Employees/Changes:

Jill Ambrosier, RIS, Elementary Education – 4th Grade, \$73,627, MA30, Step L, replacing Chris Adelman, 8/30/2021; Cindy Austin, SMS, math – eighth grade, \$58,766, MA, Step G, replacing April Greeley, 8/25/2021; Cathy Bergeron, PMPS, student supervisor, \$13.87/hour, RI, S1, 2 hours/day, replacing Vicky Knickerbocker, 4/21/2021;

Lindsey Buchholz, SMS, junior high cross country, \$2,667 (6.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing David Driste, 8/16/2021; Michael Carlson, SHS, art education, \$64,487, MA10, Step J, new position, 8/25/2021; Andrew Ditlevson, SHS, head volleyball, \$5,460, (13 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Sarah Hornseth, 8/17/2021; Collin Franz, SMS/SHS, Spanish, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Chelsey Mersbergen, 8/25/2021; Hannah Gelhar, SHS, family and consumer sciences, \$42,002, BA, Step A, new position, 8/25/2021;

Jason Huschle, SHS, math, \$60,806, MA, Step I, change in assignment, 8/30/2021; Stephanie Kaare, SMS, color guard, \$1,407 (3.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Jennifer Olson, 6/7/2021; Sylvia Kaare, SHS, summer marching band drumline, \$3,990, BA, Step A, (\$42,002), replacing Andrew Guthmiller, 4/6/2021; Abbey Kajer, ORELC, early childhood teacher, \$16,800.80, BA, Step (\$42,002), .4 FTE, replacing Hannah Carey, 8/25/2021; Jennifer LaBonne, PMPS, MTSS interventionist, \$59,787, MA, Step H, change in assignment, 8/30/2021; Nicholas Luberda, ORELC, lead custodian, \$18.96/hour, RIV, Step 1, 8 hrs/day, 260 days/year, replacing Steven Gregory, 5/10/2021;

Tony Mazzone, SMS, summer marching band lead, \$1,441 (3.35%), BA, Step B (\$43,024), replacing Katelyn Watkin, 6/7/2021; Rachel Miller, SMS, band lesson director, \$2,247 (5.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Rachel Tisdale, 6/7/2021; Cody Olson, SMS, seventh/eighth-grade activities and athletics (15 meetings) - spring, \$945 (2.25), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Helen Wilfehrt, 3/29/2021; Leah Omann, SHS, social studies, \$33,088, MA, Step E, .5833 FTE, replacing Eric Koplitz, 8/25/2021;

Karlee Pfaff, RIS, elementary education – third grade, \$44,044, BA, Step C, replacing Nichole Perius, 8/25/2021; Paul Plombon, SMS, special education, \$51,011, BA30, Step B, replacing Amy Schaefer, 8/25/2021; Jared Saue, SHS, assistant boys’ tennis, \$3,087 (7.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Greg Henning, 3/29/2021; James Sinkelel, SHS, social studies, \$46,083, BA, Step E, replacing Sydney Vossler, 8/25/2021;

Kerry Trnka, SMS, math, \$64,088, MA20, Step G, change in assignment, 8/30/2021; Kate Turner, SMS, counselor, \$54,687, MA, Step C, replacing Luke Rude, 8/25/2021; Hailey Winter,

RIS, special education (DCD), \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Jessie Mortensen, 8/25/2021.

New Employees – Pending Licensure:

MaryBeth Woodruff, SMS, English/language arts – seventh grade, \$61,825, MA, Step J, replacing Donna Kellor, 8/25/21.

Leaves of Absence:

Christine Adelman, RIS, fourth grade, LOA, 21-22 school year; Jennifer Kiewel, SHS, math, LOA, 5/3/21-5/14/21; Paul Rolfzen, SMS, custodian, LOA, 7/1/21-7/31/21. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Moehrle TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICIES 406, 407 AND 412. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Meling to APPROVE THE RESOLUTIONS TO NON-RENEW THE PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS AS PRESENTED FOR HANNAH CAREY, ERIC KOPLITZ, NAOMI KUPLIC, SADIE ROLFHUS, AMY SCHAEFER AND SYDNEY VOSSLER. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Moehrle, Byrd, Marushin, Meling and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Nies TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 DISTRICT 748 LITERACY PLAN READING WELL BY THIRD GRADE PLAN. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Meling and seconded by Nies TO APPROVE FIBER OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF SARTELL, SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN ISD 748 AND ARVIG. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Moehrle to APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF EXTENSION OF PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR ALLISON WHITE. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Future Board Work Session – Wednesday, June 2, 2021 @ District Service Center - 5:30 p.m.

Future Regular Board Meeting – Monday, June 21, 2021 @ Sartell High School - 5 p.m.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:17 p.m. was made by Nies and seconded by Marushin. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, clerk

Publish: June 25, 2021

Have Fun Saving Money



© ADOBE STOCK

Saving money isn't always the most fun activity for most Americans.

Changing your perspective, creating goals and celebrating milestones makes the process more engaging for families and individuals. Rather than using retail therapy for mental boosts, train yourself to take pride in building your savings account and better preparing your future.

Here are some ideas to get started.

FIND AN EXCITING SIDE GIG

The easiest way to stash away

money is to bring more in each month. Find a side hustle, apart from your day job, that you're passionate about. If money is already an issue, try to discover an activity you can do with little startup fees.

For instance, if you're good with your hands and already own home improvement tools, consider building furniture or unique art projects. In other cases, you can earn a significant amount of side cash by researching ways to make money online. Be wary of scams and be diligent when disclosing financial information for purposes like direct deposit.

You can get your business in the

spotlight by posting what you offer on social media and asking friends to spread the word.

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

Watching your nest egg grow can be the most substantial reason to persevere with your progress. Use smartphone apps that show a timeline of how your savings are growing and analyze it from time to time.

With the visual data, you can easily manage your strategies and adjust for even more positive growth. As you spend money throughout the days, be sure to log your purchases into the tracking software to find out where

most of your earnings go.

PARTICIPATE IN A CHALLENGE

Create a saving goal and encourage your loved ones to participate in the challenge. First, you should choose an amount that you want to save.

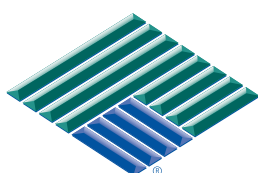
Now, divide that number by 52 to discover how much you will need to stash away each week to reach the milestone.

After the initial year, try to push yourself further by increasing the goal for the next 12 months. Before long, participating in a competitive way to pad your future will become a way of life.

Together we are...
Experienced.

Take any opportunity to collect insight, skill and understanding.

When we build experience **together**, small business is **knowledgeable**.



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