

OTC Public Health Director Selected



Pictured left to right are Commissioner Dan Bucholz, Commisioner Kurt Mortenson, Public Health Director Jody Lien, Commissioner Lee Rogness, Commissioner Betty Murphy, Commissioner Wayne Johnson

Otter Tail County's Public Health Director, Jody Lien, has been selected as a recipient of the 2021 Emerging Leader Award by the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota. This annual award recognizes emerging local public health leaders who go above and beyond to move public health forward. Ms. Lien's leadership, passion for public health, and numerous contributions to LPHA were noted. The Otter Tail County Commissioners

congratulated Ms. Lien on this statewide recognition at the Nov. 23rd Board meeting, thanking her for her advocacy efforts and outstanding leadership. Said County Administrator Nicole Hansoen, "We are so fortunate to have Jody here in Otter Tail County. She ensures rural MN has a voice in public health, and it's no surprise that she's seen as leader across the state of MN."

Independent School District #850 School Board Minutes

ROTHSAY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 850
November 8, 2021
Board of Education Regular Meeting

The Board of Education of Rothsay Independent School District 850 held its regular monthly meeting on November 8, 2021, in the Conference Room. Chairman Justin Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30 AM. Present for the meeting were board members Kevin Brenden, David Simmer, Mike Metzger, John Reber and Jessi Colby. Administration members in attendance for the meeting included Wade Johnson (Superintendent), Karilee Traurig (Principal), and Diane Haugrud (District Secretary/Bookkeeper).

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

Brenden made a motion to approve the agenda with one addition; Colby seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Colby moved to approve the minutes of the regular October meeting with two changes; Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote. The school mailer and Rothsay Regional Report will publish the minutes.

Reber made a motion (which carried on vote following Metzger's second) to approve the financial reports and to authorize the fiscal agent for ISD 850 to pay accounts payable and hand payables in the following amounts: General Fund - \$222,287.48, Food Service - \$24,596.73, Community Service - \$449.90, Building Construction - \$9,701.70, Trust Fund - \$0.00, Student Activity - \$601.74 total - \$257,637.55. It was reported that the student activity account balance stands at \$118,592.73.

Courtney Richman (Eide Bailey) provided a summary of the 2020-2021 Audit Report which Metzger moved to approve as presented. Reber seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Johnson gave the Superintendent/Principal's report. He discussed the additional \$22,000 we received through the ESSR 3 funding. Two different approaches to Esports were discussed, Mr. Johnson gave the costs of both programs, and a final decision will be made during the December board meeting, it was discussed to possibly use Donors Choice as a funding option as well as bringing on a sponsor. He reported that there have been changes made to the WBWF goals, he informed the board that we have administered approximately 45 COVID tests to-date, the workshop today will focus on Netsupport and the teachers having the capability of monitoring their students at all times, the reasoning behind switching the Veterans Day Program to virtual this year, discussed the issue we have with LCSC in contracting Business Manager Services and informed the board that Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nitz made a \$1,000 donation to the school for helping students with coats, etc.

Traurig gave the Elementary Principal's report updating the board on upcoming conferences for November 9th and 11th. The Title I is completed, and plans are in progress for special functions. She said that board that we only have Reading Corp this year as no one applied for the Math Corp position.

The Activities Director report was in the packet and reviewed. The Technology Report was included in the board packet.

There was no TCC Report this month. Mrs. Traurig updated the board on the

resignation of the TCC Coordinator and that the process to replace has already begun.

The Preschool Report was reviewed by all in attendance. The program currently has 55 students participating.

The Certified Committee met and made recommendations for Superintendent Services with S.A.S.S. and will be addressed later in the meeting.

Enrollment stands at 287 students. Brenden introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION CANVASSING RETURNS OF VOTES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 0850, as follows:

1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the general election of the voters of the district held on November 2, 2021, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.

2. As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 89 voters of the district voted at said election on the election of (three) school board members for four-year term vacancies on the board caused by expiration of term on January 1 next following the general election as follows:

Candidate Q 53
Candidate R 50
Candidate S 46
Candidate T 05
Candidate U 1
Candidate V 1
Candidate W 1
Candidate X 1
Candidate Y 1
Candidate Z 1

3. Candidate T, Candidate U and Candidate V, having received the highest number of votes, are elected to four-year terms beginning January 1, 2022.

4. The school district clerk is hereby authorized to certify the results of the election to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Reber and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Metzger, Colby, Reber, Simmer, Brenden, Phillips and the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST FOR PAPER BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION NOT HELD ON DAY OF STATEWIDE ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 0850, ROTHSA Y STATE OF MINNESOTA

ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST GENERAL ELECTION November 2, 2021

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED AT 4:00 P.M.

