

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board Vice-President Collin Braunel at 6:02 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Collin Braunel, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Tony Vlastelica, Ms. Kathy Willis, and Mr. Kerry Trask. Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Jame McCall, Directors, and Executive Assistant Laurie Braun were also present. Board President Stacey Soeldner was absent.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Network connection and access to BoardBook were confirmed.

Public Input began at 6:01 p.m. The Board received three (3) requests from the public to speak. The Board heard input regarding concern for the SFA program and the cost involved and questioned if equal time is being spent on vetting our literacy curriculum. Another member of the public expressed concern for the cost with the SFA program and how can the district spend money on such a costly program when we are looking to the public for another referendum, and concern with the cost of travel expenses for the Assistant Superintendent and lack of transparency how these are being paid. The final public input shared several concerns with the SFA Program including curriculum writing gaps, the ability to provide robust literature choices for our students with the SFA program, when will the full SFA curriculum for 4K-8th grade be made available to the public for the full 30 day review, will a full cost analysis for SFA be provided to the public and when, and the implications the SFA program will have on specials such as Art, Music & Phy-Ed at the Elementary level and electives at the Middle School level. Public input concluded at 6:14 p.m.

On motion from Kerry Trask seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of the minutes from the 12-12-22 Personnel Committee Meeting, the 12-13-22 Regular and Special Closed Session Meetings, the 12-21-22 Personnel Committee Meeting, the 12-21-22 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, the 12-22-22 Curriculum Committee Meeting, the 12-22-22 Special Board Meeting, the 1-4-23 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting and the 1-4-23 Executive Committee Meeting.

Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for the month ending December 31, 2022. A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the Bill List dated 12-1-22 through 12-31-22. The Bill List presented reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$8,372,057.92. The District Financial Report for the month of December was also provided and accepted as presented. Ms. Erdmann noted that this month we will be receiving aid payment from the state as well as property tax payments. The Business Office also continues it's integration with the Skyward Program.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by Interim Director of Human Resources Mike Nault. The Personnel Report consisted of one (1) retirement, six (6) resignations, the hiring of two (2) professional staff, four (4) support staff and extra curricular stipends. On motion from Kerry Trask, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report as presented. At the request of the Board, Mike Nault provided an explanation of what the mentor position is what that position entails.

A District Activity Update was shared including the celebration of the 1966 State Basketball Champions Alumni Night. The Alumni were recognized during a special half-time presentation and the Ships came out with a big win against Notre Dame. Superintendent Feil reported that Records day will take place January 17-19th and there will be no school for students on these days.

Superintendent Feil provided a Success For All (SFA) update that included expanding SFA across more of our district buildings. Another staff site visit to Ohio, with visits to the Elementary and Middle School there, and this Thursday another group of staff will visit a Elementary school in Pittsburg Kansas that is using the SFA program. Washington Principal Lance Masters provided another update from the site visits and shared 11 staff members representing 4 schools visited an elementary school and a middle school in Stuebenville, OH. Staff had the opportunity to debrief after the visit and had some similar take aways from the visit as the last group did and also posed some new questions. Superintendent Feil stated this group will share their experience with the Board and the Public at the next Board meeting. CESA 7 is currently reviewing the SFA Curriculum. Board member Braunel asked for an updated cost analysis of both programs to be vetted. Board member Vlastelica recommended that if we haven't fully answered all of the questions surrounding SFA, we need to make an effort to expand the Q&A for SFA so the public has the facts. Superintendent Feil also stated we are lacking some systems within our District and this is being looked at as well to move forward together collectively. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Jame McCall will continue to look at how specials will look within the SFA model, how the Special Education aspect will function, as well as how this would be implemented.

Superintendent Feil shared a Strategic Plan update acknowledging the original plan was to have the final plan brought forward in January. Unfortunately due to some scheduling conflicts we will continue to expand upon the draft and work on the metrics and have the final plan presented in February.

Interim Director of Human Resources Mike Nault provided a summary of the items brought forward from the December 12, 2022 Personnel Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Matthew Phipps and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the Residency in Teacher Education (RITE) Program. A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the new Clerical Position in the Business Office. A motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the new Special Education Paraprofessional Position at Jefferson Elementary School. The 2023-2024 District Calendar was presented. A motion to amend the proposed calendar to reflect changing the staff development day from December 22nd to January 2nd, was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Matthew Phipps. After some discussion the Board voted (5-0) with Kathy Willis abstaining, and approved the amended 2023-2024 District Calendar.

Items brought forward from the December 21, 2022 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting; a motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Kathy Willis, and carried (5-0) with Matthew Phipps abstaining, to approve the donations for the Municipal Baseball Field Scoreboard. A motion was made by Kathy Willis to amend the presented updated policy 7230-Process for Donations to read "more than \$5,000 and not more than \$5,000.01". The amended motion was seconded by Matthew Phipps. The Board voted on the amended language to policy 7230 and unanimously carried (6-0).

Director of Business Services provided an extensive overview of the proposed 2023 MPSD Non-Recurring Operational Referendum, including the language details of the referendum and a proactive measure for the District to plan more effectively by bringing it forward a year ahead of time. Ms. Erdmann shared it is a huge challenge for our District and many other Districts alike, stating we do not receive any additional per pupil revenue from the state which is the main source of funding for our district's budget. Ms. Erdmann shared we continue to be a conservative spending school district, however, some additional influences for the referendum are the discontinuation of Esser Funds, increase in benefits, health insurance, inflationary impacts, technology infrastructure requirements, and infrastructure repairs. The District will continue to share information with the public and we will work diligently to look at ways for cost reductions in our budget, including staffing especially with retirements and resignations. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. The Board did acknowledge that we need to be very transparent with the public when presenting the referendum information and make it easy to understand as well. On items brought forward from the January 4, 2023 Finance & Budget Committee, a motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and carried (5-1) with Matthew Phipps opposing, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Five Years for Non-recurring Purposes. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and carried (5-1), with Matthew Phipps opposing, to approve the Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of a resolution Authorizing the School District to Exceed Revenue Limit for Five Years for Non-Recurring Purposes.

Board member and WASB delegate Kathy Willis shared the proposed WASB Resolutions that she will vote on at the WASB State Education Convention on behalf of the district. Each proposed resolution was reviewed and any Board input was taken into consideration. The Board agreed as a whole to have Kathy vote in good faith as our district's delegate. Ms. Willis will report back to the Board after the convention.

There were no remarks from the Board President or Vice-President.

Futute meeting dates include a scheduled Curriculum Committee Meeting 1/17/23 at 5:00 p.m., an Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee Meeting 1/23/23 at 4:15 p.m., Buildings & Grounds Committee will be meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m., and a Special Board of Education Meeting, Wednesday, 1/25/23 at 6:00 p.m. There will be no Finance & Budget Committee Meeting on 1/18/23 due to the State Education Convention.

The Board held some discussion surrounding the legal parameters of the closed session items being discussed; in particular item A.1.b - Update on the Restructuring of Specific Central Office Personnel. Superintendent Feil stated he contacted our legal counsel and confirmed we are within the legal parameter of the closed session. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and carried (5-1) by a Roll Call Vote, with Kerry Trask opposing, to move into closed session at 8:16 p.m. The purpose of the closed session is considering the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility as authorized by section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The Board was extended a brief recess before convening into closed session to allow the public present to exit the Board Room.

The Board adjourned fro closed session at 10:31 p.m. and did not reconvene in open session.

Respectfull submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "SE Soeldner", written in black ink.

Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner