

Non-profit Org.
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Esko MN 55733
 Permit No. 11
 CAR-RT SORT
 POSTAL CUSTOMER
 ESKO, MN 55733

Esko's Corner

Esko Public School District #99

Connecting School and Community

Esko Community Education
 Box 10, Esko, MN 55733

Volume 25 Issue 2

October 2020

Looking for youth basketball registration? You won't find it in this issue. At this time, no decision has been made regarding youth basketball offered by Community Education. We anticipate having a decision by November 1st. At this time, no youth basketball teams may use school facilities for practice. Thank you for your understanding!

Zombie 5-K and Harvest Festival



are canceled this year.

Mark your Calendars:

No School October

15 & 16

No School for students

October 19



ESKO FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER




MEMORIAL PANCAKE ROUND-UP

WITH FAMOUS FAMILY TRADITION PANCAKES!

Due to Covid-19, breakfast will be served curbside pick-up only.

Saturday, October 3rd · 2020
7 AM - 11 AM @ Esko Fire Hall

TICKETS: \$7/ea Family of 4 or more: \$20

All proceeds from events benefit Esko Fire Department
 Please make all checks payable to: EFRA or Esko Fire Relief Association

INSIDE

Community News 2-4	Partners in Education 13	Notice of General Election 22
Community Education 5-7	High School News 14	Town Board Candidates 23-25
Read All About it! 8	Sports News 15	Church News 26-27
School Board Candidates 9-11	From our School Board 16-18	Lunch Menu 28
Elementary News 12	Around Town 19-21	

Community News

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College announced the graduation of 27 students who successfully completed program requirements in the Law Enforcement Skills Training Program during Summer Session 2020. A ceremony was held at the college on Friday, August 21, following COVID-19 protocols and with no guests in attendance but instead watching live via online technology. This is the 20th group of students to participate in the Law Enforcement Skills Training Program at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Students completed the intensive hands-on training on August 21, 2020. The 600 hours of skill training is required of all individuals seeking careers as peace officers in Minnesota. Students complete classroom training in addition to participating in the skills training program. After classroom and skills training, students are required to pass the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board exam to become eligible for employment as a peace officer in Minnesota.

Skills training topics include: accident investigation, auto theft, radio communications, mobile field force, crimes in progress response, domestic violence investigation and intervention, drug interdiction, DUI detection and standardized field sobriety testing, emergency vehicle operations, radar enforcement, traffic stops, crime scene investigation, gang education, drug and controlled substance investigations, report writing, aerosol chemical weapons and chemical agents, diversity, community policing, professional ethics, and firearms training.

The Law Enforcement Program at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College has an enrollment of approximately 200 students each year, making it one of the most popular programs offered at the college, and one of the largest Law Enforcement training programs in Minnesota.

The following students successfully completed the Law Enforcement Skills Program at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and are members of the Class of 2020:



Campbell Bergstedt, Esko, MN

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE !

Town of Thomson polling place is located at the Thomson Town Hall, 25 East Harney Road, Esko

Polls will be open Tuesday, November 3, 2020 from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm

Absentee or early voting ballots can be obtained at the Carlton County Auditor's Office at the Courthouse in Carlton. Contact them at 218-384-9127 for more information.

See Candidates on pages 9-10 and 23-25

Publication Title - **Esko's Corner**
Statement of Frequency- monthly (9 months)
Authorized Organization: **Esko Community Education**,
P.O. Box 10 2 E Hwy 61, Esko, MN 55733

Issue Number- On front cover

Articles and submissions may be sent to the Esko Community Education office or e-mailed to mcarlson@esko.k12.mn.us. The deadline is the 15th of each month for the next month's issue. The publication schedule can be found on the website. Articles may be edited for space and content. If you have questions, please call the community education office at **879-4038**. Visit the school website: www.esko.k12.mn.us

Community News

COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- **More common:** fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less common:** sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

For people with ONE "less common" symptom

Evaluate symptom and determine if person is well enough to remain in school or program.

Well enough to attend or remain in school or program.

Stay home or send home and consider evaluation from a health care provider and/or COVID-19 test.

Return to school or program 24 hours after symptom improved.

Siblings and household contacts do not need to stay home or quarantine.

For people with ONE "more common" symptom OR at least TWO "less common" symptoms

Person stays home or is sent home.

Evaluation and/or COVID-19 test from a health care provider.

Siblings and household contacts remain at home or are sent home.

Does not seek evaluation and/or COVID-19 test from a health care provider.

RECEIVES:
• Positive COVID-19 test result

RECEIVES:
• Negative COVID-19 test result
OR
• Alternative diagnosis

Siblings and household contacts return to school or program.

Siblings and household contacts stay home and quarantine from all activities for at least 14 days.

Stay at home in isolation for at least 10 days from time symptoms started until symptoms improved AND no fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medications).

For people who are a close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

A close contact is a person who was within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes of someone who is infected. This includes anyone who lives in the same household.

Stay home from all activities for at least 14 days since the last contact with the positive case.

Even if the person receives a negative test result, they need to complete 14 days of quarantine before returning to school or program.

Get tested 5-7 days after last contact with the positive case.

If symptoms develop and/or a positive test result is received.

Siblings and household contacts DO NOT need to stay home or quarantine.

Stay at home in isolation for at least 10 days from time symptoms started until symptoms improved AND no fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medications).

Siblings and household contacts stay home and quarantine from all activities for at least 14 days.

Parent Screening Tool for COVID-19

Every morning before you send your child to school on the bus or drop off at school, please screen him/her for COVID-19:

<p>#1: Does my child have ONE or more of the following symptoms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F <input type="checkbox"/> New onset and/or worsening cough <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing <input type="checkbox"/> New loss of taste or smell 	YES	NO
<p>#2: Does my child have TWO or more of the following symptoms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Chills <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Fatigue <input type="checkbox"/> New onset of severe headache <input type="checkbox"/> New onset of nasal congestion or runny nose 	YES	NO
<p>#3: Has my child had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19 within the last 14 days? (within 6 feet of a person with a positive COVID-19 result for at least 15 minutes)</p>	YES	NO
<p>#4: Has my child been identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case within the last 14 days?</p>	YES	NO
<p>#5: Is my child, or anyone in our household, being tested for COVID-19 and waiting for results?</p>	YES	NO
<p>#6: Has my child, or anyone in our household, tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?</p>	YES	NO

If you answered 'YES' to any of the questions, DO NOT send your child to school.

- Instead, keep your child home
- Consider an evaluation from a health care provider and/or COVID-19 testing
- Contact the school nurse or secretary to inform the school of your child's symptoms
- Review the MDH *COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs* for further information
- Utilize the *Exclusion Instructions for Students/Staff with Symptoms Consistent with COVID-19* for further guidance

Community Education

Community Education is happy to offer after school clubs! The number of children allowed in a club is reduced and we will make accommodations at snack time to keep distance between the students.

After-School Clubs in Esko aim to meet the academic, social, physical, and creative needs of students. We also want them to have fun! Students typically receive a snack after school then go to their club's meeting spot. Once their club has finished (ending time depends on the club) they are to be picked up at the east entrance (playground doors) or may go to Cool Kids if they are a registered student.

Directly after school, students will meet for a snack and check-in in the cafeteria, then report to their club's meeting spot. You may pick up your child at the playground doors (door # 6). If your child will not be attending a scheduled club, please inform their teacher AND call the Community Education office at 879-4038.

We are unable to accept registrations for after school clubs on the day of the club due to communication with teachers. Thank you for your understanding.

Savannah's Pottery WITCH BOOT

Decorate an adorable witch's boot to hold all of your tricks and treats.

Age Req:Grades 1-6

Cost:\$17.00

Instructor:Michelle Line

10/06/2020 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Esko Schools - S101

Northern Outdoors Club - Prehistoric Skills

Northern Outdoors Club - NOC
Learn and practice the skills needed to survive the prehistoric life! Try to hunt, start a fire, and play some games during this awesome interactive class!

Bring to Class:Most of class will be held outside, so please dress for the weather.

Age Req:2nd-5th grade

Day(s):Varied Schedule

Time:3:15 PM

Sessions:1

Cost:\$13.00

10/08/2020 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Esko Schools - Playground

Northern Outdoors Club - Halloween-hoot!

Northern Outdoors Club - NOC
Get in the Halloween Spirit and learn about some creatures of the night - especially the owl! Learn for a little bit, and then dive in to hands-on activities to see what owls are hunting throughout the night!

Bring to Class:Most of class will be held outside, so please dress for the weather.

Age Req:2nd-5th grade

Cost:\$13.00

Instructor:Cassie Janke

10/22/2020 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Esko Schools - S100 Family Co

sumer Science

Savannah's Pottery: PLAQUE

Decorate a pumpkin plaque, and create a handprint turkey!

Age Req:Grades 1-6

Cost:\$15.00

Instructor:Michelle Line

10/27/2020 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Esko Schools - S101

Savannah's Pottery OWL LIGHT

Paint an owl tealight holder!
Tealight included.

Age Req:Grades 1-6

Day(s):Varied Schedule

Cost:\$15.00

Instructor:Michelle Line

10/29/2020 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Esko Schools - S101

Facility Use

The school building is not available for public use at this time. The building closes to all traffic including teachers at 4:30 PM to allow for our custodial staff to clean and sanitize the building in order to keep our students well. Thank you for your understanding.

Until the building is opened for general use in the evenings, we are unable to offer adult enrichment classes. Sorry for the inconvenience.

REGISTRATION - COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

For Esko Comm. Ed. classes-Esko students please include:

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____ Birthdate: _____

Class: _____

Cost: _____

Class: _____

Cost: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please send this form, with payment to
Community Education Office PO Box 10, Esko, MN 55733
OR register online www.esko.k12.mn.us

Community Education Welcomes New Staff

We have quite a few new and returning staff members to Cool Kids this fall. Many of our former employees have graduated from college and have gone on to teaching careers. We wish them well!



Angelina Sonnen is a UMD student studying to become an elementary teacher. She moved to Esko two years ago and her two siblings currently attend Esko school. So far, her favorite part of working in Cool Kids is being with the kids and believing this is a great training experience for a teaching career. An added bonus for Angelina is that she lives across the street from the school, so her commute is manageable. Along with her four cats and one dog, Angelina loves pink and blue and Italian food. She enjoys kayaking and has been to SIX different countries!



Elaine Lahti recently moved to Esko to attend school. She is from Frederic, Wisconsin where she lived with her parents and three younger brothers. Her favorite food is potatoes and she fills her free time hanging out with friends and going on road trips. One thing not many people know about Elaine is that she took piano lessons for TEN years!



Mikalie Maunu is a senior at Esko. She is planning to go into teaching after high school. She has lived in Esko her entire life and attended Cool Kids when she was younger. Mikalie lives in Esko with her mom and dad. She has an older sister who graduated from Esko and is now a lawyer. Her favorite part of working in community education so far is how welcoming and she really enjoys the staff. She loves Olive Garden breadsticks and her favorite color is pink. A little known fact about Mikalie is that she is a competitive rodeo rider! She spends lots of her time training.



Peggy Engseth is enjoying her time working with our pre-K students during the day. Peggy has four children of her own and two step children along with seven grandchildren. Her family keeps her very busy watching sports and all kinds of activities. Her favorite color is hot pink and she loves having her grandchildren at her house especially swimming in the pool. She also enjoys four wheeling and shopping! Peggy is a six year breast cancer survivor.



Community Education Welcomes New Staff



After school, Tyler Carlson will be the one to sign out kids and handle isolating children and contacting parents in case of illness after school. His favorite part of working with Community Education is the energy of the kids every day. He is currently student-teaching 9th grade Algebra at Denfeld. Tyler's favorite foods are bacon cheeseburgers and pizza. He stays busy playing and coaching volleyball as a member of the UMD men's club volleyball team. He is a part of Security Forces at the 148th and has been deployed twice, in 2014 and 2018.



Hannah Dunbar is back! Her sister attends Lincoln High School in Esko and Hannah has lived in the area for over 8 years. She loves having the ability to be a positive influence on the kids and families in Cool Kids. Her favorite colors are plum purple and red and she loves art like painting, drawing, and multimedia. She also loves paddleboarding, swimming, reading, and being with her family. One thing not everyone knows about Hannah is that she has a twin brother!



April Strom, -Erickson has been hired to be one of our health screening specialists for community education programs. She will be greeting you at the door for entry in the morning. Upon entry, you will be asked about the health and well being of your children. April is a nursing student currently living in Cloquet with her husband. She has 5 kids from a 24 year old who is a nurse in Duluth all the way to a fourth grade student in Cloquet. Her favorite food is pizza and she loves doing anything outdoors especially camping, hiking, and fishing. Not many people know that April is afraid of heights.

The Cool Cubs are enjoying Fall! They picked apples and zucchini from the community garden, and love to spend time on the playground!



Read All About it!

This month we are happy to highlight Alissa Anderson's blog and the book Option B. We think the timing for this reading is just right!



My name is Alissa Anderson. I am the School Psychologist for the Esko Public School District in Esko, MN. I am also a mother of three [Nolan (9-3rd Grade), Brock (6-1st Grade), and Ryann (Age: 3)] and was certified as a Love and Logic Parent Educator in 2009.

WE'RE GONNA GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER...SEPARATELY

A few weeks ago, as I prepared to talk to the Esko staff during our fall workshop week about supporting students and one another during a pandemic, the concept of grief and the grieving process rose to the surface.

Think about it. Right now all of us are grieving something. Our grief may span from the individual losses of loved ones, to financial security, to feelings of safety. Our grief may also be from the collective losses of annual trips and celebrations, youth sports and activities, or just plain old normalcy. This pandemic is a perpetual reminder of how fragile both our lives, and life as we know it really is. It makes sense that people (myself included) are all over the place emotionally.

Observing what is going on with our society right now through the lens of grief brought me back to a book I studied with some of my colleagues a few years back called Option B. After the tragic and sudden death of her husband, Sheryl Sandberg (COO at Facebook) co-wrote Option B with psychologist Adam Grant. The book, Option B, looks at decades of research on how people deal with adversity, setbacks, challenges, and crisis. In this research they reference something called the "3 P's"; these are mindsets we often find ourselves in while in the midst of crisis, adversity, and grief. Sheryl and Adam outline the 3Ps in their book as:

Personalization: The belief that we are at fault, or the weight of the problem lies solely on our shoulders. (Feeling like you aren't doing enough or beating yourself up for feeling lonely or unproductive)

Permanence: The belief that the crisis, or the aftershocks of the crisis are going to last forever (The reality is we don't know when this crisis will end, but we do know things are going to get better.)

Pervasiveness: The belief that this crisis will affect ALL areas of our life. (It is so easy to get caught up in the feeling that everything is awful, but even in the depths of grief, there are still blessings worth counting.)

When we find ourselves stuck in one of these mindsets, the simple act of being honest with ourselves is an opportunity to shift our mindset. It is also an opportunity to allow those feelings and emotions to move through us, rather than eat us alive!

Today it's widely understood that one way to prevent and address toxic stress is through healthy social connections. Those who prevail through difficult experiences are almost always rescued through relationships; and love. Love in the context of relationships.

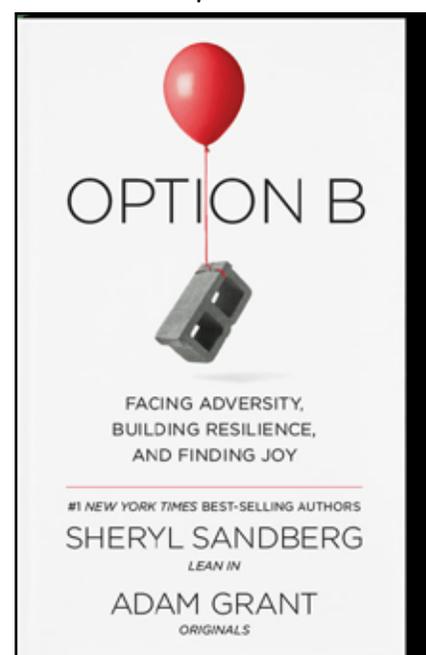
Seeking out opportunities where we feel a sense of belonging through shared experiences, humor, and play are what is going to get us and our kids through this pandemic.

In their book Option B, Sandberg and Grant define resilience as the strength and speed of our response to adversity. They remind us that resilience isn't a fixed personality trait, but rather something akin to a muscle that we can build. As parents we have an opportunity to model and teach our children how to find a way forward.

There is so much uncertainty in our lives right now. We don't know how this school year is going to go. We don't know when this pandemic will end. Yet, there is so much that we do know and so much that we can control.

We know that we all have real strengths that we can offer the world and rely on when times are tough. We all have the ability to push, focus, and learn. We all matter as human beings. We get to decide if we show up for our kids and one another as our raw, emotional, authentic selves. We get to decide if we choose to make time for one another and seek others out with kindness.

If you enjoyed this article, you can find more like this on my blog <https://parentingunchartedwaters.weebly.com/>



School Board Candidates



My name is Jerry Frederick. I have been an Esko resident since 1985. My wife Julie and I have 2 sons, Scott and Kevin that attended and are both graduates of Esko HS. I have served 2 terms (8 years) on the school board. I'm employed at Minnesota Power as an Electronic Technician Senior for the past 36 years. Julie and I are proud to call Esko our home.

I believe that a person should give back something to the community in which they live. Being active at the school gives me a sense of what is

happening and allows me to help problem solve issues that arise. I love working with the kids and want to see each of them get the education that they deserve.

I have been fairly active in the community and at the school for many years. I was part of the PIE group, Community Education Advisory Board, helped build the school garden, replaced the school sign on Hwy 61 and Thomson Rd, served a few years on the Esko Education Foundation, and for the last 5 years have been a

mentor and coach for the Esko SubZero Robotics team.

The biggest challenge our district is currently facing is getting through the COVID pandemic. Through careful planning and a great group of diverse individuals on the COVID Planning Committee, I think that plans are in place to be successful and if conditions change, there are contingency plans to change direction quickly.

Besides COVID, I think that keeping the school as successful academically as it has been in the past, while also being fiscally responsible and to keep education costs down so as to not overtax our community. I also believe that possible budget shortfalls may occur from the State because of costs related to the pandemic.

Working with fellow board members and administration, we have been frugal where we can, without losing sight of maintaining facilities and always prioritizing putting the dollars where it has the most impact for the students. We have invested in updating the school to provide a safe, secure and friendly learning environment for all students while extending the life and reliability of the facilities. We have also made sure that a certain amount has been put aside for shortfalls in funding should they occur.



Hello fellow Esko supporters. I am Mark Nyholm, one of your incumbent board members seeking reelection. I've been on the board for 4 years now working to ensure an exceptional educational experience for our

students through collaboration with our awesome educators, administration, and our community.

Serving on the board is no small task and is a responsibility that I take very seriously. We need to continue to make good decisions so that all of our children graduate and pursue careers of their own. My personality and background are a great fit for the school board. I investigate, analyze, and justify the decisions I make in both my personal and professional life. I will continue to apply this same process to the business of the school board if reelected. I guarantee the decisions I make will always ensure our students, our educators, and our community are our top priority.

I am a husband, father, professional businessman,

volunteer and proud member of the Esko community. My wife and I moved to Esko 10 years ago when we bought our house from an old family friend. We have family and many friends who have lived here for decades. It's an exciting fall with our twins as they enter kindergarten. They are both very excited to be in school and we as parents look forward to watching them learn and grow each year in Esko. We, like so many others, love the Esko community due to its rural atmosphere and exceptional educational system. My long term plan is to support the Esko community while my children are in school and beyond.

Our community is growing. We've all seen new houses pop up in our neighborhoods and for those that are new to Esko, Welcome! Every parent wants to ensure their children get the best education and we are honored that you have chosen Esko. Each year we juggle the overall school population while striving to meet our collective goal of small class sizes. We have resident students, open enrollment students, and PSEO students. As the sum total of that grows, it brings concern about the possibility of class sizes growing and the educational experience changing. It is inevitable that our community will continue to grow. Board members need to accept this challenge and work every angle to keep our class sizes small. I

believe that this can be done in our existing school. We will need to work creatively on maximizing space and being flexible to best optimize the space we have. Before the COVID-19 pandemic I would have said long gone are the days of row seating in desks like most of us experienced growing up. What we are experiencing now is temporary and hopefully soon we'll be back enjoying the flexible learning environments (including seating arrangements) to ensure that we're reaching each and every student in the best way possible. I will work with the staff and administration and will support these activities so that the school can accommodate the growing community while still providing all of our students an exceptional educational experience.

With your support I look forward to representing the community on the school board for another 4 years. I truly care about the success of our students and the staff responsible for educating them. I will provide strategic leadership to the board founded on my professional experience and will strive to make the best decisions for our community.

School Board Candidates



I am Leona Johnson, and I am running for the Esko School Board to serve as a representative for families in our community. I currently reside in the Esko community, to be near my children and grandchildren. I am also a current author of the textbook, *Interpersonal Relationships*. As a retired school administrator, having served a district of 1700 students as K-12 Director of Curriculum and Instruction, an elementary principal, and a Family and Consumer Education teacher, I can bring to the Esko board table

experience in these areas: k-12 curriculum planning in all content areas, including areas of special education and CTE; negotiating experience with companies offering health insurance to employees, as well as with various

unions in our district; oversight of community education and before and after-school programming; support of technology applications in various curriculums K-12; successful grant writing for counseling, AODA, and mental health programming K-12, as well as strategic planning and goal setting.

As I look at the Esko School Vision and their goals, my experiences closely aligns with the current working goals through 2024 and additional areas that are being reviewed, including some aspects of curriculum in the technology programs, technology best practices (which need to be reviewed with current neuroscience studies in mind), and mental health services and programs.

Today we face the challenges of providing quality educational services in an uncertain environment, and I feel that the skills, knowledge, and experience that I can bring to the table will support the Esko district in reaching its goals.



My name is Steve McConnell and I am running for a local seat on the Esko School Board. I live in Esko with my wife, Jessica, a registered nurse, and our three children. When I met my wife, she convinced me

that we needed to live in this great community of Esko. My wife grew up in Esko and is an Esko alumni. We have been married for 17 years and have 3 children. Our oldest, Kaitlyn is an 8th grader, our middle child, Abigail is a 5th grader, and our youngest, Logan is a 4th grader here in Esko. We are very active with the school and a busy family in general.

I graduated from Wrenshall High School, but while in high school I drove daily between Wrenshall and Esko to take a business class here in the Esko district. After high school, I attended Lake Superior College where I graduated with Networking AAS Degree, Micro-Computer Support AAS Degree, Computer Programming, A+ Certi-

fication, Cisco Certification, and Cyber Security.

I'm currently employed in Cloquet, as a Director of Technology & Security at Northwoods Credit Union. I also am project manager for the facility remodels and branches throughout the county. I have been with the company for over 10 years. I am the owner of Northland Designs and provide businesses with computer support and security training. Prior to these jobs, I worked for Compudyne Computers and Citon Corporation both in Duluth. I have over 20+ years in the ever growing technology world.

I have volunteered coaching for youth sports such as: baseball, soccer, and basketball. As a coach, I enjoy watching the kids grow and become better players. I try to give them the confidence they need while enjoying the sport at the same time.

I was past president of the Esko Lion's Club. I have served on the baseball board, and I am currently the president on the Esko Soccer Board. I am also currently on the Esko School Curriculum Committee.

I am running to continue to work on the safety and security of the children and staff in the school. I would like to evaluate how we are using technology. I see so many kids with technology and they don't even know how to sign their

names. We are currently using more technology during this pandemic and high school hybrid model and I would really like to be involved in the process. I want to serve on the Esko school board for two reasons, I love being a part of our small and ever growing community and I have a strong desire to be an active participant in continuing to build Esko schools. My wife and I mainly wanted to be living in Esko because of the advantages we felt the Esko district could offer our children. The wonderful teachers and facility have been involved in that process. I look forward to contributing to the success of Esko Schools by taking a more active role. Throughout the course of my career I have experienced challenging business situations. The key to managing through these situations is the ability to think strategically, but also develop realistic plans to solve issues. I believe I can use my skills to help the school board think strategically and develop plans for long term growth for the district, and balance needs of the short term.

Feel free to message me any questions you may have and I'll do my best to answer you in a timely fashion.

My email is: smconnell1@msn.com

Elementary News



By Brian Harker

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, Oct. 1:
Staff Picture Day – 7:15 – Blue Gym
Picture Day - Kindergarten & 1-6 New Students only
- Monday, Oct. 12: PIE Meeting – 6:30
- Thursday, Oct. 15: No School – students and staff
- Friday, Oct. 16: No School – students and staff
- Monday, Oct. 19: In-service Day – no school for students and paras

Back to School

We are back to school! And we are so excited to be back. Thank you to the parents and families for their patience as we get the school year started. Without your trust and support, the start of the school would not have gone as smoothly as it did. So thank you!

Parent Drop Off

- Please do not drop your child off before 8:00 am.
- Students can be dropped off at any of the three entrances (Winterquist, High School, and Back Turnaround) starting at 8:00 am
- All outside doors will be locked until 8:00 am. Supervision begins at 8:00 am.
- Once your vehicle pulls up to the curb in any of the drop off locations, please

let your child out. This will make the drop off process that much faster. There is no need to wait until you are in front of the Winterquist doors to drop off your child.

Student Dismissal at the End of the Day

- 2:55 Busers and Walkers (Mondays at 2:10)
- Parent pick up and Cool Kids dismissed at 3:15 (Mondays at 2:30)
A-F Winterquist entrance
G-O High School entrance
P-Z Back turnaround

Partners in Education (PIE)

If you are looking to get involved in a worthwhile organization that does wonderful things for the students in our building, then PIE is the group for you. Becoming a member is easy! If you are a parent of a child in Winterquist Elementary School, then you are already a member of this group. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to get together with this progressive group to talk, discuss, and support the school experience at Winterquist Elementary. We hope to see you at the meetings.

Other Items

- The phone number to reach Winterquist Elementary is 218-879-3361.
- Please be sure to contact the school by 8:30 if your child is absent. Parents/guardians are required to inform the office of their child's absence and the reason. If they do not call the office we will contact them as a safety precaution. If we can't get an excuse for the absence it will turn into an unexcused absence.

A Letter From Winterquist Partners In Education

Dear Esko Elementary Families,

We, the PIE (Partners in Education) Group, are excited to be starting another school year with you all. We know that this year looks different than any we have faced before, but we are thankful for this amazing school community, and the support there is among the faculty and staff. We know that we will not only be able to get through it together, but that our school can thrive!

In light of the events of these last 6 months, the PIE board has opted to NOT do a formal fundraiser this 2020-2021 school year. We understand that this may affect the group's financial situation through this year and next school year, but we want to be sure to not put extra pressure on this community. We have moneys available in our general fund to use as things come up this year that our members would like to contribute to, but we will have to be fiscally responsible as we look into potential projects through this year.

If there is anyone who would like to contribute/donate, we will still accept donations to help us purchase extra resources for our students and staff through this year as needs arise. Those contributions may be sent to the school with your child and brought to the Elementary Office. Please send a check (rather than cash) made out to Esko PIE. Thank you!

The PIE group still plans to meet monthly, the second Monday of each month. This year, our first meeting, on September 14th, was held via ZOOM. We may move our up-coming meetings to in-person at the school, if the opportunity presents itself. We will pass this information along as we have it. These meetings are always open and available to all parents and staff of Elementary School students. We encourage as many of you as possible to attend the monthly meetings. The more involvement we get from you, our community, the more we know about what types of projects this community is interested in taking on for our students and staff, and can help direct our funds and efforts.

As always, PIE will remain a resource for parents who have questions or ideas for this elementary school community, and we hope to hear from you throughout this year.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. We can be reached at: pie@esko.k12.mn.us

Thank you for your support,

-PIE Board Members-

Crysta Reeves, Emily Waldo, Josh Mischaud, Jesse Oveson

Winterquist Partners In Education

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Virtual meeting on Zoom

Board members in attendance: Emily Waldo, Josh Michaud, Jessie Oveson, Crysta Reeves

Minutes Approval

Approved

Treasure Report

Starting Balance (05/01/2020):	\$22,219.12
Deposits (total):	\$1,411.81
Checks (total):	\$4,454.74
Interest:	\$0.43
Ending Balance (08/31/2020):	\$19,176.62

Teacher Requests 2019-20

Starting Balance:	\$7,750.00??
Paid Requests:	\$0
Unpaid Requests:	\$1,495.00
Total Remaining:	\$6,255.00
Balance carried forward from previous years:	\$4,513.74

Food Requests Beginning Balance:

Food Requests:	\$0
Unpaid Requests:	\$0
Total Remaining:	\$250.00
Unused from last year:	\$183.08

Lost $\$187.75 + 400 = \587.75 on yearbooks

Teacher Requests

None.

Review of Letter sent out from PIE

Since we have a decent amount of money, we decided to not do a fall fundraiser this year. The next Esko Corner should have the full letter.

Open Position

We are in need of a treasurer for our PIE group.

Heather has been nominated to fill the position this year, and has accepted the nomination.

Bike Racks

Some parents would like more bike racks at the school. Some are willing to donate money and/or the actual bike racks. PIE will help facilitate between the parents interested and the school.

Next Meeting October 12th, 6:30pm Virtual Meeting

any questions you can email at pie@esko.k12.mn.us

CURFEW FOR MINORS

Just a reminder that there is a curfew ordinance for minors in Thomson Township. "Curfew hours" are 11:00 p.m. on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 12:00 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, until 6:00 a.m. the following day. A minor for the purpose of this ordinance means any person under 18 years of age. You can view a copy of the entire ordinance on our website thomson.govoffice.com or at the Town Office.

DOGS AND CATS

Thomson Township has a leash - running at large ordinance. This applies to all areas of the Township. All animals must be under their owner's control at all times and not on neighboring properties.

And as a reminder: Please pick up after your pet. Your neighbors appreciate it. There's also a link to a video on the Town website: thomson.govoffice.com with more information on the effects of animal waste on the local waterways.



High School News

Giving Back to the Community

One of the most satisfying, fun, and productive ways to unite teenagers to senior citizens, is to spend time providing senior citizens an extra hand in yard work like raking leaves and picking up garbage. On Tuesday, October 13, the Class of 2021 will be out in the Esko community learning valuable lessons about the meaning of volunteering their services and giving back to their community through hard work. When a community is doing well as a whole, its individuals are better off too. The annual Senior Clean-Up Day gives the students a strong sense of fulfillment, responsibility, and commitment. It is an opportunity to thank the community of Esko for everything it has provided for the students throughout their years of growing up.

Due to COVID-19 we are asking that you do not have contact with the students while they are working. We know many of you enjoy visiting with the students and giving them snacks, but this year please stay in your home. Also, this year students will not be allowed to carpool so please expect 8-10 cars arriving at your home. If the school is in distance learning Senior Clean-Up day will be cancelled because we cannot have the students gathering in groups at that time. You will receive a phone call if we need to cancel the Senior Clean-Up day.

The students will begin working at 8:30AM and will call the day before to confirm an approximate time they will be at your house. The students can place the leaves in bags you leave out or bring them to an area of your property that you designate on the sign up form.

Please use the form below to sign up for the annual Class of 2021 Clean-Up Day

UNLOCK YOUR STUDENT'S POTENTIAL

WITH

ZAPS
FOCUSED TEST PREP

Doorway to College Foundation™ (D2CF) is the exclusive provider of ZAPS® Focused Test Prep.

In this five-hour seminar, your student will get to:

- Learn tips to improve scores in all subtests
 - Practice strategies to eliminate wrong choices
 - Take short practice tests that mirror the real test experience
 - Reduce test anxiety and gain confidence
 - Receive extensive materials for home practice
- And much, much more!

Spots will fill up quickly, so sign up today!

We are *partnering* with area high schools to bring ZAPS ACT & PSAT/SAT Test Prep to your student!

Receive the Nation's Best Test Strategy Prep at a special price of only **\$95.00!**

We've been coming to your school for years - this Fall we're teaching our proven test prep live online! To make participation easy, our virtual seminars are offered at least six days a week with multiple time slots available.

All materials will be shipped direct to your door so your student can safely receive our live, virtual training from the convenience of your home!

Standard Virtual Seminar: ~~\$129.99~~

Your Virtual Seminar: \$95.00

Register at

www.doorwaytocollege.org

or call 877-927-8378



**Doorway
to College**
Foundation

Be sure to use coupon code

Fall2020TestPrep

at checkout to receive your special school pricing!

ZAPS Focused Test Prep is a service of Doorway to College Foundation. Copyright © 2017. Doorway to College Foundation, 3106 Rochester Ave., Iowa City, IA 52245

Tuesday, October 13th, at 8:30 a.m.
(Make-up day will be October 20th.)

Esko High School Class of 2021 Community Clean-Up

It's time again for the Esko High School Class of 2021 to do their annual volunteer service project. They will be performing community projects such as raking leaves or picking up garbage. If you are interested in having this done at your home, please fill out the information below, cut out this ad, and send it to or drop it off at the high school office by October 6th. If you have any questions related to the senior community project, please call.

Esko High School
2 East Highway 61, P.O. Box 10
Attn: Nicki Peterson
Esko, MN 55733
or call 218-879-4673 ext. #631
or
npererson@esko.k12.mn.us

If you'd like to be put on the list, please fill out the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

Work Needed: _____

Please understand that students are not allowed to enter homes or climb on ladders.

****Please understand this may be canceled if the school is in the distance learning model.**

Sports News

Together We Win!
2 East Highway 61 Esko, MN 55733

The Esko Sports Alliance would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all the teams, tee sponsors, silent auction contributors, those that contributed golf gifts for the participants, the volunteers, and the Cloquet Country Club for supporting the 2020 Bob Thompson Memorial – Esko Sports Alliance golf fundraiser.

The proceeds from this year's tournament will help maintain quality programs and provide opportunities for our student/athletes in 25 varsity sports and cheerleading. In addition to general supplies and equipment, last year these funds were used in the following ways:

- Funded \$4000 Esko Athletic Scholarships
- Funded \$1,000 for the Bob Thompson Memorial Scholarships
- Purchased Post Season Awards and Contributed to Post Season Banquets
- Sponsored the Coaches Classic Basketball Tournament
- Purchased the HUDL sports recording application for all EHS Sports

We hope you will plan to support this event again next year. Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 11, 2021 at the Cloquet Country Club. We sincerely appreciate your continued dedication to this cause.

The Esko Sports Alliance Board
Steve Knutson, Russ Davidson, Greg Hexum, Todd Rengo, and Scott Christensen



Thank you Sponsors!

ABS Auto Solutions - John Felmlee
Adolphson Real Estate (Julie Antonutti)
Adolphson Real Estate (Michelle Kuklinski)
Advantage Emblem
Aire Serv
Alaspa & Murray
Arrowhead Insurance Agency
Arrowhead Water
Barnes Care
Best Christmas Ever
Bill Hudspith Family
Bob Thompson Family
Boldt Construction
Budget Blinds
Buffalo House
Cars Towing
Centricity Credit Union
Charter NEX Films
Class of 1983
Class of 1992
Cloquet Sanitary Service
Cloquet Community Printing
Commissioner Bodie
Community Printing
DALCO
Dan Linder
Downtown Dental Care
D Page Blue LOC
DSGW
Edward Jones - Kory Deadrick
Esko Cross Country and Track Coaches
Esko Fitness Center
Esko Liquors
Family Tradition
Farmers Insurance - Scott Prachar
Fisher, Hexum, Harker

Go Klean
Granite Works
Graphic Technologies
Great Lakes Insurance Agency
GSP - Gregg Perich
Hagen's Glass
Halvor Lines
Hanlon and Associates - Eric Frost
Houle Drywall
Jason Naud, D.D.S.
Jeff & Cindy Salo
Jeff Foster Trucking
Jerry Maunu
John Davidson
John Hendrickson
Julian Bertogliat
Karpinen Construction
Kiminski Paving
Kivi Bros. Trucking Inc.
Korby Construction
KQDS - Scott Christensen
Kraus-Anderson Construction
Kwik Trip
Lenny Conklin - St Farm
Lindstrom Ltd. - David Lindstrom Jr.
Lumberjack Hockey
Mark Bergstedt Builders
MCCU
Mellin
National Bank of Commerce
New Duluth Auto
Northern Business Products
Northern Industrial Insulation
Northland Fire & Safety
NOS Automation
Radosevich Law Office
Finn and Feather

RAM
Randall's Heating and C
Ray Riihiluoma
Reliable Insurance
Rendezvous
Rod Johnson Family
Russ Davidson Family
Schwann's
Scott Eskuri
Scott Kellett
Sinnott Blacktop Inc.
Smith Company
Split Rock Private Tradit
St. Germain Cabinets
St. Germain's Glass
Steve Knutson Family
Shawn Sunnarborg
Sunnarborg Well Drilling
Super One Foods
Super One Liquor
Terri Port Wright Law Of
Thrivent - Todd Rengo
Tollerud Heating and Co
Tom & Leslie Nooyen - /
Tom Osborne Family
Town and Country Insur
Troy Berg Construction
True North Spinal Care,
UHL Company Inc.
Up North Insurance Age
Vision Pro
Wealth Management - SI
We Buy Ugly Houses - E
Weets Brothers
Widdes Feed & Farm Su
Third Base - Aaron Hans

From Our School Board

Clerk's Minutes

The Esko Board of Education, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, held a school board meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Members present: Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and Superintendent Aaron Fischer. Members absent: None.

Call the Meeting to Order

Acting Chairperson Jeff Salo called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Todd Rengo to approve the agenda. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Mark Nyholm to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Approve the minutes of the June 23, 2020 regular school board meeting.
- Approve the checks as follows:

Date	Check #s	Total
6/23/2020	89561-89595	\$336,922.15
6/29/2020	89596-89606	\$5,868.18
7/1/2020	89607-89619	\$122,010.20
7/6/2020	VOID 89555	(\$818.80)
7/6/2020	89620	\$123,011.20
7/14/2020	89621-89643	\$122,655.97
7/14/2020	89644-89662	\$26,373.74
7/15/2020	89663-89667	\$704,098.07
7/23/2020	89668-89673	\$33,803.93

- Treasurer's Report – June 2020 prior to end-of-year adjustments.

Date	Payroll Type	June 2020 Checks	Direct Deposits	Electronic Payments	Grand Total
6/15/20	Regular	# 107995-108008	For \$29,495.12	\$215,791.72	\$229,946.86
6/15/20	Retro	# 108009-108010	For \$4,689.39	\$28,746.81	\$8,588.66
6/18/20	Extra	# 108011	For \$1,010.06	\$9,412.86	\$3,087.42
6/30/20	Regular	# 108012-108018	\$13,402.39	\$191,182.03	\$212,889.90
6/30/20	Adjust.	# 107979 Void	For (\$575.41)	0.00	(\$156.61)

Date	Acct. Transferred From	Acct. Transferred Into	Amount
6/4/20	NBC Flex Account	NBC Operating Acct. (cash flow return)	\$15,001.76

- Fundraiser Request:
 - Boys Basketball – sell face masks.

Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Discussion: Return-to-School Plan

Since the district has not received direction from the Minnesota Department of Education, Superintendent Fischer recommends a special board meeting to decide on a plan, once directions are received from the Governor later this week. There will be a special meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM to review and approve a back-to-school plan.

Accept Letter of Understanding/MSBA Policy Regarding Coaching Pay

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Todd Rengo to accept a Letter of Understanding/MSBA Policy regarding coaching pay. (Head coaches would automatically receive 25 percent due to required planning plus a prorated amount based on the length of the season not to exceed 100 percent, and the remaining coaching staff would be paid on a prorated basis based on the length of the season, if there is a season. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

School Board Meeting Logistics

The Board discussed the Minnesota Department of Health recommendations regarding public meetings and whether Board meetings should be held in person or virtually due to COVID-19 concerns. Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Jerry

Frederick to hold School Board meetings in person if school is in session either full-time or part-time, and If school is not in session the meetings will be held virtually. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Bus Garage Project Update and Increase

The Board was updated that the bus garage project is going well. There was an error by the construction manager in the total costs for completing the office area in the building. Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Mark Nyholm to increase the budget for the office portion to \$51,736 from \$40,000 that was approved. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Approve the Hire of Fall Coaches 2020/2021

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Julian Bertogliat to approve the hire of 2020/2021 fall coaches as presented, pending return of appropriate background checks for new hires. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Approve a Revision to the Capital Projects for 2020/2021

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Jerry Frederick to approve a change in capital projects for 2020/2021 where the \$6,000 on the project list for motor replacement will be changed to \$6,000 for concrete repairs instead. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay vote

Approve Substitute Pay Increases

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Julian Bertogliat to approve an increase to the daily rate of pay for substitute teaches to \$120 for full day and \$60 for half-day and increase other hourly substitutes hourly rate of pay to \$11.50 per hour. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Approve Meal Prices for 2020/2021

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Julian Bertogliat to approve 2020/2021 meal prices as follows:

Student Breakfast \$1.10; grades K-6 lunch \$2.30, grades 7-12 lunch \$2.40; adult breakfast \$1.90; adult lunch \$3.85.

Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Authorize Administration to Call for Quotes for the Delivery and Purchase of Milk and Bread Products

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Todd Rengo to authorize

From Our School Board

administration to call for quotes for the delivery and purchase of milk and bread products for 2020/2021. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Authorize Administration to Call for Quotes for # 1 and #2 Diesel Fuel, Gasoline, and Propane

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Todd Rengo to authorize administration to call for quotes for #1 and #2 diesel fuel, gasoline, and propane for 2020/2021. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Authorize Administration to Call for Quotes for Snow Removal

Moved by Jerry Frederick, second by Mark Nyholm to authorize administration to call for quotes for snow removal for 2020/2021. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes

Approve the 10-Year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Mark Nyholm to approve the 10-year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan as presented. (Copy on file in the office of the superintendent.) Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Annual Review of Policy 807 – Health and Safety

Moved by Jerry Frederick, second by Todd Rengo to approve the annual review of Policy 807 – Health & Safety. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Accept Letter of Resignation by Retirement from Dawn Mattson, District Administrative Assistant

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Jerry Frederick to accept a letter of resignation by re-

tirement effective October 31, 2020, from Dawn Mattson, District Administrative Assistant, with a letter of thanks for her long dedication to the District and with permission for administration to post for the position if there are no applicants within the clerical unit. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Approve the Superintendent's Agreement

Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Jerry Frederick to approve the renewal of the Superintendent's Agreement for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Reports

Board Committee Reports:

- Margaret Sunnarborg – Back-to-school planning meetings.
- Jerry Frederick – Video conference with the builder for the camera quotes.
- Mark Nyholm – Facilities committee meetings for bus garage/parking lot projects.
- Jeff Salo – Facilities committee meetings for bus garage/parking lot projects.
- Julian Bertogliat – Facilities committee meetings for bus garage/parking lot projects.

Principals' Reports:

Elementary Principal Brian Harker reported:

- He has been working with subcommittees for school reopening and they are now waiting for the Governor's announcement.

High School Principal Greg Hexum reported:

- He has been working with subcommittees and various organizations to be ready for the Governor's announcement/start of school.

Superintendent's Report:

- A tree honoring Jackson Pfister was planted at the Sports Complex and the SISU Rock will be moved to that location to make a nice sitting area.

- The supervisors will be present to answer questions from the Board in discussing the back-to-school plans.
- The Superintendent has received some communication regarding the school nickname.

Congratulations & Commendations

- To Dawn Mattson and to wish her well in her retirement. She will be greatly missed.

Communications

- Superintendent Fischer read two communications:
- Student Karin Anderson's communication addressed the petition she initiated regarding changing the logo/name of the Esko School.
- Student Alex Bourgeault's communication presented his opinion that the Esko School logo/name remain unchanged.

Open Forum

- Mr. Mike Jokela, Class of 1997, spoke to the Board regarding his opinion that the name "Eskomos" be changed as the school's logo.
- Ms. Rebecca Nelson, Class of 1997, spoke to the Board and strongly supports changing the school logo.

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Jerry Frederick to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Todd Rengo, Clerk

From Our School Board

Clerk's Minutes

The Esko Board of Education, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, held a special school board meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

Members present: Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and Superintendent Aaron Fischer. Members absent: None.

Call the Meeting to Order

Acting Chairperson Jeff Salo called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion: School Planning for Fall 2020

Opening statements were heard from Acting Chairperson Jeff Salo and from Superintendent Aaron Fischer regarding the important decisions to be made and about using the guidance from the State of Minnesota, federal education and health agencies.

Superintendent Fischer presented Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan, including its mission, learning model parameters, collaborative decision making, overview of requirements, movement between learning models, and how cases of COVID-19 amongst students and staff will be addressed, distance learning, flexibility in this model. He reported that the District committee has reviewed and recommends adopting the State plan for 2020/2021.

Approval to Adopt the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan for 2020/2021

The Board discussed the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan for 2020/2021. Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Mark Nyholm to approve the adoption of the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan 2020/2021 that is dated July 30, 2020. (Copy of Plan on file in the office of the superintendent.) Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Approval of Resolution: Adoption of Base Learning Model for the 2020/2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters

Todd Rengo read a resolution regarding the Adoption of a Base Learning Model for the 2020/2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters. Moved by Julian Bertogliat, second by Jerry Frederick to approve the resolution adopting a Base Learning Model for the 2020/2021

school year and other COVID-19 related matters. (Copy of resolution on file in the office of the superintendent.) Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Approval of Hybrid Learning Model for 2020/2021

A plan for the Hybrid Learning Model for 2020/2021 was presented. Moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Todd Rengo to approve the Hybrid Learning Model for 2020/2021 as presented. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Approval to Hire Julie Pelletier as District Administrative Assistant

Moved by Julian Bertogliat, second by Todd Rengo to approve the hire of Julie Pelletier as District Administrative Assistant with approval to post the resulting vacancy in the elementary office. Official date of start in the District office is yet to be determined. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Special Board Meeting Schedule for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM

The Board will hold a Special School Board meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Mark Nyholm, second by Jerry Frederick to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Julian Bertogliat, Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Todd Rengo, Clerk

Clerk's Minutes

The Esko Board of Education, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, held a special school board meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Members present: Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and Superintendent Aaron Fischer. Members absent: Julian Bertogliat.

Call the Meeting to Order

Acting Chairperson Jeff Salo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion: School Planning for Fall 2020

Superintendent Aaron Fischer discussed what the sub-committees have been working on regarding the COVID-19 Learning Plan. He reviewed the Esko Blueprint for Learning Plan developed by the committees, going through the 21-page document that supports the Board-approved Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021. Board members were able to question specifics within the Plan and Superintendent Fischer and the principals offered explanations of the Plan's specific details.

Approval to Allow the Board Chair and the Superintendent Flexibility in Reviewing the Counties Case Numbers in Determining the Appropriate Learning Level

Moved by Jerry Frederick, second by Margaret Sunnarborg to allow the Board Chair and Superintendent Fischer to be flexible in determining the appropriate learning level. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Adoption of the Esko Public Schools Blueprint for Learning 2020-2021

The Board came to a consensus that the ABC Hybrid Model for Grades K-2 is their preferred model. Superintendent Fischer emphasized that this Plan covers the big picture aspects of the Plan. The next level of details will be handled by the teachers, principals, and staff. Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Jerry Frederick to adopt the plan as presented and amended. Copy of the Plan is available in the District Office and on the District website. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Adjournment

There being no further business, moved by Jerry Frederick, second by Margaret Sunnarborg to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried by following vote: Aye votes by Jerry Frederick, Mark Nyholm, Todd Rengo, Jeff Salo, Margaret Sunnarborg, and no nay votes.

Todd Rengo, Clerk

Around Town

MINUTES

TOWN BOARD MEETING

JULY 16, 2020

Present: Terry Hill, Bill Gerard (remote), Ruth Janke, Jason Paulson, Rhonda Peleski, Leah Pykkonen, David-Pritchett

Absent: Tony Compo

Also attending remotely: Dan Stangle, Rob Lucas, Bob Stokes, John Bergman

Chairperson Hill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Board Room at the Town Hall.

Janke made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting. Second by Gerard. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

Paulson made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 78,467.00 (Check #'s 45422 – 45460) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 8,414.87. Second by Janke. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

June receipts in the amount of \$ 49,366.54 and June fund balances were reviewed.

An email was received from Sandra Rengo regarding the internet options in the rural areas of the township and the State's Border to Border Broadband Infrastructure grant. She has been directed to contact Carlton County for additional information. She has already contacted the State. She will attend a future meeting to discuss the program further.

A thank you was received from Stuart Bottila for the well wishes following his recent retirement.

A letter of resignation was received from Steve Panger. Panger served as the alternate representative on the Cloquet Area Fire District Board of Directors. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to accept the resignation with regret. Motion carried with 4 yeas. Discussion was held on possible replacements. This will be discussed further at a future meeting. Peleski will also contact the Carlton County auditor to inform her of the resignation.

Road Foreman Logan Saline updated the Board on information he received from MNDOT regarding safety

upgrades to the E. Stark Road railroad crossing. MN-DOT did a safety survey at the crossing. Crossings are graded 1 (good) – 9 (bad). This crossing is rated 4 which means it's not very high on their list for improvement projects. It could move up on the list if the Town agreed to provide more than the required 10 % match however there is no funding available until 2023-2024.

A list of potential new members on the fire department was presented. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to approve Lucas Pyrlík for probationary membership and Mason Blankenship and Abigail Blazevic for apprentice membership. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

Discussion was held on the CARES Act Relief Funding (CRF) that is being distributed by the State. The Town is eligible to receive \$ 389,735. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to approve the submittal of the certification form. Motion carried with 4 yeas. Once the form is sent to the State, the funds will be deposited into the Town's bank account. Any monies not spent by November 15 will be turned over to Carlton County for their use.

Discussion continued on how the funding can be spent. Things discussed included updating the phone and internet service at the Town Hall to improve the ability to hold remote meetings. Carlton County has created a committee to brainstorm on projects that it could be used for. Peleski was instructed to reach out to the County to see what projects they're considering.

Peleski provided a list of election judges for the 2020 Primary and General elections. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard to approve the list pending the required two hours of training is completed. Motion carried with 3 yeas and Janke abstaining.

Peleski requested that the election judges be paid hazard pay for their service considering the COVID-19 pandemic. This would be an allowable expense for the CRF. After discussion a motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard to pay the election judges an additional \$ 2 per hour of hazard pay for the work they do. Motion carried with 3 yeas and Janke abstaining.

Saline inquired about the Wood City Riders snowmobile trail through the Township and who would be responsible for maintaining the culverts where the trail

crosses Town roads. After discussion a motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard that the Town would take responsibility for the culverts within the Town's rights-of-way. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

The Esko Soccer Association financial reports for 2018 and 2019 have been received. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to approve the payment from the Recreation Fund to the Esko Soccer Association in the amount of \$ 3,000 (\$1,500 for each year). Motion carried with 4 yeas.

Saline requested that the sewer hookup permit fee be increased. The permit fee is currently \$ 25. He'd like to increase it to \$ 200 and use the additional charge to provide the contractors with a uniform tracing wire. It would keep the tracing wire and installation consistent for future sewer lateral locating. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to increase the permit fee from \$ 25 to \$ 200 effective immediately. Motion carried with 4 yeas.

Discussion was held on the additional signage on Juntunen Road. The "Share the Road" signs can't be added to the walking path markers. If new posts are needed, they will be installed when Carlton County can schedule it. A new double arrow sign has been ordered for the Juntunen / E. Harney Road intersection.

Zoning Official Dan Stangle gave his monthly report. A variance hearing is scheduled for July 28 for a property on Jay Cooke Road. Other variance applications are being reviewed for future hearings. He continues to review site plans for new structures, assign new addresses, and work with property owners on parcel splits.

Deputy Rob Lucas gave his monthly report. There have been requests for increased patrolling and speed enforcement because of the detour from Canosia Road.

Andrew Barnebey from MSA was present to update the Board on projects being worked on.

Paulson reported on CAFD activities. The District is trying to levy for new radios.

Peleski updated the Board on the upcoming Primary Election and changes that will be made.

At 7:26 p.m. those attending via telephone were inadvertently disconnected by the internet.

Around Town

Hill called for additional comments from those attending in person.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:30 pm by Janke with a second by Paulson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer
Terry Hill, Chairperson
Town of Thomson

AUGUST 6, 2020

Present: Terry Hill, Bill Gerard, Ruth Janke, Tony Compo (remote), Jason Paulson, Rhonda Peleski, Leah Pykkonen, David Pritchett
Staff also attending remotely: Kyle Gustafson, Logan Saline, Rob Lucas

Chairperson Hill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Board Room at the Town Hall.

Gerard made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting with corrections. Second by Janke. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

Gerard made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 151,685.14 (Check #'s 45461 – 45511) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 10,215.41. Second by Compo. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

A letter was received from Peggy Meseroll requesting Manisto Road be extended. There is a portion of her driveway that could be used as a turnaround area for snowplowing and grading equipment. Road supervisor Logan Saline stated that it is a problem area and extending the road would help. Pritchett advised that an easement would be needed. The matter was referred to legal and engineering to work with Saline.

Peleski requested approval to reimburse Zoning Official Dan Stangle for expenses he incurred to enable him to work from home for 3 months during the initial stay at home order. The Town's auditor advises that CARES Act Relief Funding (CRF) can be used for this expense. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Gerard to approve the reimbursement in the amount of \$ 433.48.

Motion carried with 5 yeas.

Discussion was held on what other expenses the CRF can be used for. Other municipalities across the State are also looking for answers to the question. It was decided that a committee would be formed to discuss different projects. It will include Compo, Gerard, Peleski, Pykkonen, Saline, Stangle, and Gustafson.

Kate Eiyneck from MSA was present to discuss the Comprehensive Plan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public meetings had to be suspended. Options were given for in-person meetings with limited attendance, virtual meetings, or delaying the completion until public meetings can be held. After hearing the Board members' thoughts, a motion was made by Janke with a second by Compo to pause the meetings for 6 months and discuss again at the first meeting in February 2021. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

A motion was made by Gerard with a second by Paulson to authorize Peleski to enter into a financing agreement with John Deere pending legal review. Motion carried with 5 yeas. The agreement should be ready in a few days.

Larry LaPlante, the former owner of the property at 1 Korby Road, was present via teleconference to appeal the decision made by Utility Supervisor Saline regarding a recent sewer lateral inspection at that location. With each sale of property that is on the sanitary sewer line, a video inspection is now required as part of WLSSD's increased efforts to eliminate inflow and infiltration in the sewer system. The Town adopted Ordinance No. 44 to enforce this action. Saline viewed the video from 1 Korby Road and also had the Town's engineer at MSA view the video. All had the opinion that corrective action was needed. LaPlante is questioning the findings. He has also shown the video to plumbers and either directly or indirectly to inspectors, and they disagree with the findings. Saline had requested a second video be completed because the original was not done to Town standards. Saline will see that Town engineer Andrew Barnebey views the second video. Further discussion will be held at the August 20 meeting.

Two young men were present to speak to the Board about vandalism done to the Northridge Park pavilion. Both admitted to participating in the vandalism and ex-

pressed their remorse. Deputy Lucas reported that more kids were involved and all have admitted to the vandalism. Discussion was held on what type of punishment would be given.

It was decided that each boy would be required to complete eight hours of community service to the Town. Projects will be lined up at both the park and the town hall.

Discussion was held on issuing a Request for Proposals for engineering services. With staff changes at MSA it is a good time to look at other options. Other firms have approached the Town and would like to provide the service. Paulson will find sample RFPs and put together a draft for the Board.

Saline provided a quote for garage doors at the Town Garage. The lower panels are deteriorated and just replacing those will not fit. The Board agreed. Saline will get additional quotes.

Fire Chief Kyle Gustafson reported that four firefighters have reached the end of their probation. Chase Bergstedt, Phil Rogers, Krista Leach and Steve Krocka are now full members effective July 16, 2020.

The annual fire department pancake breakfast will be held Oct. 3. It will be served curbside only this year.

Zoning Official Dan Stangle gave his report. He has been working on parcel splits, stormwater violations, and variance hearings. He also made arrangements to have the flag pole fixed and the heating/cooling system work at the Town Hall finished.

Saline gave his report. One seasonal worker will be done for the summer next week.

Barnebey reported that he's been working on the stormwater pond repairs, reviewing sewer lateral videos when needed and the plan for Northridge Park.

Pykkonen provided quotes for initial installation and monthly broadband internet service fees using the fiber optics that were extended to the Town Hall through the Middle Mile Fiber project. She also obtained quotes for extending that service to the Town Garage and Fire Hall. The increased internet speeds will enable better internet service for the teleconferencing of meetings and public hearings at the Town Hall. It will also enable the fire department to conduct meetings and trainings via teleconference. The Road and Utility staff will be able to

Around Town

hold safety training sessions with internet access. The cost for the work should be reimbursable through CRF. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to proceed with the internet options presented for all three locations. Motion carried with 5 yeas.

Discussion was held on the road signs that were to be installed on Juntunen Road. With the additional requirements and having to wait for the County to install them, it could be six weeks before the signs would be up. Since the Canosia Road bridge project should be completed in early October, the decision was made to not install the signs.

Paulson reported that the Cloquet Area Fire District will be holding a budget meeting.

Peleski reported on the upcoming primary election. Set-up will begin on Friday.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:08 pm by Gerard with a second by Paulson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer
Terry Hill, Chairperson
Town of Thomson

AUGUST 20, 2020

Present: Bill Gerard (remote), Ruth Janke, Tony Compo (remote), Jason Paulson (late), Rhonda Peleski, Leah Pykkonen, David Pritchett

Absent: Terry Hill

Additional staff attending remotely: Kyle Gustafson, Logan Saline, Rob Lucas

Vice-chairperson Gerard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Board Room at the Town Hall. Gerard then turned the meeting over to Janke who was in attendance.

Gerard made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting. Second by Compo. Motion carried with 3 yeas, Paulson late and Hill absent.

Compo made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 238,016.24 (Check #'s 45512 – 45549) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 8,798.96. Second by Gerard.

Motion carried with 3 yeas, Paulson late and Hill absent.

July receipts in the amount of \$ 1,287,159.59 and July fund balances were reviewed.

A thank you was received from Esko Boy Scout Troop 152 for maps that were provided to them by Zoning Official Dan Stangle and Engineer Joe Jurewicz. The Troop was able to complete their Citizenship and Community Merit Badge.

Larry and Cheryl LaPlante were in attendance to discuss the review of a sewer lateral inspection for a house they recently sold. The first video that was provided wasn't a good quality. It was deemed as showing inflow and infiltration and corrections were required by both the Town's Sewer Official, Logan Saline, and Town Engineer, Andrew Barnebey. A second video was done and was initially deemed failed with corrections needed. The LaPlante's dispute the findings. The second video was viewed by the engineer who is now willing to take responsibility and sign off on the certificate of compliance as passed with no corrections required. Paulson inquired of Barnebey as to what would cause the staining at the joints of the sewer pipe. Barnebey could not provide an answer without taking the sewer pipe apart. Paulson requested to be on record as saying that Barnebey has indicated that there is no infiltration, and furthermore, as the Town's engineering firm, he does not know what the brown staining is. The LaPlante's will be given a certificate of compliance once it has been signed by Barnebey.

Peleski reported that a meeting has been scheduled for the CARES Act Relief Funding (CRF) committee. The group will be developing a list of possible uses for the funds. The list will then be sent to the Town's auditor, Wipfli, for review. Any suggestions should be brought to a committee member.

Paulson put together a request for proposals for engineering services. It was then reviewed by legal counsel and presented to the Town Board. Paulson requested that the dates be adjusted as he will not physically be in attendance at the next meeting. The RFP was tabled until the September 3 meeting.

Barnebey met with Saline at Manisto Road to determine what improvements would be required to extend that road. The road would need to be widened and brought up to Town standards, an easement would need

to be in place, and all costs for the improvements would be borne by the property owner. Barnebey will provide an estimate for the gravel needed for the improvements. This will be tabled until the next meeting and the property owner will be given the information provided.

Matt Wilder from the Firefighters Relief Association was present to share the status of the relief association funds. The annual benefit was increased last year to \$ 2,200 per year of service. They are not requesting any increases this year.

Brent Hipp from the Esko Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts was present to inquire about property that might be used for a food truck festival. He's looking at using the festival as a way to raise funds for upcoming trips he would like to take the scouts on. No Board members present were opposed the idea. He was invited to put together a plan and attend a future meeting.

Fire Chief Kyle Gustafson reported that annual pump testing has been completed.

Peleski provided a recap of the recent primary election. Things seemed to run smoothly with the new layout required to enable appropriate distancing. Wait times will be longer at the general election in November.

There continues to be an issue with a sewer line at W. Highway 61 and the Midway River. Previous video shows excessive amounts on infiltration.

Paulson reported that Jim Langenbrunner will be stepping down from the Cloquet Area Fire District Board of Directors. Paulson also reported on a recent Arrowhead Regional Development Commission meeting.

Barnebey clarified something said earlier. MSA can't give a definitive answer on whether there is inflow and infiltration or not. A pressure test would need to be completed on a sewer line to determine exactly.

Compo reported that Saline has been working on repairing hydrants.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:20 pm by Paulson with a second by Compo. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer
Ruth Janke, Supervisor
Town of Thomson
Bill Gerard, Vice-chairperson

Notice of General Election



TOWN OF THOMSON

Carlton County
25 East Harney Road, P.O. Box 92
Esko, Minnesota 55733
(218) 879-9719
(218) 879-9114 (fax)

Email: thomson@cpinternet.com or township@qwestoffice.net

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

TOWN OF THOMSON CARLTON COUNTY STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in all the Election Precincts of the Town of Thomson, Carlton County, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2020, for the purpose of electing two Township Supervisors for four year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

TOWN SUPERVISOR – POSITION C VOTE FOR ONE

John Bergman
Bill Gerard

TOWN SUPERVISOR – POSITION D VOTE FOR ONE

Ron Gittings
Russell Kurhajetz
Jason Paulson
Eric Rish

This election will be held in conjunction with the state and federal general elections and polling places will be as specified for the general election.

Any eligible voter residing in the Town of Thomson may vote at said election at the polling place designated for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8 o'clock p.m. on the date of said 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.

September 15, 2020

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer

“Do not think your single vote does not matter much. The rain that refreshes the parched ground is made up of single drops.”