269 Ottetail
390 Wilkin

B. TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS ON ELECTION DAY — 2

C. TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON THE POLLING PLACE ROSTER 55

D. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCEPTED REGULAR, MILITARY AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE BALLOTS 0

E. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

(Add: C + D + E) 55

F. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY BLANK BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT BOX 0

G. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY DEFECTIVE BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT BOX 0

H. TOTAL NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS IN THE SPOILED BALLOT ENVELOPE 0

I. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNUSED BALLOTS RETRUNED TO THE CLERK 369

CANDIDATE Q Mike Metzger SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 53

CANDIDATE R Jessi Colby SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 50

CANDIDATE S Derek Frosilie SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 46

CANDIDATE T Dana Holland Jr. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 5

CANDIDATE U Amy Meyer SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1

CANDIDATE V Gary Green SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1

CANDIDATE W Chad Curtis SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1

CANDIDATE X Amy Meyer SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1

CANDIDATE Y Steph Olson SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1

CANDIDATE Z Grandma Doris SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 1

Total number of write in votes for this office 11

Total number of ballots defective for this office (over votes) 0

Total number of ballots blank for this office (under votes) 0

TOTAL BALLOTS COUNTED FOR THIS OFFICE

Reber introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION AND DIRECTING SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK TO PERFORM OTHER ELECTION RELATED DUTIES

WHEREAS, the board has canvassed the election for school board members held on November 2, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 0850, as follows:

1. The chair and clerk are hereby authorized to execute certificates of election on behalf of the school board of Independent School District No. 0850 to the following candidates:

a. Mike Metzger
b. Jessi Colby
c. Derek Frosilie

who have received a sufficiently large number of votes to be elected to fill vacancies on the board caused by expiration of term on January 1 next following the election, based on the results of the canvass.

2. The certificate of election shall be in substantially the form attached hereto.

3. After the time for contesting the election has passed and the candidate has filed all campaign financial reports required by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 211A, the clerk of the school board is hereby directed to deliver the certificates to the persons entitled thereto personally or by certified mail.

4. The clerk is hereby directed to enclose with the certificate a form of acceptance of office and oath of office in substantially the form attached hereto.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Brenden, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Brenden, Simmer, Reber, Colby, Metzger, Phillips and the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Brenden moved to approve the Para-Professional employment agreement with Lisa Turner. Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Metzger moved to approve the resignation from Cheryl Melkert from the TCC Daycare. Colby seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Metzger moved to approve Isaiah Lemke as Jr. High BBB Coach for the 2021-2022 season. Colby seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Brenden moved to approve the resignation from Nikki Thorson as Jr. High GBB Coach. Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Colby moved to approve Nikki

Thorson as JV GBB Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Metzger seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Metzger moved to approve the resignation from Joel Meyer and Jr. High Girls Softball Coach. Brenden seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Metzger moved to approve Joel Meyer as the Jr. High Boys Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Reber seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Simmer moved to approve Kellie Barry as the Jr. High GBB Coach for the 2021-2022 school year. Brenden seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Brenden moved to approve the Superintendent Services Contract with S.A.S.S. as presented. Colby seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Metzger moved to approve the resignation from Danielle Smith as TCC Coordinator. Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Metzger moved to approve the resignation from Taylor Fuhs as Jr. High Football Coach. Colby seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

Colby moved to approve the TCC Employment and Para-Professional Agreement with Uilani Johnson. Brenden seconded this motion, which unanimously carried on vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Mike Metzger, Clerk
Approved November 8, 2021

(January 3, 2022)

CPL Grant Program Accepting Applications

The Conservation Partners Legacy grant program (CPL) funds conservation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota. Grant requests may range from \$5,000 to \$400,000 with a maximum total project cost of \$575,000. Nonprofit organizations and government entities are eligible to apply, and a 10% match of non-state origin is required. Funding for the CPL program comes from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Approximately \$3 million is available for the Traditional cycle. Projects must be on public lands/waters or on lands protected by a permanent conservation easement. Apply by 3:00 p.m. February 21, 2022 for the second round of Traditional funding.

\$1.5 million is available for the Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) grant cycle. ECP funds up to \$50,000 for eligible activities on public lands and waters. The ECP application is open continuously through May 9, 2022, or until all funds are awarded. Apply by 3:00 p.m. January 17, 2022 for the third round of ECP funding.



REGIONAL REPORT
Rothsay, Minn.
2022 January
Edition
PAGE 5



We're Looking Over The Deer Heard...

The 2020 elk hunt for Tom Schultz and I was over. We had two elk in the processing plant in Craig, Colorado that we would pick up on our way out of town. Right now that looked like a Thanksgiving Day pickup on the meat and then the two-day drive home after that.

The processing plant in Craig has always been very accommodating about being open for a couple of hours on Thanksgiving Day to pick up elk. They also had a skeleton crew on call, that would be contacted by Outfitter Russ Behrman if he had to drop off an elk on the holiday. That is doubtful with the regular hunts slated to end on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving. But Russ runs some hunts for kids with cow tags whenever he can work a few of the youngsters in and Thanksgiving morning has always been a regular feature.

For right now though, Cousin Tom and I were riding around tourist class. We had our tags filled and most of the tags in camp were already notched. But there were a couple of elk tags left to fill and several mule deer tags. I have hunted mule deer on the ranch only once. That was back in 2004 when I had both an elk tag and the mule deer tag. I took a decent buck on that trip but nothing extraordinary. Just a decent, representative buck with good color, a decent rack, even on both sides with pretty good forks evenly matched left to right. A nice deer.

But I have never seen a really big buck on the ranch. They are there, from time to time, but I just never see them. Nor do most hunters. Most of the guys with deer tags wind up shooting a buck very similar to what I shot. There are a few notable exceptions but they are rare. Deer are present, just not big ones.

For years I have had my heart set on taking a real bruiser of a mule deer buck. It is the one real trophy that I have never been successful on. I have the better than average Colorado buck from 15 years ago and I have an even bigger Montana mule that is pretty darned good. But I have never taken a true giant. I have shot the whitetail deer of a lifetime which I likely never will beat but the mule deer has been out of my reach. I have shot a lot of them, just never the real giant that I want.

But I have been working up to a trophy hunt for mule deer. There is a corner in northwestern Colorado devoted to nothing but trophy mule deer and elk by special permit only. Those permits are issued during a draw in the spring with those with the most preference points getting licenses. In Colorado you will eventually get one of these coveted licenses, if you can live long enough.

To tell you how hard those tags are to get, I have accumulated 28 elk preference points, one point every year I have applied. For those 28 years I have continued to build points and I still can't draw an elk tag. When I started out, it took between six and eight preference points to qualify for the tag. With the quality of bulls in those trophy zones, Areas 1, 2, 10 and 201, more and more hunters have been applying for the points decreasing the odds of drawing. With 28 points I am right on the very edge of drawing. In fact I have more than enough points according to the preference point report that is issued each year.

But there has been another hill to climb tossed into the drawing equation. The State of Colorado has decided that only 10% of the tags available should go to non-residents. There are only about ten total tags available in the first place for any of the zones so that means no more than one non-resident can pull a tag. I tried to get into the draw in 2021 but missed again.

As to mule deer preference points, I have a bunch of them too, 23 to be exact. That is likely enough to draw a tag anywhere. But Russ has been warning against spending those points. He hunts those zones with hunters lucky enough to draw a tag, or rather his son Talon hunts the trophy zone. But, for some reason, those zones have not been producing the past couple of years.

My odds are slowly improving a little each year just due to all of the points I have banked so far. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks tossed a new grenade into the drawing latrine a half dozen years ago when they required that you have a current, valid hunting license of some kind in order to enter the draw. That sent the cost of applying up from a few dollars to now nearly 80 bucks to buy small game license in order to apply. I have no intention of hunting small game or fishing in the state but I'm licensed if I ever do decide to go.

With nothing to do and lots of time to do it, we were riding around with Russ's son, Talon, just doing some sightseeing and scouting. We were primarily looking for mule deer. The rut was just kicking into high gear and there should be big bucks wherever there were any does. We had no license for them but the deer would not move very far this time of the year and their location could be relayed to those with deer tags at supper this evening. The deer would likely be very close tomorrow to where they were today.

As dumb luck would have it, I did see one of the biggest mule deer bucks I have ever seen. He was with a harem of does, constantly on the move, paying attention to each of the ladies in turn. He was the bull of the horse pasture and the other bucks gave him a wide berth. Counting brow tines, which mule deer often lack, he was a 5x5. He had almost everything. He was extremely wide. I'm guessing he easily went past the magic 30-inches wide landmark. He had evenly matched tines on both sides. He had the forked antlers that split into a "Y" just where they were supposed to.

He was one helluva buck. His whereabouts would likely be reported that evening and someone would likely go after him. As stupid as he appeared to be with all those ladies around, it would likely not be a difficult stalk unless the does spooked. But he was at least a year, maybe two from being a real trophy. He didn't have the mass in the antlers yet. The "Y" tines were not very deep. He was just entering trophy status and I hoped that he made it.



I have a lot of preference points for Colorado elk and deer. Someday I'll draw a tag but it's been a long wait. This deer was spotted on the 2020 hunt. He's a legitimate 30-inches wide but hasn't put on a lot of mass yet.

