

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2024

The regular rescheduled meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Vice-President Matthew Spaulding at the request of Board President Stacey Soeldner. Members present were: Mr. Chris Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Mr. Tony Vlastelica. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall, Directors, and Executive Assistant Laurie Braun. 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 four (4) requests for public input. The first speaker spoke about school choice, parental rights for school choice and his view on the power of school choice. The second speaker shared a letter with all Board members, Superintendent Feil and Assistant Superintendent McCall from the ACLU regarding the disbandment of the IDEA Club at Wilson Middle School which is a violation of the Equal Access Act. This individual requested the club be reinstated immediately. The third speaker thanked the Administration and the Board for the MEA meet and confit opportunities. She shared concern for student behaviors, teacher shortages and the hope for administration and staff to work together to address these ongoing concerns. The last speaker shared we need to be the positive voice of reason, to show kindness and empathy to everyone and to be reasonable and responsible community members. Public input concluded at 6:20 p.m.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board. At the request of Board member Vlastelica, the Monthly Financial Report was removed from the Consent Agenda. The 12-12-23 Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes were removed from the Consent Agenda noting a technical correction on each. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Kerry Trask, to accept the following consent agenda items; the Payment of Vouchers, the Monthly Donation List, the Personnel Report and the Addendum to the Personnel Report, the Out-of-State Travel Request to the Chicago Art Institute, and the second read of Policies 1230.01-Development of Administrative Guidelines, Policy 1400-Job Description, 1421-Criminal History Record Check and Employee Self-Reporting Requirements, 1619-Group Health Plans, 1619.01-Privacy Protection of Self-Funded Group Health Plans, 1619.02-Privacy Protections of Full-Insured Group Health Plans, 1619.03-Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and 9130-Public Requests, Suggestions, or Complaints. A motion to approve the 12-12-23 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the 12-12-23 Closed Session Minutes as amended was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen and unanimously carried (7-0). Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann provided clarification to the monthly financial reports. A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept the monthly financial report as presented.

Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall presented a student behavior update. Ms. McCall shared that one one area of concern continues to be student behavior. Behaviors continue to interrupt instructional time and interfere with providing a conducive environment for learning in some classrooms. Ms. McCall shared some possibilities for these behaviors are lagging skills, unfamiliar or unclear expectations, lack of experience, lack of engagement and lack of planning. To address these behaviors the district has introduced a code of conduct, expanded preschool options, curriculum alignment, SFA learning model with SFA Solutions Teams, tips for classroom management, all staff Verbal De-escalation Training, and Crisis Intervention Training for all staff who support students with disabilities. Director Eichmann provided an overview of what the Verbal De-escalation Training and Crisis Intervention Training include and how

staff utilize these skills when needed. The district will continue to provide professional development for all staff and are sharing SFA Cooperative Learning that will expand to other subject areas throughout the school day. The district will also continue to promote community and parent involvement in our schools which will help increase positive experiences for our students. We are also working with CESA 7 Behavior Support Specialists to assist with supporting our professional development. We participated in a buildings audit to help identify what is going on in each individual building, not only academically but also on a behavior level as well. The team has reviewed the data and will be implementing strategies that are consistent in all of our buildings. Ms. Eichmann will have comparison data to share at the February Board meeting.

Director Lee Thennes provided an Elementary and Middle School Curriculum Update. Mr. Thennes stated the team is looking at the K-8 Art Curriculum and Elementary Science. The Art team will be participating in a pilot program starting in the second semester. They will get feedback from the team and present a recommendation in Spring. Mr. Thennes stated the Art team is excited about this being a more organized curriculum with the units of study having pre-assessments, planned out activities, and post-assessments within the curriculum.

Elementary (K-5) Science Curriculum was next discussed. Mr. Thennes stated we are looking for a science curriculum that will make our students successful. Amplify Science is one of the first science curriculums that was implemented into the next generation of science standards. Staff participated in a demonstration and requested to pilot the curriculum for 6-8 weeks to help decide what will be best for our students. Staff will be trained to prepare them for implementing the pilot program in February. The team will come back with a recommendation to the Board in late March. Mr. Thennes also shared a brief McKinley visioning update. A survey will be going out to McKinley and Lincoln High School staff to help establish what our needs are. We will ask our professionals about alternative programming and what our students needs are in the district. There will be a Visioning Session on February 15th where we will review that survey data, discuss and put together a draft proposal with the hope of moving forward in a solid direction later this spring. Mr. Thennes thanked Ms. Boncher and the team at McKinley for all of the work they have done to start the visioning process for our alternative program.

The District Activity update included Mr. Feil sharing the 100th Birthday celebration for Lincoln High School and the 2024 Wall of Fame Inductees has been rescheduled to next Friday, January 19, 2024 due to forecasted weather. Tomorrow is the second Friday student count. Mr. Feil also shared we continue to participate in the building listening sessions and are receiving notable feedback. We also are visiting buildings to observe SFA classroom time. Superintendent Feil and Board members Stacey Soeldner and Kerry Trask will be attending the WASB State Education Convention in Milwaukee next week. Mr. Feil encouraged everyone to visit the district website for current activities.

Unfinished Business included Policies 2260-Non-Discrimination and Access to Equal Education Opportunity and 2266-Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Education Programs or Activities. Both policies were tabled at the November 28, 2023 Board Meeting and will continue to be tabled until legal representation can be present to discuss the policies in greater detail.

A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Chris Able to accept the proposal for the LHS Student Representative Pilot Program. The motion unanimously carried (7-0). Board member Able shared some information that of what we are looking for in a student representative and alternate representative. The Goal is to give every student a voice from the high school down through the elementary grades.

The out-of-state travel request-SFA Experienced Sites Conference in Nashville, TN, February 11-14, 2024 was presented to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Matthew Phipps and passed (5-2), with Board members Hansen and Trask opposing. The cost of the conference posed concern by some of the Board and it was asked if the conference could be attended virtually? Superintendent Feil stated that the conference includes beneficial hands-on training that cannot be done virtually. Mr. Feil reported the district will use Esser Funds and Title II funds to pay for the conference.

Director of Pupil Services, Katie Eichmann and Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall provided the rationale and job description summary for the Special Education Transition Support Paraprofessional, a Teacher/Interventionist. A motion was made by Matt Phipps, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the Special Education Transition Support Paraprofessional position as presented. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the Teacher/Interventionist position as presented. The Girls Wrestling Coaching Position & Stipend along with the rationale and job description were shared with the Board. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the Girls Wrestling Coaching Position & Stipend as presented.

Director of Human Resources Mike Nault shared the proposed 2024-2025 MPSD School Calendar and an overview of some of the changes to the calendar from prior years. On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Chris Able, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the proposed calendar for the 2024-2025 School Year as presented.

The recommendation for the Elementary Writing Curriculum, Being A Writer, was presented to the Board. This is an additional support to the SFA Curriculum. Director Heidi Schroderus shared survey data from the Being a Writer pilot program, along with the cost to adopt the program. A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the Elementary Writing Curriculum, Being A Writer as recommended.

The Board was presented with the first read of twelve policies (6 sub policies). A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansas and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 1210 - Board/District Administrator Relationship as presented. A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Kerry Trask and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 0144.5 - Board Member Behavior, Communication, and Code of Conduct as presented. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Tony Vlastelica and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve both Policy 3362.01 - Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members and Policy 4362.01 - Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members as presented. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 1213 - Student Supervision and Welfare as presented. A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Tony Vlastelica and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve Policy 7540 - Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, Policy 7540.03 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, and Policy 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety as presented. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 5113 - Open Enrollment Program (Inter-District) as presented. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Stacey Soeldner to approve the first read of Policy 7544 - Use of Social Media as presented. A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Biff Hansen and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 8330 - Student Records as

presented. A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Matthew Spaulding and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 8420 - School Safety as presented. These policies will move forward for second readings at the next Board meeting.

The following policies were introduced with suggested revisions and will move forward for first reads at the next Board meeting; Policy 2210 - Curriculum Development (New Policy), Policy 2220 - Adoption of Courses of Study, Policy 2221 - Special Observance Days, Policy 2262 - Child Care Programs, Policy 2270 - Religion in the Curriculum, Policy 2340 - District Sponsored Trips, Policy 2370 - Educational Options Provided by the District, and Policy 2412 - Homebound Instruction Program.

The WASB Proposed 2024 Resolutions were presented to the Board. Board members had the opportunity to review, discuss and share their suggestions with the Board Delegate Kerry Trask who will cast the vote on behalf of our district.

Remarks fro the Board President included Ms. Soeldner shared a sign up sheet for Board members for them to attend the LHS Senate Board Meeting Committee at Lincoln High School. She encouraged the Board to sign up for at least one meeting. Ms. Soeldner has also appointed Chris Able to the School Forest Board. It was reported at the last MEA meet and confir meeting that staff encourages the Board and Administrators to visit their buildings.

Future Meeting Dates include the standing fourth Tuesday Special Board Meeting on January 23, 2024 at 6pm and a Special Board Meeting Thursday, January 25th at 6:00 p.m.

On motion from Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Chris Able, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) to adjourn the January 11, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner