

Mr. Chairman Klemin and the members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Sara Planteen, I am the mother of 3 children who were up until recently enrolled in one of North Dakota's public schools, and I am here today to testify in support of SB2307. I am here to ask you to protect my children and all the children in ND and their innocence. We live in a world where it is more important to belong, then it is to do what is right for our children and God.

In August my children came home from Sargent Central Public School in Forman and told me the school had a new book series that we had recently seen at a book store and discussed with our children it wasn't appropriate for them to read. This new book series is written below a middle school reading level and is a cartoon book that is said to be for grades 9-12. The summaries on booklooks.org state it contains self harm, gender ideologies, explicit sexual activities, alcohol use by minors, profanity, derogatory terms and alternate sexualities. Book 5 even has a content warning. It was on the front display when you came into the library and accessible for all grades PreK-12. After verifying the books were indeed on the front display and accessible to all students prek-12 we asked the librarian to move the books to a more age appropriate area, but were told no. A conversation with the principal and superintendent got me nowhere. School board policy states a request for reconsideration should be filed. I filed that on October 11th. My request for review was passed around the school for staff to read. Some staff then sent a statement to the school board members stating there was nothing wrong with the books in question, before some school board members even knew what was going on. Finally on October 30th, 13 business days later, after everyone else was done reading it, scheduled a special meeting to appoint a committee. School board policy states, the board **shall** appoint a curriculum review committee annually **before** the commencement of the school year, that being in July. When I looked at the annual meeting minutes 2 school board members were selected for this committee, the committee **may include** the following, but not required. But it clearly is stated that you **HAVE TO APPOINT** the committee **before** the commencement of the school year. Why would we need to appoint a review committee now in October **AFTER** the complaint had been filed. Clearly it didn't fit the agenda, so the superintendent hand-picked committee members that included teachers and staff that had already signed a statement saying there was nothing wrong with the books. Do you think my request was given a fair and unbiased review if people reviewing it already wrote a statement saying there was nothing wrong with the books? School board policy was clearly not followed. I keep hearing "this is a parent problem" & parents need to be monitoring what their kids are reading. How many parents that send their children to a public school are privileged enough to be able to take time off to go to the school library with their children during their designated library time during the school day? What if they have multiple children? I feel public schools should be held to a higher standard. You are using tax payer dollars to supply a teacher and books.

On November 13th I presented the school board with a petition that had 228 signatures requesting the book series be removed and school policies updated as they haven't been updated in 10 years. Not just an individual, 228 signatures. Just a few years ago only 29 people showed up to vote for the school board, 228 signatures is substantial. The staff rallied up students to attend to hold up signs, some students going against parents consent. One school board member stated everyone in the building said it should be here. Do parents, community members and tax

payers not get a say anymore only teachers, staff and administration? An elementary teacher stated on behalf of the teachers and staff they only saw illustrations of kissing, cuddling, hand holding and people in bed together but nothing showing graphic or erotic behavior and if an elementary student finds the book they are violating school board policy. There was no need for the kids to find the books, they were put right in front of them. Multiple parents with students as young as 8 years old came forward and said their child had checked out the books or looked at them in the library. Why would the school even have books that would violate school board policy if a student found it? Ultimately that night the Sargent Central Public School board did nothing with my review for reconsideration or the petition. Clearly community input is not valued when it does not match the administration's opinion.

Parents have the right to expect that schools will act in the best interest of their children. When schools fail to follow their own policies, when they dismiss parental concerns, then it is the duty of our elected officials to step in and ensure that order and accountability are restored.

I have included the school board policies referenced, school board minutes, Booklooks.org summary, and pictures from the book for you to make a decision on actual information, not someone's opinion.

I urge a DO PASS on Senate Bill 2307 . Thank you. I stand for questions.

PROCEDURE FOR REVIEWING COMPLAINTS ABOUT INSTRUCTIONAL/RESOURCE MATERIAL

Review Committee

The Board shall appoint a curriculum review committee annually before the commencement of the school year. The committee may be included of the following individuals:

1. A media specialist;
2. A teacher from each educational level serviced by district schools as selected by the Superintendent;
3. A parent or parents;
4. The principal(s);
5. The Superintendent
6. School board members as assigned

The committee may obtain the assistance of individuals with expertise in an area/subject that comes before the committee for review and may hold a public forum to receive community input when instructional or resource material is contested.

Review Procedure

When a complaint or request for review of instructional material is made, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The building principal shall require the complainant to complete a Request for Reconsideration of Instructional/Resource Material form.
2. The building principal shall submit the completed form to the Superintendent who shall call the review committee meeting to initiate the review process as soon as practicable.
3. If the item being contested is a library book, the item may be placed on reserve in the library during the review process, requiring parental permission to check out. If the review relates to curricular material, the principal shall be responsible for issuing notice to parents of the instructional material under review and provide parents the option of electing an alternative assignment for their children during the course of the review process.
4. Review committee members shall read/view/listen to all or a substantial portion of the contested material.
5. The review committee shall generate a report of recommendations. Recommendations to remove or restrict access to material must be based on the following criteria:
 - a. The material is pervasively vulgar.
 - b. The material is not educationally suitable.
 - c. The material is not age-appropriate.
 - d. The material is part of the curriculum and forces students to profess or deny a belief in what they are reading or engage or refrain from

engaging in a practice contrary to their religious belief.

Recommendations shall not be made in an attempt to suppress a viewpoint or limit student exposure to divergent ideas. Mere exposure to an idea does not violate students' rights and the District shall not prescribe what is orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion. Consequently, the committee should consider alternatives to removing instructional/resource material such as, but not limited to, an opt-out option for curricular material or placing check-out restrictions on library material.

6. Committee recommendations shall cite specific passages, sections, pages, and/or chapters that formed the basis of the recommendations.
7. If the review committee does not unanimously agree on the recommendations, the dissenting committee members may generate a minority report. This report must contain all components listed above.
8. The review committee shall issue recommendations to the Board as soon as practical.
9. The Board shall read the challenged material before acting on the recommendations.
10. The board's ruling is final. All findings and records related to the review process shall be retained by the Superintendent.

End of Sargent Central Public School District Policy GAAC-BR
Reviewed November 12th, 2014
Adopted November 12th, 2014



Sargent Central School District #6
Forman, North Dakota
Monday, July 15, 2024
Regular and Annual Meeting

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL.

The regular meeting of the school board of Sargent Central Public School District #6 was called to order by Business Manager, Julie Colemer in the ITV Room, Monday, July 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jayne Pfau, Jen Christianson, Neil Planteen, Brandon Hanson, Matt McLaen, Shannon Bergh, and Steven Mongeon

In Attendance: Daniel Warcken, Superintendent (by phone), Julie Colemer, Business Manager

Routine Business:

Motion by Christianson seconded by Hanson to approve the June 24, 2024, School Board minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Planteen seconded by Pfau to adopt the July 15, 2024, agenda. Motion carried.

Special Business:

Julie Colemer, Business manager asked for nominations for Sargent Central School Board Chairperson for the 2024-2025 school term.

Pfau nominated Jen Christianson. Planteen ceased nominations seconded by Pfau. All voted unanimously for Christianson. Motion carried.

Christianson asked for nominations for Sargent Central School Board Vice Chairperson for the 2024-2025 school term.

Planteen nominated Hanson. Planteen ceased nominations seconded by Pfau. All voted unanimously for Hanson. Motion carried.

Established standing committees and representatives for the following:

Building and Grounds Committee: Mongeon, Bergh, McLaen

Co-op committee: McLaen, Hanson

Curriculum/Ad-Hoc committee: Christianson, Planteen

Finance committee: Christianson, Planteen, Hanson

Negotiations committee: Christianson, Planteen, Hanson

Transportation committee: McLaen, Pfau, Bergh

Wellness committee: Christianson, Pfau

Policy committee: Planteen, Pfau, Hanson

Motion carried.

Motion by Planteen seconded by Pfau to appoint Julie Colemer custodian of all school district funds and revenue bonds for the 2024-2025 school term. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Planteen seconded by Pfau to approve semi-annual Pledge of Assets through Stock Growers Bank. McLaen abstained, Mongeon, Pfau, Planteen, Hanson and Christianson all voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Pfau seconded by Hanson to designate Neil Planteen as Southeast Career and Technical representative for the 2024-2025 school term. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Sargent Central Public School District #6

Special School Board Meeting

October 30th, 2024

7:00 pm

ITV Room



A. Routine Business

1. Business Manager Records Roll

Bergh _____ Christianson _____ Hanson _____ McLaen _____
Mongeon _____ Pfau _____ Planteen _____

2. Motion to Adopt Agenda

Bergh _____ Christianson _____ Hanson _____ McLaen _____
Mongeon _____ Pfau _____ Planteen _____

B. Business for Special Meeting

1. Dakota Fence Quote

Bergh _____ Christianson _____ Hanson _____ McLaen _____
Mongeon _____ Pfau _____ Planteen _____

2. Curriculum Review Committee

Bergh _____ Christianson _____ Hanson _____ McLaen _____
Mongeon _____ Pfau _____ Planteen _____

3. NDSBA - District Legal Counsel

Bergh _____ Christianson _____ Hanson _____ McLaen _____
Mongeon _____ Pfau _____ Planteen _____

C. Adjourn

Bergh _____ Christianson _____ Hanson _____ McLaen _____
Mongeon _____ Pfau _____ Planteen _____

Sargent Central School District #6
Forman, North Dakota
Wednesday, October 30, 2024

The special meeting of the school board of Sargent Central Public School District #6 was called to order by President Jen Christianson in the ITV room at 7:00 pm beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Matt McLaen, Shannon Bergh, Jayne Pfau, Neil Planteen, Brandon Hanson, Jen Christianson and Steven Mongeon

In Attendance: Daniel Warcken, Superintendent, Kylee Roney, Secondary Principal, Rachel Olson, Elementary Principal, Mindie Bopp, Scott Christianson, Jan Christianson, Sammy Stenvold, Al Carton, Deb Carton, Sara Planteen, Kim Swanson, Valera Hayden, Brian Banderet, Carol Smith, Natalie Wittich, Katie Franklin, Alex Askerooth, Kristine Askerooth, Shelley Hoisington, Morgan Peterson, Jesse Degenstein, Julie Colemer, Business Manager

Motion by Pfau seconded by Bergh to adopt the special school board meeting agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Bergh seconded by Planteen to table the discussion of Dakota Fence quote until next meeting. Bergh, Mongeon, Pfau, Planteen and Christianson all voted yes, Hanson, McLaen voted no. Motion carried.

Motion by Pfau to approve the Curriculum Review Committee consisting of the 11 individuals as proposed by Dr. Warcken but failed to receive a second and was not discussed by the board.

Motion by Planteen seconded by Bergh to approve the Curriculum Review Committee of one parent, superintendent, and two board members.

Planteen amended his motion and seconded by Bergh to also include the media specialist with one parent, superintendent, and two board members. Mongeon, Planteen, Bergh voted yes, Hanson, McLaen, Pfau, and Christianson all voted no. Motion Failed

Motion by Pfau seconded by Bergh to approve the Curriculum Review Committee as presented by Dr. Warcken. McLaen, Planteen, Bergh voted no, Hanson, Mongeon, Pfau and Christianson all voted yes. Motion carried.

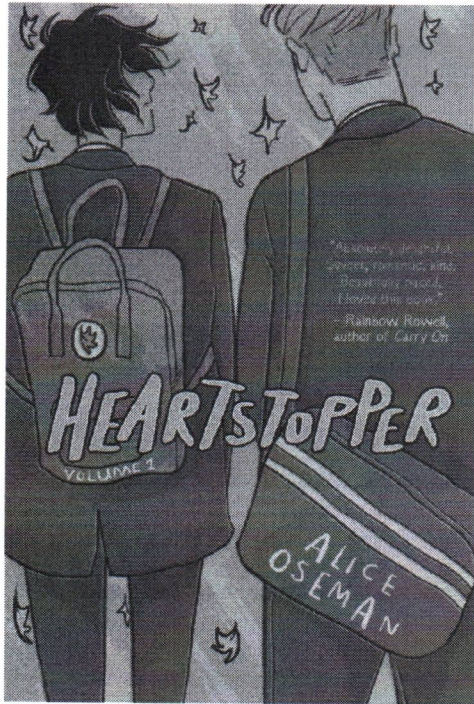
Planteen presented to the board that our district legal counsel is held by NDSBA.

Motion by Pfau seconded by Planteen to adjourn the meeting @ 7:36 pm. Motion carried.

Jen Christianson President

Julie Colemer Business Manager

HEARTSTOPPER: VOLUME 1



Young Adult Graphic Novel

By Alice Oseman

ISBN: 978-1-338-61745-0

Book Summary:

A homosexual male and a bisexual male begin dating while attending high school.

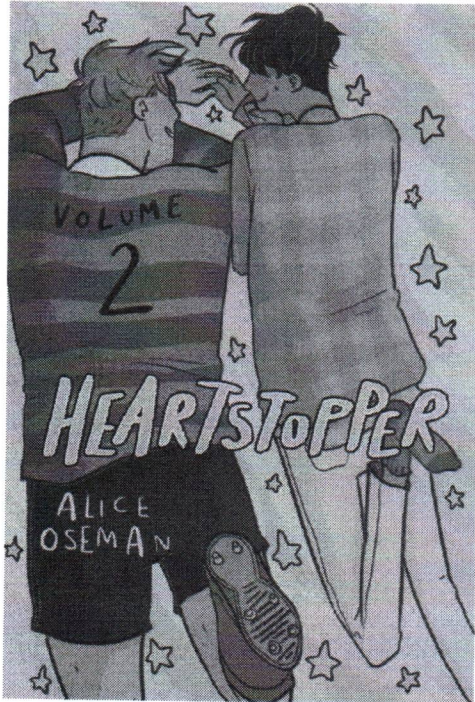
Summary of Concerns:

This book contains sexual activities; alternate sexualities; alternate gender ideologies; profanity; and violence.

2/5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

HEARTSTOPPER: VOLUME 2



Young Adult Graphic Novel

By Alice Oseman

ISBN: 978-1-338-61751-1

Book Summary:

A homosexual male and a bisexual male begin dating while attending high school and make their relationship public.

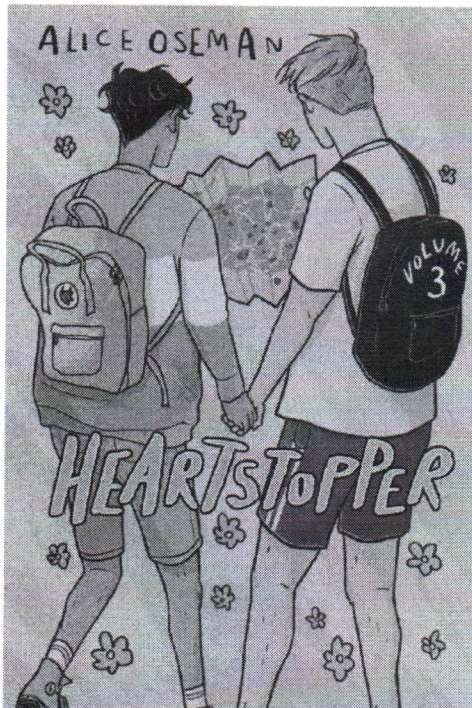
Summary of Concerns:

This book contains sexual activities; alternate sexualities; and profanity and derogatory terms.

2/5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

HEARTSTOPPER VOLUME 3



Young Adult Graphic Novel

By Alice Oseman

ISBN: 978-1-338-61754-2

Book Summary:

A homosexual male and a bisexual male in a romantic relationship, go on a high school trip to Paris together.

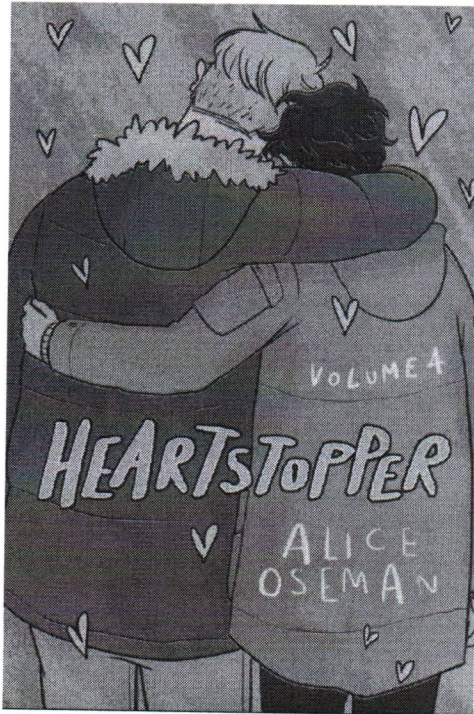
Summary of Concerns:

This book contains sexual activities involving kissing; alternate sexualities; alternate gender ideologies; references to homophobia and self-harm involving cutting; and profanity.

2/5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

HEARTSTOPPER VOLUME 4



Young Adult Graphic Novel

By Alice Oseman

ISBN: 978-1-338-61758-0

Book Summary:

Two young men in a romantic relationship undergo challenges as one receives treatment for mental illness and the other tells his family about his homosexual relationship.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains alternate sexualities; self-harm involving anorexia; alternate gender ideologies; and mild/infrequent profanity.

2/5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

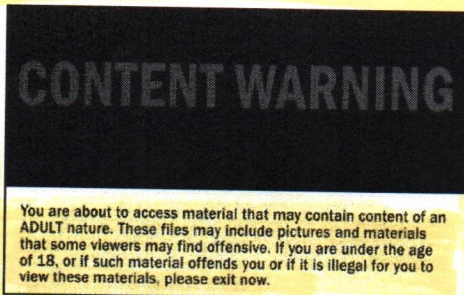
HEARTSTOPPER VOLUME 5



Young Adult Graphic Novel

By Alice Oseman

ISBN: 9781338807516



Book Summary:

High school boyfriends become more physical in their relationship.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains explicit sexual activities; alcohol use by minors; profanity and derogatory term us; and alternate sexualities.

3
/5

Minor Restricted
BookLooks Review Rating



I think... sex can be all kinds of things

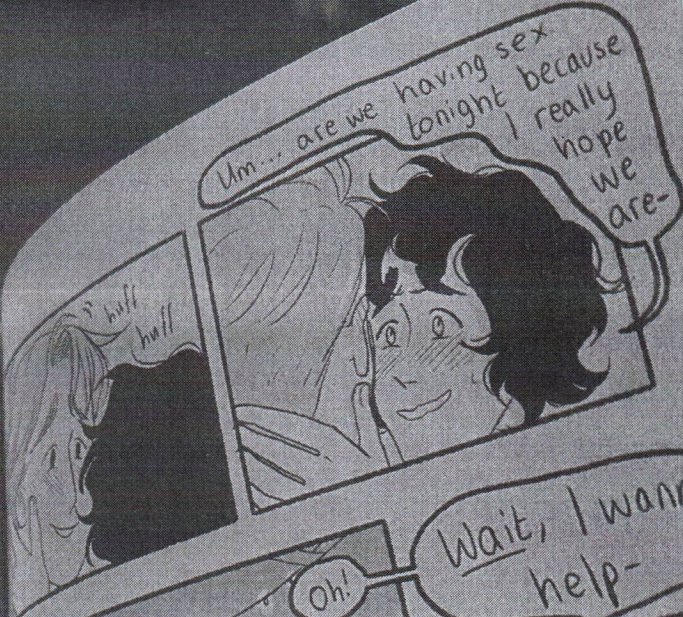
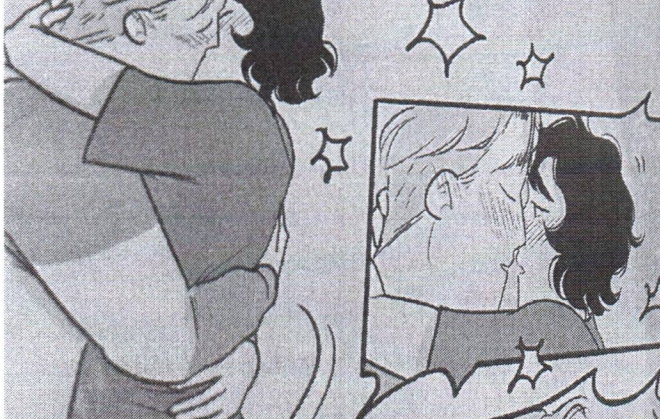


