

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2024

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by 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.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board. At the request of Board member Able and Board member Hansen, the Personnel Report and the Administrator Contract Renewal 2024-2025 list were removed from the consent agenda for discussion. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept the following consent agenda items; the 2024 Emergency Nursing Services Plan, and the second read of revised policies 1210-Board/District Administrator Relationship, 0144.5-Board Member Behavior, Communications, and Code of Conduct, 3362.01-Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, 4362.01-Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, 1213-Student Supervision and Welfare, 7540-Technology, 7540.03-Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 7540.04-Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 5113-Openrollment (Inter-District), 7544-Use of Social Media, 8330-Student Records, 8420-School Safety as presented. After questions and clarification to the Personnel Report was made, a motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the Personnel Report as presented. The Administrator Contract Renewal process was discussed and the rationale of the two-year contract for Administrators vs. a one year contract. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Tony Vlastelica and carried (6-1) as presented, with Board member Able opposing, to approve the list of 2024-2026 Administrator Contracts.

The 2024-2025 Open Enrollment for Students with Disabilities was presented to the Board by Director of Pupil Services Katie Eichmann. The recommendation is based on projected enrollment at each level of service, enrollment based on disability related needs, service minutes and service location, comparing enrollment to projected workload analysis, and comparing projected enrollment specifically teacher to student ratio. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (7-0) as presented. Ms. Eichmann also shared a Special Education Continuum of Programming provided by our district.

- Early Childhood Special Education = Closed
- 4K Special Education = Closed
- Elementary School Special Education - Minimal/Moderate Support, Extensive Support & Comprehensive Support = Closed
- Middle School Special Education - Minimal/Moderate Support, Extensive Support & Comprehensive Support = Closed
- High School Special Education - Minimal/Moderate Support, Extensive Support & Comprehensive Support = Closed
- Title VI Special Education = Closed
- DHH (Deaf & Hard of Hearing) = Closed
- Speech & Language = Closed
- Physical & Occupational Therapy = Closed

Superintendent Feil provided a Mid-Year Progress Report acknowledging the concern for our reading scores and behavior issues. Mr. Feil shared some history of past scores from our state report card when the district was exceeding expectations and above the state average in 2011. Mr. Feil also identified we now have a strategic plan where we have identified three top priorities of focus, SFA Implementation, Culture and Facility Planning. This focus will help put the district on a path to a culture of excellence. The district is currently undergoing a facilities assessment which will prepare us with a long-range facilities plan. Superintendent Feil also shared we are currently participating in listening sessions at all of our buildings to better understand some of the struggles our staff is dealing with including classroom sizes and behaviors. Mr. Feil also provided a District SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) with the Board. The Board discussed the increased concern of student mental health wellness and how this affects student learning and how it relates to the behaviors in the classroom. The Board also discussed the key performance indicators and how we are measuring these to show if progress is being made. Discussion regarding some of the "threats" listed on the SWOT Analysis took place regarding class size and keeping our focus on educating students and student achievement and not on politics.

Superintendent Feil shared a summary of the 2024 WASB State Education Convention. Mr. Feil stated we have a substantial amount of challenges coming into our classrooms and schools. We need the Board and the public to understand some of these challenges and the parameters of the law we need to work within. Board President Soeldner suggested we hold a public forum where we have WASB Attorney Bob Butler attend and give us the facts about what are in these laws so the Board and Community can be educated on what we can and cannot do in a public school setting. After some discussion and Board feedback, the Board agreed to move forward with the suggestion to have Jim contact the attorney and schedule a date and time for this forum to take place. Board member Kerry Trask reported that all of the proposed resolutions were passed at the State Education Convention with the exception of the two resolutions that were submitted late.

The LHS Student Representative Pilot Proposal was brought back for discussion. Board President Soeldner stated the Student Senate met and they agreed to elect two alternates rather than one as stated in the original policy. Biff Hansen made a motion to amend the current policy to include two alternates, Chris Able seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-1), with Matthew Phipps opposing. Kerry Trask made a motion to accept the the resolution as amended, Chris Able seconded the motion and the motion carried (6-1), with Matthew Phipps opposing.

Policies 2250 - Non-Discrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity and 2266 - Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Education Programs or Activities are tabled until the district's legal representation can be present to clarify questions with portions of these policies.

Director of Pupil Services, Katie Eichmann provided a summary and justification for the proposed additional Speech and Language Pathologists. Ms. Eichmann stated there will be an additional 70 students for the next school year which would significantly overload our current Speech and Language Pathologists. A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (7-0) as presented.

The CESA 10 Owner's Representative Agreement was presented to the Board. Superintendent Feil stated although we asked for this proposal, we acknowledge that the proposal needs to have a clear and defined scope. At this time Superintendent Feil recommends that we do not accept this agreement at this time. CESA 10 will revise, adding scope and identifying specific projects and will resubmit the agreement at a later date.

Superintendent Feil shared a proposal to contract with a Structural Engineer to evaluate three areas that were brought to our attention during the facilities assessment conducted by CESA 10. The structural engineer would conduct a more in depth study of our swimming pools in the district, the abandoned coal storage areas, and the Washington gymnasium. Board member Chris Able made a motion to approve contracting with a structural engineer proposals, Biff Hansen seconded the motion and unanimously carried (7-0).

The first read of eight (8) revised policies was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Biff Hansen and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2210-Curriculum Development as presented (Board member Phipps was not present for the vote). A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2220-Adoption of Courses of Study as presented (Board member Phipps was not present for the vote). A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2221-Special Observance Days as presented. A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2262-Child Care Program as presented. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2270-Religion in the Curriculum as presented. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2340-District Sponsored Trips. Board member Soeldner made an amendment to reflect soliciting all students in that grade to attend the trip, Matthew Spaulding seconded the amendment. Chris Able offered a friendly amendment to reflect allowing the District Administrator to make the decision rather than the principal. First read of Policy 2340-District Sponsored Trips unaimously carried (7-0) as stated in the friendly amendment. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2370-Educational Options Provided by the District as presented. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2412-Homebound Instruction Program as presented (Board member Spaulding was not present for the vote). These policies will move forward for the second read at the next Board meeting.

The following seven (7) policies with suggested revisions were introduced to the Board for review. Policy 2105-Mission of the District, Policy 2120-Management Restructuring and School Improvement, Policy 2131.01-Reading Instructional Goals and Kindergarten Assessment, Policy 2440-Summer or Interim Session School, Policy 2521-Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment, Policy 5111.02-Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and Policy 5112-Entrance Age. These policies will be brought forward for the first read at the next Board meeting.

Remarks from the Board President Soeldner included a session she attended at the WASB State Education Convention where a the Beloit Turner School shared how they developed their own report card that gives families a monthly snapshot. Ms. Soeldner will contact them to share their power point presentation with our Board. Board member Trask shared the convention was well worth it and provided the opportunity to hear from other districts and some of the struggles and celebrations they are experiencing.

Future Meeting Dates include the scheduled Special Board Meeting this Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. and the next Regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education convened into closed session by a roll call vote (6-1) with Board member Hansen opposing at 8:18 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following matter(s): the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of a public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes - Superintendent evaluation, progress goals and objectives, Superintendent Contract, and a pending Personnel Matter. A brief recess was taken to allow the public to exit the Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



---

Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner