

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
January 12, 2021

A virtual regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board Vice-President Lisa Johnston at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Richard Nitsch, Ms. Meredith Sauer and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Board Members absent were Catherine Shallue and Dave Nickels. It was noted Mr. Nickels will be joining the meeting later this evening.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members logged into BoardBook and verification of virtual connection to the meeting was confirmed.

A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (4-0), to approve the minutes from the December 22, 2020 meeting.

The Board acknowledged there were no communications received by the Board to share.

The Board received one request to provide public input. Mr. Don Draheim, 11031 County Rd JJ, Manitowoc. Mr. Draheim questioned why the parent survey did not include returning to school in a full face-to-face learning model noting the rates of failing grades and mental wellness of our students.

Stangel Learning Community/McKinley Academy Principal Christopher Dirkes and School Counselor Stephanie Boncher presented their School Showcase. Mr. Dirkes shared after gathering data from previous years, they were able to identify the greatest need for student improvement were in the areas of reading and critical thinking skills; items that would help get them ready for college or career readiness. Mr. Dirkes shared their SMART Goal at the end of the 2020-2021 school year is to be proficient in each grade level by a score of 3 (proficient) or higher. Ms. Boncher expressed monthly staff professional development is focusing on reading strategies and complex instruction to support development of higher thinking skills. Staff continues to engage with families through digital and video newsletters for parents and students and virtual parent listening sessions. Students who are engaged, showing excellent attendance and high quality work are nominated by their teachers as a Students of Distinction. A yard sign is placed in the student's yard recognizing their accomplishments. Principal Dirkes also conveyed that Staff and students are on board with the building goals for improved reading levels and higher thinking. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions.

Board Vice-President Lisa Johnston acknowledged there were no committee meetings to report on this evening.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for month ending December 31, 2020. A motion was made by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried (4-0) to approve Bill List 12-1-20 through 12-31-20. The presented Bill List reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating

expense of \$6,362,380.39. Ms. Erdmann also presented the financial report for month ending December 31, 2020. The financial report for the month of December 2020 was accepted as presented.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of three (3) retirements, one (1) support staff resignation and hiring one (1) support staff. On a motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (4-0) the Personnel Report as presented.

The Superintendent and Director's Report was acknowledged and Board members had the opportunity to review and ask questions. At the request of Board member Richard Nitsch, Superintendent Holzman discussed in further detail the ESSER II funds and how these fund will be allocated. Mr. Holzman stated the process to provide these resources will be similar to how the CARES Act was managed. The resources available to school districts will only be used for extended learning and any expenses directly related to COVID-19. The opportunity to extend the learning beyond the last day of the school year will be a great additional learning opportunity for our students. Mr. Holzman stated more information will be provided from the State in the upcoming weeks and he will share with the Board at that time.

The Board then moved to discuss the process of filling the vacant Board seat. Superintendent Holzman shared there are five (5) individuals who have submitted the required paperwork for the vacant seat. It was agreed upon by the Board to have the candidates complete several questions, submit them to the Board and then conduct a special meeting where current Board members would have the opportunity to ask additional questions of each candidate. The Board would then conduct a closed session for deliberation and then vote to appoint a candidate in open session. The selected individual will fill the current board vacancy position through the second Tuesday Board Meeting in April.

Board member Dave Nickels joined the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

A return to school update was next discussed. Mr. Holzman acknowledged when looking at the current data and our interest in returning to school, we will most likely not meet the necessary gating criteria previously approved by the Board. We value the work that has been done with the gating criteria, however we would first have the opportunity to move to a blended model in mid-February if we continue to follow the current gating criteria plan. Superintendent Holzman also stated that staff has been planning, preparing and have measures in place to come back to a blended learning model. Superintendent Holzman proposed to the Board to grant the Administration the authority to move into a blended model at the start of second semester. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions, provide input and have continued discussion. After lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to allow the Superintendent and Administration the authority to move forward with starting school in a blended model at the start of second semester. Superintendent Holzman reiterated to the Board that he will continue to provide them with weekly updates of our community's health status noting the safety of our staff and students is our top priority.

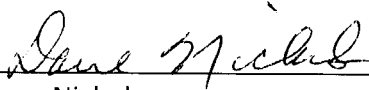
After lengthy discussion and information shared with the Board, a motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Dave Nickels, the Board unanimously approved (5-0) the Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of an Initial Resolution Authorizing the Manitowoc Public School District to Exceed Revenue Limits by \$4,300,000.00 Annually for Each of the School Years 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Superintendent Holzman added that Manitowoc has the lowest tax levy in the County, one of the lowest in our region and we are in the bottom 5% in the state. The Board also agreed it is very important to have increased clear and concise communication to our staff, our families and our community.

Board members were reminded to review the WASB resolutions and provide any input to our District's WASB delegate Kathy Willis. Board member Richard Nitsch commented his agreement with the resolutions being proposed. Board members were also reminded of the upcoming WASB virtual State Education Convention and if interested in participating to contact the Board Secretary.

Future meeting dates included a tentative Special Board Meeting January 20, 2021, Curriculum Committee meeting January 21, 2021 and a Personnel Committee meeting to be scheduled within the next 2 weeks.

On motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (5-0), the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels
Board President