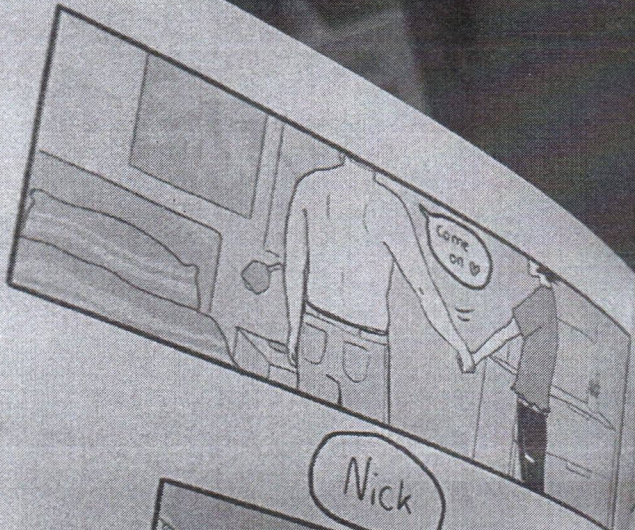
There are other things I wanna try with you...

You've been "researching," haven't you

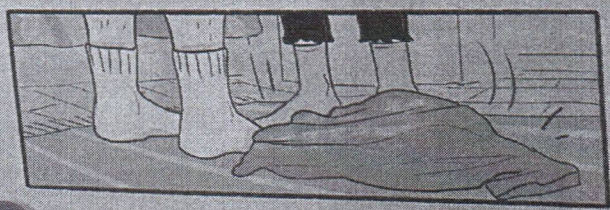


HA HA





Take mine off?





I love you...
and you
are
SO
fucking
hot

Nick!!



☆ COLLAPSE ☆

HA HA ☆
HA ☆

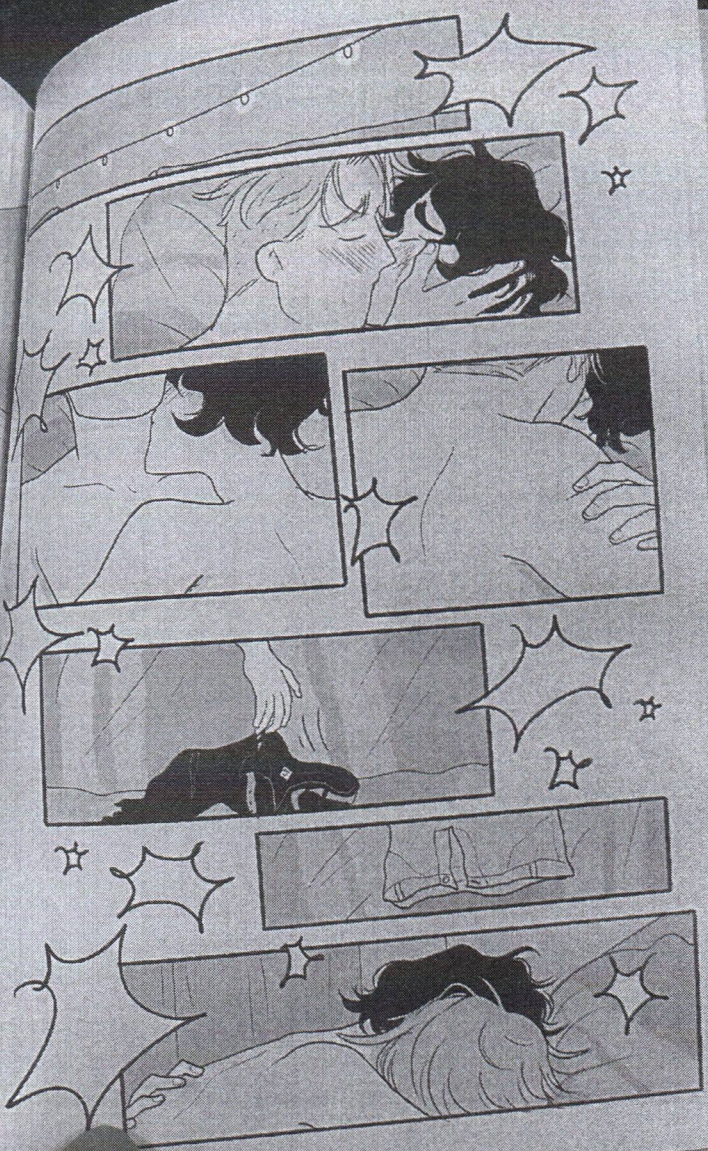




Figure 3

Sargent Central School District #6

Forman, North Dakota

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL.

The regular meeting of the school board of Sargent Central Public School District #6 was called to order by President Christianson in the Commons Area, Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Matt McLaen, Jayne Pfau, Jen Christianson, Neil Planteen, Steven Mongeon, Shannon Bergh and Brandon Hanson

In Attendance: Daniel Warcken, Superintendent, Rachel Olson, Elementary Principal, Kylee Roney, Secondary Principal, Sara Dux-Teller, Business Manager, Julie Colemer, Steed Nelson, Vicki Weber, Kean Nelson, Kelsey Nelson, Holly Ponzer, Ben Ponzer, Brooklyn Ponzer, Karen Rather, Carol Smith, Brian Banderet, Sheila Anderson, Kaia Mahrer, Kim Mahrer, Kathryn Franklin, Alex Askerooth, Natalie Wittich, Hailey Stiegelmeier, Mindie Bopp, Kevin Bopp, Morgan Stenvold, Diane Stein, Jady Bopp, Trent Nelson, Kim Bjerke, Jeff Olson, Isak Dinesen-WDAY, Phyllis Delahoyde, David Delahoyde, Samantha Stenvold, Jenna Anderson, Morgan Peterson, Zoey Boren, Andrew Woytassek, Jess Rasmussen, David Rasmussen, Jan Christianson, Scott Christianson, Al Carton, Deb Carton, Tammy Klein, Melanie Butler, Brody Mahrer, Molly Bergh, Kim Swanson, Patience Greenwood, Patricia Bergh, Nancy Planteen, Jessica Threat, Trish Pearson, Dan Pearson, Robert Erbele, Mike Brandenburg, Allen Colemer, Michael Peterson, Jerry Waswick, Alicia Ennis, Deanna Martinsen, Dave Martinsen, Stephanie Mogren, Katie Woytassek, Brian Pfau, Kaycee Hamilton, Baylie Zirnhelt, Danielle Degenstein, Jesse Degenstein, Michael Mahrer, Kris Jochim, Kathy Marquette, Kristine Askerooth, Doug Askerooth, Dana Arp, Debbie Bosse, Barry Christianson, Jacinta Theis, Niveah Keller, Andrew Theis, Emily Hoistad, Kinsey Bopp, Marwood Klein, Mikyla Nelson, Kyara Nelson, Addie Bergeman, Valera Hayen, Hannah Colemer, Austin McLaen, Richard Ruch, Sara Planteen, Hadley Bladow, Allie Patty, Cody Parrow, Heather Parrow, Glen Hill, Charlize Willprecht, Whitney Mahrer, Lucy Mahrer, Luke Anderson, Eric Wasvick, Zoey Boren, Dana Arp, Chief Deputy Bryan Johnson, Deputy Sheriff Jon Wold

Routine Business:

Motion by Pfau seconded by Bergh to approve the October 9, 2024, school board minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Bergh seconded by Pfau to approve the October 30, 2024, special school board minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Pfau seconded by Hanson to adopt the November 13, 2024, agenda. Motion carried.

Sara Planteen addressed the School Board with concerns of a book series in the library.

Katie Franklin addressed the School Board with information on the book series that is in the library.

Business Manager Julie Colemer went over the October budget, revenues, activity fund report, monthly bank accounts as presented.

Motion by Planteen seconded by Bergh to approve the bills presented #35598-35622. Bergh, Hanson, McLaen, Mongeon, Pfau, Planteen and Christianson all voted yes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Eric Wasvick spoke on behalf of the Curriculum Review Committee and their final decision was to keep the book series in the library at Sargent Central Public School.

Motion by Bergh seconded by Pfau to retain the book in the library, after more discussion Pfau withdrew her motion and Bergh also withdrew his with no other discussion motion died.

Motion by Planteen seconded by Hanson to restrict Book 5 to parental consent but will remain in Sargent Central Library, after more discussion Planteen withdrew his motion so with lack of motion the book series will remain in the Sargent Central Library.

Recessed at 6:38 pm for 5 minutes.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Warcken, Superintendent, reported on project track that is now complete including striping, blue press box, shot put area sand, new well pump, Nd Parks and Rec inspection is completed, insurance update on track, white press box will be removed before winter, seamless pro incorrect colors or specifications were incorrect, Brad Hoistad and team delivered woodchips from Milnor Public School, attended the NDCEL conference in Bismarck, proposed change in the bus transportation reimbursement formula that should benefit us, upgraded our surveillance DVRs, couple new pieces of equipment in the Wellness Center, Email spam issues, Mr. Ponzer was awarded a \$2000.00 Grant for Innovation to fund Sphero Blueprints for the Smart Lab, Colonial Door from Wahpeton is addressing issues with the overhead door openers, Amy Nelson from ND Child Nutrition conducted a thorough review of our school meals program, bus driver cohort was put together and currently it consists of five staff going through the process and should be completed in January 2025.

Elementary Principal Report:

Ms. Olson, Elementary Principal, reported 88% attendance for parent-teacher conferences, AR rewards majority of students reaching quarterly goals, new voluntary program for reading with the students has started, ND A+ went well, met with teachers and reviewed results scores and current standards taught, it is an overall yearlong model so should see growth come after the winter interim, first round of results had us higher than the state average in both reading and math in all grades except for one test for one grade, some classes were over by 30 points on the scale score compared to state average, 8 question assessment on standards, so we are doing well in comparison or on par with the state, grades 2-6 will be attending the MSUM children's theatre play, thank you to the class of 1974 for helping sponsor the trip.

Secondary Principal Report:

Mrs. Roney, Secondary Principal, reported ASVAB & PSAT for juniors is complete, for the scholarship, students needs to score a 50 on the ASVAB or complete basic training with a 31 test score to considered Military Ready, 20 students competed in One-Act regionals last Wednesday, placed 3rd with James, Charlize and Whitney receiving individual recognition, congrats to the participants and the coaches, Ms. Franklin & Mrs. Wittich, Dr. Peterson took 11 students to the NSU Band Festival in Aberdeen, he reported in was a great experience with learning and fun, coming up Juniors are planning a together time, Freshman will attend the Health Tech Trade Career Expo, and volunteer at the Great Plains food bank, we were notified we had been approved for the Choice Ready Grant for ACT Boot Camp, junior class will do this Boot Camp in February and it's with Sylvan Learning Center in Bismarck, we are a part of a new cohort for the Choice Reay Data Dashboard Expansion Project through SEEC, working on the beginning stages of this, so soon parents and students will be able to monitor choice ready progress through PowerSchool.

Athletic Director's Report:

Julie Colemer, Athletic Director, reported Football, Cross Country, Volleyball and 5-6 GBB finished their season, One Act Play finished 3rd in regionals, BBB will begin on December 2, JH BBB will begin on December 9, GBB will begin on November 18, JH GBB started and had their first game, GVB ended their season against Central Cass and went 5 sets, speech will begin soon, State Football will be at the Fargo Dome this Friday, next year our boys will be 11 man, wrestling began on November 12, and Archery will begin on December 9.