— Kate Sheppard



**Nobody will ever
deprive the American
people of the right
to vote except the
American people
themselves and the
only way they could do
this is by not voting.**

✕

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



Town Board Candidates



My name is Jason Paulson. I was born and raised in Thomson Township as a graduate of Lincoln High School, a graduate of University of Minnesota, a ten-year Marine Corps veteran, current airline pilot and assistant chief pilot/instructor at Lake Superior College. I am a husband of an environmental engineer, avid runner, and MN Water Quality cattle farmer on the Midway River. I have steadfastly served the community as township supervisor for four years. I am the board treasurer for our ambulance service provider- Cloquet Area Fire

District, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission appointee, and Carlton Honor member.

I am very proud of the community we live in. I believe we are progressive in nature, never afraid to make a change to better the quality of life, yet we're fiscally conservative, evident by our township's healthy net position. I believe there is more work to be done.

I have proudly served our community for four years. Within this capacity my number one job has been to dutifully manage public dollars- your money, your taxes paid.

Our growing tax base has increased our funding opportunities, yet that does not mean unchecked spending. The township tax levy remains historically below inflation at the 1.x% range. We finished 2019 on budget- yet approved \$274,000 in capital expenditures, including a city sewer expansion. Our township's financial health can be effectively gauged by our net position which increased 8.7% last year. Yet we do make spending decisions! We



My name is Bill Gerard and I've been an Esko resident for over 25 years, married 42 years, with four children and seven grandchildren. I recently retired after 38 years with Potlatch/ SAPPI as a pulpwood scaler. I know what it means to be loyal, hardworking and dedicated to my principles. I've had the honor of serving as a Thomson Township supervisor since 2002.

Following the example of my parents, I have always been committed to serving others.

I am here to listen, answer questions, solve problems and do anything I can to grow and support our community and its members. In addition to the ongoing duties of running the township, I would like to continue my work of planting trees and beautifying Esko.

My roots go back to my grandparents who were dairy farmers in Thomson Township. My wife and I raised our family here and our four kids graduated from Esko High School. There is a learning curve to any political position. I

purchased a \$313,000 road grader this year (the majority financed via a 0% loan) which will increase road crew productivity 30%. This adds to an able crew who can clear our 67 miles of roads quicker than another community and create the safest bus routes- as evidenced after our most recent mega-snowstorm.

My biggest concern is maintaining paramedic Advance Life Support (ALS) service to our community at a cost we can afford. I represent our community on the Cloquet Area Fire District Board and strive to see this level of emergency care maintained for our community. We don't know its there until we need it. You will note a fire district tax levy increase of 4% on property taxes due to the purchase of three new ambulances. I would prefer to see such expenditures spread out over a capital improvement plan but we were faced with an urgent purchase. We also continue the search for a new fire chief to lead the organization.

Additionally, our four-lane County Highway 61 is due for a full rebuild in the next four years. I believe it may be replaced by a two lane highway with center turn lane. I understand the county level perspective that spending extra funds for four lanes is a tough sell when highway 2 and 210 have much higher traffic counts with two. That said, I want to be part of that conversation and spearhead what is best for the community. If we lose the four lanes, we should get a full community length trail to replace the eastbound lanes. A bike, pedestrian, snowmobile trail that can link us westward to Cloquet/Carlton and eastward to the Munger and DWP trails.

As I have the last four years. I have the experience, energy and passion to find solutions. If you feel like our community is heading in the right direction, I urge voters to stay the course and vote for me.

have learned so much and continue to strive to understand and support the needs of our community. I bring 18 years of knowledge and experience to my position.

Fiscal responsibility is number one to me. As the township grows so do our working families and our senior population. I want to represent everyone when I consider how we will spend our tax dollars. For example, when it comes to allocating funds; whether it's a road grader, a fire truck or a new printer at the town office, we need multiple price quotes. When unsure, we don't hesitate to call in outside experts to educate us.

Broadband access has been a major concern in the township for quite some time. The powerful FCC makes it extremely difficult to achieve widespread broadband without a huge expense. Thomson Township stands with much of rural America waiting for the federal government and Congress to do the right thing; to implement action and to pass it down to the state, county and finally the township level. We need to continue to reach out to those who have decision making power to bring affordable broadband to everyone.

Town Board Candidates



My name is Russell Kurhajetz. I'm a husband and father of three children. I currently serve as the elected chair of the Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District board of Supervisors, and serve as the vice chair of the St Louis River -One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee. We moved to Esko from Duluth. I grew up in Willow River, went to college in Duluth and have lived in the Twin Cities, St Cloud and Los Angeles. I enjoy planting trees and walking, marveling at the wildlife and natural resources which make Minnesota unique. Our family moved to Esko because we like the rural suburb community, and are now able to share this with friends and family.

I have the time, energy, and willingness to serve the community. I would like to get involved with economic development creating opportunities for our youth. Esko is a great place to raise a family. "Are property taxes higher in Esko?" How do you know your answer? We are not the highest in Carlton County nor in Minnesota. How much would it cost to put in a public pool, bike path connecting the community, additional parks? As supervisor I would have an open door, helping residents have the facts to answer these questions.

I am a transplant to Esko so I do not have a long history personally. Many of my college friends were from Esko. Being from Willow River, we regularly battled in youth sports and I catch some heat from my nephew for raising Eskomos instead of Rebels. That said, my connection is my family. It is



My name is Ron Gittings. Our family has been around the area since 1987, we lived in Cloquet until 2015 and then built a home just off of North Cloquet Road. I taught at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College for 28 years and at UMD as an adjunct instructor for 30 years. At Fond du Lac, I was one of the original faculty members who had the honor of helping to build a new college. I also advised the law enforcement program for a number of years and helped to start the nursing program at the college. My spouse, Mary, and I have

been wed for 41 years. We have 2 adult children, Nic Gittings and Leanne Gamache. Our daughter and her family live next to us which gives us the chance to stay young, looking after our grandchildren.

I am running for Township Supervisor to continue a commitment to the community. While living in Cloquet I served on the school board for about 6 years. I also served on the Police Advisory Board for a number of years.

great to be in a community with so many families who are passionate about raising their kids (4,723 out of 5300 residents are part of a family household, 89.11%).

The largest short term challenge specific to the school is drinkable water. My Lego Robotics team brought up the poor tasting water at the school. They found the majority of students didn't like the taste and brought water bottles to school. There are a variety of long term issues that can be worked on, but this short term issue has a solution that can be completed in one month.

The proposed solution was not to create a new water tower and spend millions of dollars on infrastructure, but simply to get a couple new water fountains. MDH has proven the water is safe to drink at all water fountains in the school, and taste being subjective can be enhanced by filtering and chilling the water. Water bottle fillers are more sanitary as kids don't need to try and put their mouth on the spout.

I believe we can better involve our youth in many of the perceived problems in our community.

In the past Esko had students partner to run an ice cream shop. There is much that can be done dreaming of fun solutions, coffee shops or public pools while learning the economics and how they are funded. With their creativity, the possibilities are endless. We often underestimate what kids can do and I'd like to give them opportunities to be involved in the research, presentation, and implementation of those ideas. These fountains are about \$3500 installed. Would the community be willing to fund new fountains for the school?

Since moving to Thomson Township I have attended a number of town board meetings and some meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

I believe the primary issue faced by all local governing bodies is to ensure that our tax dollars are used wisely. While we must work cooperatively with other governmental entities, we must examine every mandate passed our way and exercise whatever local control to ensure that the quality of living we enjoy in Thomson Township. Such local control can only happen with leadership that is dedicated, open and transparent, ready and willing to listen to diverse views, and in the end try to make the best decisions possible as it affects our lives.

Town Board Candidates



My name is Eric Rish and I am a third generation resident of Thomson Township. I'm an Esko grad, married for 23 years with two children who also graduated from Esko. I retired from the Duluth Police in 2015 as an Administrator. In 1991, I was appointed to the Thomson Township Volunteer Fire Department where I served the community for 20 years. While my children were enrolled in Esko School, I was involved and volunteered with the school district as well as assisting with coaching my children in sports.

The purpose for my candidacy is to bring the township my experiences to the board. My abilities range from leadership to problem solving. My time with the City of Duluth and the Thomson Township Volunteer Fire Department provided me many opportunities to work collaboratively with private individuals and other governmental agencies. I understand relationships are important but they aren't always equal. Now, being retired, I will have enough time to dedicate to the township for its continued well-being.

I have lived in the township for over fifty years. I have previously given to



My name is John Bergman. I am retired after 45+ years of electronics/electrical technical manufacturing, test, and design as well as a voice & data networks engineer, and finally as Sr. Engineer for St Louis County, MN. I am a native of Gary/New Duluth, and have lived here for the last 24+ years. My spouse & I are active members at St. Matthews. I have been actively pursuing "broadband" for the whole Township since 2014 with little cooperation from the present Board.

Four of five present board members have been on the board for 20+ years. It's time to bring a fresh perspective. From my viewpoint, the present board majority and staff are "stuck" at least a decade behind the realities of continuing growth and the fact that "broadband" has become a "de-facto" utility absolutely necessary for education & business, as our present COVID-19 pandemic situation has pointed-out very vividly.

I believe broadband for all is the largest issue facing our township. Broadband is now a very essential part of living, with terrestrial service being totally inaccessible to several areas within the township. If we are lucky, Century Link may continue to expand high-speed DSL services to many of those areas; however, 80% coverage is the mandated government maximum requirement, leaving 20% "out". Some folks say "just use a 'hotspot' with

the community in a number of different ways from 20 years of firefighting, to coaching various youth sports in the community. I have been engaged with the board while being at the fire department as a member of the relief association, to being a member of the CAFD board member and its chairperson for two years. I also was involved as an Esko Sports Alliance board member. Since my early 20's I have been serving our community and this board position is where I believe I can help again.

The challenge the township faces is striking a balance between growth and retaining the community feel Thomson Township currently has. The greatest opportunity is to work with the school district as it holds the community's main identity. I would continue support for the school district while understanding the community needs to build additional corner stones to support the township. Options may include further development of the industrial park and sustainable businesses in the Esko's Corner area.

I believe it is more likely we will continue to grow as a residential community, so infrastructure is critical: roads, trails, utilities would be priorities. I would like to work with the State of Minnesota and highlight our connection to Jay Cooke State Park. I would also seek out funding options to build additional connections.

your cell phone"; again, those same areas have very poor to no cell coverage, which make a "hotspot" unuseable.

The only presently practical way is to "relax" our "Towers" part of the existing Township Building Ordinance to allow for "small" wi-fi-type terrestrial broadband access, as I have proposed and pursued with the board since 2014 with no movement on their part. Potential providers are presently not able to economically meet the very stringent "towers" ordinance requirements and provide services at affordable rates (this is a very "low profit margin" business). The present ordinance has its history from some 20+ years ago as the board was trying to limit excessive erections of the large cell towers, which many citizens consider as being "ugly", and/or "disturbing". The proposed changes would allow for economic building of "small", unlighted and relatively unobtrusive towers to serve broadband to areas within the township. As a FCC-licensed radio amateur (KE0ELI - Formerly KC0B-WT), I have a 100'-high "small" tower erected at my homestead - I would welcome anyone interested to view it in person; please contact me by phone at (218) 624-7270 to arrange for a visit.

Church News

RECYCLING SHED HOURS

The recycling center is located at the Town Hall at 25 E. Harney Road.

Year-round hours of operation are

Wednesday, Thursday,

Friday: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The staffed facility in Esko is for residential recycling only.

With the increase in on-line shopping there has been an increase in cardboard being recycled. If you have a large amount of cardboard, please bring it directly to the Carlton County Transfer station at 1950 Highway 210, Carlton. All boxes must be broken down before putting them in the dumpster.

Please do not leave items at the facility when it is unattended.

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

The Town of Thomson Board of Supervisors holds their regular meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are held in the Town Board Room at the Town Hall, 25 E. Harney Road.

TOWN HALL RENTALS

Remember: The Town Hall is available for private rentals. Contact the Town Office at 879-9719 for details or visit our website: thomson.govoffice.net

THOMSON TOWN OFFICE

The Thomson Town Office is located at 25 E. Harney Road. The regular office hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**ST. MATTHEWS
DRIVE-IN
MOVIE NIGHTS!**

Featuring...
"THE CHOSEN"

7:30 pm

Fridays in October

**IN THE
PARKING
LOT**

MOVIE IS FREE!
CONCESSIONS WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

A FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE!

Sponsored by St. Matthews Youth Group

OCTOBER 31, 4:00 - 5:30 PM

**TRUNK
OR TREAT**

**BBQ DINNER
AVAILABLE!**

**SERVED BY
OUR YOUTH!**

**@ ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
4 ELIZABETH AVENUE, ESKO**

COME FOR TREATS OR BRING YOUR CAR TO HAND OUT TREATS!

Church News



NORTHWOOD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A church with a BIG heart.

62 W. Hwy. 61 ~ Esko, MN 55733

608.495.3147 ~ www.northwoodesko.com

Pastor Brian Cornell

bcornell@wnccumc.net

Sunday OUTDOOR Worship: 9:00 am
Northwood UMC Parking Lot

Sunday ONLINE Worship: 9:00 am

Facebook:

<https://bit.ly/2ECUWQH>

OR

You Tube:

<https://bit.ly/2CU7uC8>

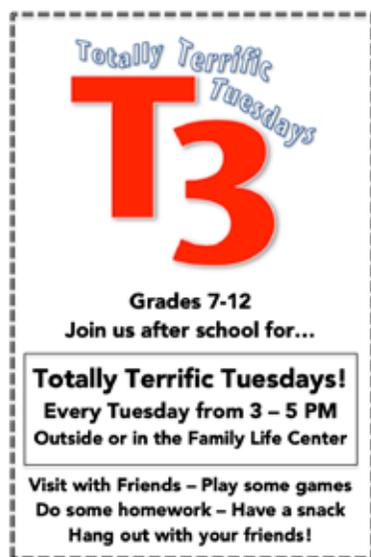
Regularly Scheduled Upcoming Events
and Special Events have been cancelled
or postponed until further notice.

Please check for updates on postponed events by
contacting Ann at annonpond@yahoo.com

NUMC VISION STATEMENT

Northwood UMC is an open,
welcoming, seven-day-a-week church
that shares God's spirit, serves as a
community hub and sponsors good works.

www.northwoodesko.com



APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

25 Church Road Esko, MN 55733

Pastor Bruce Bergstedt & Pastor Nathan Juntunen

218-879-3882 || eskoapostolic@msn.com

www.esko-apostolic.org

2020 Fall Worship Schedule

New Church Office Hours begin September 1st:
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Tues - Fri.

Sundays (Starting September 13th):

8:00 AM Worship Service – All Ages

9:15-9:45AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship Service – All Ages

*(3rd Sunday - Holy Communion)

Tuesdays (Starting September 15th):

8:00 AM: Men's Fellowship

Wednesdays (Starting September 9th):

9:30 AM: Ladies Bible Study

Family Night Begins! (Starting September 16th) :

6:30 PM Activities for all ages:

Youth Group: Pre-School - 12th Grade

Adult Bible Study

Thursdays:

9 AM-3 PM Quilting (2nd & 4th Thurs.)

1:30 PM Senior Song Service (Starts Sept.
17th, 1st & 3rd Thurs.)

7:00 PM Young Adult Group

Note: Due to the current circumstances, the
kitchen will remain closed. Please provide your
own coffee and refreshments.

Thank you!

† Check out our Church website at
www.esko-apostolic.org. There are pictures, up-
coming events, bulletins, church calendar, cemetery
information and more!

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH

And Little Eskomo Lutheran Preschool

A family of believers grounded in, growing in and
reaching out in Christ

4 Elizabeth Avenue - Esko, MN 55733

218.879.3510 - www.stmatthewsesko.org

Pastor Jeffrey Walther 218-591-1436

Pastor Tom Brinkley 218-343-2080

Sundays: Worship:

8:00 and 10:30 am Worship with safety guidelines

St. Matthews is also offering online worship via St.
Matthew's Lutheran Church Facebook at 10:30 am
and posted to our website www.stmatthewsesko.org
9:30 a.m. TV Option Channel 6 (KBJR) airs "My
Savior Lives"

Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Jeff posted to St.
Matthew's Lutheran Church Facebook

Youth Bible Study 9:15 am (grades 7-12)

Tuesdays:

Coffee with our Pastors via St. Matthew's Lutheran
Church Facebook 9:00 a.m.

T3 – Totally Terrific Tuesdays (grades 7-12) 3:00 –
5:00 p.m.

Thursdays:

Youth Group (grades 7-12) 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Experience Recovery 6:00 p.m.

We have a Care and Outreach task force set up to
help those in need. Please call the church office if you
or someone you know has a need. God is with us!

For Additional Information and updates, Check
Our Website.

www.stmatthewsesko.org

Lunch Menu

October, 2020

View student's meal accounts on Parent Portal

School Lunch/Breakfast Prices:

Lunch:

Grades 1-6.....\$2.30
 Grades 7-12.....\$2.40
 Adults.....\$3.75
 Reduced Lunch.....\$0.00
 Milk.....\$0.35

Breakfast:

Kindergarten.....\$0.00
 Grades K-12.....\$1.10
 Adults.....\$1.80
 Reduced Breakfast.....\$0.00
 Milk.....\$0.35

Please send check in an envelope labeled with exactly what is being purchased. Lactose reduced milk will be provided to a student upon written request from a parent/guardian.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><i>*No Alternate or Ala Carte (Smart Snack) line available at this time.</i></p> <p><i>*We will have special lunches for Grades 7-12 on some days.</i></p>	<p><i>*Low fat or fat free milk offered daily with breakfast & lunch.</i></p>	<p><i>*Fruit & a juice cup offered daily with breakfast.</i></p> <p><i>*WGR cereal may be substituted for main breakfast item.</i></p>	<p>1 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, HB Egg Lunch: Stuffed Crust Pizza, Romaine Lettuce Salad, California Veggie Mix, Fruit</p>	<p>2 Breakfast: Colby Cheese Omelet, Bagel Lunch: Meatballs in Gravy with Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Mixed Vegetables, Biscuit, Cranberry Sauce</p>
<p>5 Breakfast: Muffin, Yogurt Cup or String Cheese Lunch: Mini Corn Dogs, Tater Tots, Baked Beans, Steamed Peas & Carrots, Fruit Sauce</p>	<p>6 Breakfast: Mini Pancakes Lunch: Hamburger/Bun, Cheese Slice, Crinkle Cut Fries, Whole Kernel Corn, Fresh Fruit HS Lunch: Quarter Pound Burgers</p>	<p>7 Breakfast: Sausage Breakfast Pizza Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Twister Fries, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Fruit</p>	<p>8 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, HB Egg Lunch: Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Broccoli/Cauliflower in Cheese Sauce, Fruit</p>	<p>9 Breakfast: Colby Cheese Omelet, Bagel Lunch: "Lunch Brunch" French Toast, Sausage Links, Tri Tater, Baby Carrots, Applesauce</p>
<p>12 Breakfast: Muffin, Yogurt or String Cheese Lunch: Ham & Cheese Sub, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Pickle Spear, Fruit</p>	<p>13 Breakfast: Mini Waffles Lunch: Spaghetti in Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast, Whole Kernel Corn, Fresh Veggie Cup, Frozen Fruit Cup</p>	<p>14 Breakfast: Sausage Breakfast Pizza Lunch: Orange Chicken, Fluffy Rice, Stir Fry Veggies, Bread Stick, Fruit Sauce, Fortune Cookie</p>	<p>15 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>16 NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>19 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>20 Breakfast: Mini Pancakes Lunch: Shrimp Poppers, Au Gratin Potatoes, Steamed Mixed Vegetables, Dinner Roll, Fruit</p>	<p>21 Breakfast: Sausage Breakfast Pizza Lunch: Hot Dog/Bun, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Fresh Veggie Cup, Fruit</p>	<p>22 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, HB Egg Lunch: Cheese Pizza Crunchers, Romaine Lettuce Salad, Green Beans, Fruited Gelatin</p>	<p>23 Breakfast: Colby Cheese Omelet, Bagel Lunch: Breaded Chicken Drumstick, Mac & Cheese, Biscuit, Whole Kernel Corn, Baby Carrots, Fruit HS Lunch: Chicken Enchilada</p>
<p>26 Breakfast: Muffin, Yogurt or String Cheese Lunch: Sloppy Joe/Bun, Cheese Slice, Whole Kernel Corn, Fresh Veggies/Dip, Fruit Sauce</p>	<p>27 Breakfast: Mini Waffles Lunch: Corn Dog, Spud Bites, Baked Beans, Peas & Carrots, Fresh Fruit HS Lunch: Pulled Pork Sandwich</p>	<p>28 Breakfast: Sausage Breakfast Pizza Lunch: Chicken Strips, Crinkle Cut Fries, Steamed Mixed Vegetables, Dinner Roll, Fruit</p>	<p>29 Breakfast: Cinnamon Roll, HB Egg Lunch: Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Lettuce Salad, California Veggie Mix, Fruit</p>	<p>30 Breakfast: Colby Cheese Omelet, Bagel Lunch: Turkey Sub, Cheese Slice, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Pickle Spear, Fruit HS Lunch: Chicken Alfredo</p>

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

