

The Board of Education of Rothsay Independent School District 850 held its regular monthly meeting on September 10, 2024, in the school's Conference Room. Chairperson Jessi Lehn called the meeting to order at 6:30 A.M. In addition to the Chairperson, Board members Kyle Blanchard, David Simmer, Derek Froslic, Danielle Grunewald and Mike Metzger were also present. Superintendent/Principal David Oehrlein, Elementary Principal Karilee Traurig, and District Secretary/Bookkeeper Sarah Wolfer were in attendance from Administration.

Superintendent Oehrlein read the mission statement *"To prepare our students to become responsible citizens and life-long learners."*

Blanchard made a motion to approve the agenda with one change (moving the Ehlers presentation towards the beginning of the meeting); Metzger seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Froslic moved to approve the minutes of the regular August meeting as presented; Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote. The *Rothsay Regional Report* will publish the minutes.

No members of the public were in attendance for the Open Forum.

Grunewald made a motion (which carried upon vote following Metzger's second) to approve the financial reports and to authorize the fiscal agent for ISD 850 to pay accounts payable and hand payables in the following amounts: General Fund - \$169,254.49, Food Service - \$3,060.11, Community Service - \$970.49, and Student Activity - \$1,579.64 total - \$174,864.73. It was reported that the student activity account balance stands at \$148,383.35.

Ehlers gave a presentation to the Board members (via Zoom) regarding the existing Operating Referendum. In short, legislation has allowed Board to have the renewal authority (with limitations). The original authority was in the amount of \$560.11 per pupil for a period of ten years. Due to legislative changes, the current authority is now \$260.11 as \$300 was transferred to the local optional revenue funding formula. Ehlers went through several options for the addition of an inflationary adjustment going forward as well as the options for an operating referendum in the near future. A decision will need to be made by the Board before June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Mr. Oehrlein gave the Superintendent/Principal's report. He began his report stating that the month of September is School Board recognition month. He gave thanks to the School Board for the hours of dedication they provide for our school district and our community. Mr. Oehrlein also thanked the staff, as it has been a great start to the school year thus far. He reported that we have now implemented a system of selling tickets at events to record the attendance and we are keeping track of the season passes sold. It was reported that Homecoming week went well. The district continues to have transportation problems surrounding the lack of bus drivers. The Transportation Committee met regarding these concerns and plan to analyze the routes as well as continue to advertise for more bus drivers. Mr. Oehrlein concluded his report by informing the Board of the staff's use of SmartER software. SmartER is an accounting software that will be utilized at the school in order to transition away from paper and provide our staff with a better idea of their individualized budgets on a classroom/teacher level. In addition, the staff will now be able to view their pay stubs and submit requisitions online.

Mrs. Traurig gave the Elementary Principal's report. She informed the Board that both the students and teachers are excited to be back in school and echoed Mr. Oehrlein's comments regarding the positive start to the school year. She informed the Board that over the course of the next few weeks, students will be completing their baseline data assessments via FastBridge, IXL, and STAR (this will help determine if additional support is needed on a student-by-student basis). Elementary Core/Interventions/Title I/Special Education schedules have been aligned – this allows teachers and paraprofessionals to meet with students in small groups to maximize learning in areas of support (both extension and intervention). She reported that the Math Pilot Program 'Bridges' is being implemented and unfortunately, the new Science Program 'Mystery Science' has experienced a delayed in shipping. The PBS (Positive Behavior System) will kick off this week with extended bus safety training and appropriate behavior on both the bus and playground. Tiny Tigers is running smoothly thus far.

The Activities Director Report was given by Trevor Hone. Mr. Hone reiterated that bussing our student athletes to the extracurricular events has been difficult and is not getting any easier. Ottertail Coaches has been used on a 'a la carte' basis to help with this ongoing challenge. Mr. Hone stated that [fan.hudl.com](http://fan.hudl.com) has been working well to stream the Rothsay events. It was reported that there has been interest in the open girls' basketball positions, and he hopes to have the current vacancies filled soon. Mr. Hone attended the MSHSL Region Activity Director meeting in Otter Tail, MN, on 9/9/2024 as well as the Little Eight Conference Meeting later that same day. Mr. Hone's report was concluded by informing the Board that additional steps have been taken to ensure the safety of all our athletes. In addition to Lake Region's services, we will have equipment ready to prevent heat illness along with an AED at every game. The Rothsay Fire and Rescue ambulance will be on site at all home football games for the remainder of the season.

The Technology Report was included in the board packet and reviewed by all in attendance. Chromebook distribution went smoothly. LCSC Technology has implemented a new content filtering system for school-owned devices. They have migrated all student email and computer accounts under their umbrella (from Loffler). As a new contract provider, they continue to work through the initial needs of the district and work through the list of other identified needs and recommendations for the school/staff/students as time and budget allows.

The Preschool Report was given by Mrs. Green. The district currently has 42 students enrolled in 3-year-old and 4-year-old preschool. Pre-conferences were held the first week of school and were very beneficial in getting to know the new families and students before their first day. It also helped ease the transition of bringing our littlest students into the school by delaying their start date. They are looking forward to an awesome year!

Enrollment currently stands at 301 students.

Metzger moved to set the 2024 payable 2025 Preliminary Levy at the maximum allowable threshold. Grunewald seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Grunewald moved to set the date for the 2024 Truth-in-Taxation Hearing to be held on December 10, 2024, at 6:00 PM during the regular December Board Meeting (the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing will take place at 6:05 PM). Froslic seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Grunewald moved to accept the resignation of Hal Reeser as the Jr. High Football Coach. Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Metzger moved to accept the resignation from Tanya Kort as the Jr. High Softball Coach. Blanchard seconded the motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Blanchard moved to approve the Paraprofessional employment agreement with John Oseña for the 2024-2025 school year. Metzger seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Grunewald moved to approve the Paraprofessional employment agreement with Juan Oseña for the 2024-2025 school year. Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Simmer moved to approve the Volunteer Football Coach agreement with Joe Ouren for the 2024-2025 season. Metzger seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Blanchard moved to approve the Jr. High Football Coach employment agreement with Jason Haas for the 2024-2025 season. Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Froslic moved to approve the Part-Time Paraprofessional employment agreement with Ashley Steiner for the 2024-2025 school year. Grunewald seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Grunewald moved to approve the Part-Time Paraprofessional employment agreement with Amanda Berneking for the 2024-2025 school year. Blanchard seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Simmer moved to approve the 2024-2025 Seniority List as presented. Froslic seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Blanchard moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Donations for the following donation received:

Rothsay Booster Club	\$2,619.97	Football Program
Rothsay Booster Club	\$2,760.00	Volleyball Program
J.O. Volleyball	\$1,248.36	Volleyball Program
Elizabeth Lions Club	\$ 250.00	Teachers Wish Lists
Rona Nitz – In memory of Richard Nitz	\$ 530.00	Angel Fund

Metzger seconded this motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Blanchard, Simmer, Froslic, Grunewald, Metzger and Lehn / Voting against: None. Whereas the said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 a.m.