

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
January 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board Treasurer Elizabeth Williams at 7:07 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Meredith Sauer, Ms. Elizabeth Williams, Ms. Catherine Shallue, Mr. Richard Nitsch and Ms. Lisa Johnston. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun.

Members absent: Mr. Dave Longmeyer and Mr. Dave Nickels

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members logged in to BoardBook.

A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Catherine Shallue, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019, Regular Board Meeting.

The School Showcase featured Madison Elementary School. Principal Stacie Opahle shared how the staff and students at Madison are working on “Focus on Learning” and how they establish learning targets. These learning targets are written in a student friendly fashion, are posted and/or referenced frequently throughout classroom lessons in reading, math and writing. The staff continues to work on student engagement to help them know and understand their targets. Ms. Opahle also shared the “Collaborative Culture & Collective Responsibility” and how teachers are assigned to collaborative teams. These teams are provided time to focus on the most significant issues that will improve student achievement by recognizing what is and what isn’t working. The teams are currently meeting twice a week and are developing a strong culture of collaboration supporting all students. The next step is to develop strong student 360 plans to help students academically and behaviorally. Finally, Principal Opahle shared a summary of Madison’s “Character Education” update. Staff at Madison share responsibility for character education and strive to have consistency around school-wide expectations with a common language for all students. Administration continues to work with the school counselor and psychologist to implement a support model that will focus on strategies and any additional supports for students.

No public input was presented to the Board this meeting.

Chairperson Elizabeth Williams reported on the December 10, 2019 Curriculum Committee Meeting, sharing a Middle School Update was provided by Wilson Principal Cory Erlandson and Washington Principal, Lance Masters. Both Principals provided positive feedback from staff regarding team time, which allows core teachers to collaborate and work together to address any student challenges. The organization of students and teachers into “houses” has allowed teachers to work with smaller groups of students, which in turn allows them to get to know and support students on a more personal level. Another positive acknowledged was there have been fewer conflicts in the hallway by not having all students pass between classes at the same time. The addition of having the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Middle Schools has also brought a new level of energy into the school community. Staff has also pointed out some challenges

with the new Middle School Model including intervention time for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that occasionally results in them being pulled for a period of time from electives. It was also noted that some students are having a difficult time getting their top choices of elective courses due to the time they are being offered. The Leadership Teams will continue to work together to make recommendations and revisions to these challenges. An update for the Spanish LIVE Travel was provided with revision dates of June 18 – July 5, 2021. Also discussed was the Packer Foundation grant in the amount of \$7,000 awarded to Jefferson Elementary School to purchase additional playground equipment. The meeting concluded with Director Joanne Metzen indicating the MPSD is eligible to receive a Transition Improvement Grant in the amount of \$22,723.05 to be utilized within the Special Education Department. The plan is to use these funds to purchase Curriculum materials, training and supplies for the Special Education teachers to help implement the Bridges Math Curriculum. Board member Dave Nickels addressed the continued concerns for behavior issues and would like this to be an added agenda item at a future meeting. Superintendent Holzman confirmed this will be brought forward at a future meeting date. On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the minutes from the December 10, 2019 Curriculum Committee Meeting were unanimously (5-0) approved.

The payment of vouchers was presented by Director of Business Services Shawn Alfred. A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve Bill List 12-1-19 through 12-31-19, district operating expenses in the amount of \$4,801,677.61 and district payroll in the amount of \$2,010,053.53 for a total of \$6,811,731.14. Board members had the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the bill list presented. The Financial Report for month ending December 31, 2019 was also presented to the Board. Mr. Alfred explained the District received an equalization aid payment the month of December, roughly 8 million dollars and the month of January will show an increase in revenue due to receiving property tax payments.

Director of Business Services gave a summary of the Scholarships and Loans that will be available for 2020. On motion by Lisa Johnston, seconded by Richard Nitsch, the Board unanimously (5-0) approved the Scholarships and Loans available from the MPSD Board of Education Trust Fund, up to \$300,000.00 in initial or continuing student loans for 2020.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of one (1) retirement, hiring four (4) support staff and extra-curricular stipends. On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Meredith Sauer, the Board unanimously approved (5-0), the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented.

Superintendent Holzman acknowledged the Superintendent and Director's Report. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and share comments regarding the report. Board member Meredith Sauer asked for more details regarding the equity and diversity discussions with LHS students. Superintendent Holzman shared the purpose of these discussions was to hear a student's perspective on these topics with the overall goal to provide opportunities for a student voice regarding race and equity. Board members expressed support and interest with this new initiative.

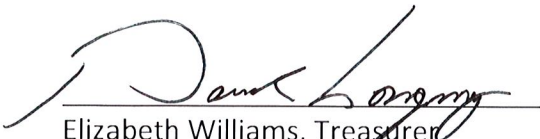
Superintendent Holzman shared a District Activity update announcing this Thursday is the last day of the semester marking the half way point of the school year. There is no school for students Friday and Monday, however staff will be in Friday for a grade and report day and Monday will be utilized as a staff professional development day. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade students recently had the opportunity to visit LTC and UW Green Bay at the Manitowoc Campus. At LTC, the students were able to select 3 careers and learn what that career model looks like. At UWGB Manitowoc Campus, faculty provided students what exploring college may look like and the qualifications needed. This is a great opportunity to help students with their Academic Career Planning (ACP). Mr. Holzman also shared the upcoming band/orchestra concerts next week, numerous sporting events and the 2020 Wall of Fame induction coming up next month. Superintendent Holzman thanked Board members for their time and service to the District. He also acknowledged two current members, Dave Longmeyer and Dick Nitsch for submitting their Declaration of Candidacy paperwork, along with Keith Shaw and Kathy Willis for the two School Board spots at the April 7, 2020 Election.

On motions brought forward from the December 10, 2019 Curriculum Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously (5-0) approved the revision to Staff Travel - Spanish LIVE, June 18 – July 5, 2021. The Board also unanimously (5-0) approved the acceptance of the Packer Foundation Grant, brought forward from the December 10, 2019 Curriculum Committee Meeting.

Future Meeting Dates include a scheduled Personnel Committee Meeting January 15, 2020, a Curriculum Committee Meeting/Learning Walk at Jackson Elementary, January 29, 2020 and the standing Curriculum Committee Meeting scheduled February 11, 2020. Director of Business Services informed the Board a Finance and Budget Committee Meeting will be scheduled in the near future to start discussion regarding the 2020-2021 Budget.

On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried (5-0), the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Secretary

  
Elizabeth Williams, Treasurer  
Dave Longmeyer, Board President