

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
January 26, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 12:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Richard Nitsch, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Ms. Kathy Willis and newly appointed Board member Mr. Kerry Trask. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Board Member absent was Catherine Shallue.

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

Superintendent Holzman introduced Mr. Kerry Trask as the newest member of the MPSD Board of Education. Mr. Trask was appointed to the Board at the January 20, 2021 Special Board Meeting. Superintendent Holzman thanked all candidates for their interest in the vacant seat and welcomed Mr. Trask to the Board.

A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and the January 20, 2021 Special Board Meeting.

Monroe Elementary was the featured school showcase. Principal Andrea Friis introduced Literacy Specialist Ruth Krause and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student LuElla Monroe who participated in the presentation. Principal Friis shared the focus of work this year at Monroe is to provide feedback to move student learning forward. We know that we can double the rate of student learning by providing specific and targeted feedback to help close the achievement gaps. Ms. Friis shared that all teachers and service providers know what the student goals are, which enables them to provide effective feedback to meet a student's specific needs. Monroe is collaborating with Riverview and Madison to create and work on 100 Day Benchmarks by utilizing key action steps; professional learning, implementing the learning in classrooms, student observation, reflection and dialogue. Monroe continues to engage families with increased communication, forming community partnerships and provide parent communication sessions. Ms. Krause shared feedback from a staff perspective and how staff has adapted to provide feedback through the different learning models to help move students forward with learning. Student LuElla Monroe then shared how feedback has helped her reach her individual goals. Board members had the opportunity to provide comments and ask questions.

Chairperson Meredith Sauer reported on the January 21, 2021 Curriculum Committee Meeting. Heartland representative Tad Peterson was present at the meeting and provided an overview of strategic technology planning and how the MPSD Technology Team are in the initial phases of developing a 5 year plan for classroom applications that will positively impact learning and teaching. Ms. Sauer also shared a Spring Assessment update noting all assessments are required to be done in the classroom/buildings and not virtually. This year the ACT's will have an online format in a proctored environment. A motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded

by Lisa Johnston and unanimously carried (6-0) to accept the minutes from the January 21, 2021 Curriculum Committee Meeting.

Personnel Committee Chairperson Lisa Johnston reported on the January 22, 2021 meeting. Ms. Johnston shared the revision to the second semester of the 2020-2021 School Calendar that includes moving the parent teacher conferences to March and the addition of adding a third Professional Development day. Parent teacher conferences will be virtual and the rationale for the third PD day is to allow teachers to collaborate and to allow for additional training on the new math resource, Bridges. The additional PD day will also help teachers transition into the 4<sup>th</sup> learning model in 10 months. The second item discussed was a proposed change to the Teacher Handbook that would allow a second lane movement request date (February 1<sup>st</sup>) for teachers. Currently staff may submit a lane movement request by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Next, the committee discussed the blended learning model and the potential staffing issues that may arise due to the pandemic. It was suggested to continue with having one full-time substitute teacher at all elementary schools and two full-time substitute teachers at the secondary schools to help minimize staffing issues. If the designated substitute teachers are not filling a teacher vacancy they will provide additional one on one support to students in need. It was also noted the district is implementing on-site, drive up COVID testing for staff starting January 19<sup>th</sup>. The last agenda item discussed was the annual budget and staffing process. The process starts the first week of February. The passing or failing of the referendum will have a significant effects on the reduction of staff, programs and services. The revision to the Second Semester of the 2020-2021 School Calendar and the proposed Teacher Handbook changes will be brought forward to the full Board under new business. On motion Richard Nitsch, seconded by Meredith Sauer and unanimously carried (6-0) the Board accepted the minutes from the January 22, 2021 Personnel Committee Meeting.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of one (1) retirement, hiring one (1) support staff and extra-curricular stipends. It was noted the extra-curricular stipends are pro-rated due to the shortened season. On a motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report as presented.

Director of Pupil Services Joanne Metzen presented the Open Enrollment Plan for Pupils with Disabilities. Ms. Metzen provided an overview of the plan and answered any questions from the Board. On motion from Richard Nitsch, seconded by Meredith Sauer, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Open Enrollment for Pupils with Disabilities plan.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann provided a summary of the Scholarships and Loans that will be available for the 2021. On motion by Lisa Johnston, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Scholarships and Loans available from the MPSD Foundation Fund, up to \$300,000 in initial or continuing student loans for 2021.

Superintendent Holzman presented information regarding the referendum, the reasoning for the \$4.3 million request, and how it will be allocated. Mr. Holzman again shared that if the referendum does not pass, we will need to cut \$3.5 million from our budget, which would mean

significant cuts in staff and programs available to students. A key factor in our District's expenses are the substantial changes to the voucher program; from \$150,982 in 2016 to \$1.9 million for the 2020-2021 school year. The challenges the District faces are we only have control of our expenditures and no control over student enrollment or the funds received from the state. The passing of the \$4.3 million referendum would create no increase to the net tax levy based on our current data. Superintendent Holzman assured the Board that he will continue to provide information at future meetings to assist them when sharing general communication to the community. The District will also be communicating referendum information to our staff and families. Mr. Holzman will also be scheduling public question and answer opportunities, as well as communicating with civic organizations and the media.

A return to school update was provided by Superintendent Holzman. Today is the first day back in a blended learning model and we are happy to have students back in our buildings. Mr. Holzman also acknowledged that all students in our district are eligible for free lunch through the end of the school year. We were also made aware that educational staff will be part of Phase 1B, making them eligible to receive the COVID vaccine starting March 1<sup>st</sup>. More details will be shared as it is available to us. Our community is also seeing a decline in the number of daily positive cases which is great news. We will continue to monitor the numbers and work towards the goal of getting staff and students back in buildings 5 days a week, teaching and learning.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann presented the 2019-2020 Audit Report. Ms. Erdmann shared highlights of the revenues and expenses, the district's self-funded insurance and the fund balance account. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

The 2020-2021 School Calendar-Second Semester Revision was brought forward from the 1-22-21 Personnel Committee Meeting. After further discussion and some concerns surrounding reducing a student learning day with this revision, the 2020-2021 School Calendar - Second Semester Revision was approved (4-2), with Dave Nickels and Richard Nitsch opposing. The second item brought forward from the 1-22-21 Personnel Committee; Teacher Handbook Revision-Lane Movement. Board member Dave Nickels opened the discussion by making a motion to postpone the motion that was brought forward from committee until the first meeting in September. Mr. Nickels stated we would then have a better idea of where the District's budget is at, we can then make a decision at that time. Kathy Willis seconded the motion. After continued discussion, the Board unanimously voted (6-0) to postpone this decision until the first meeting in September 2021.

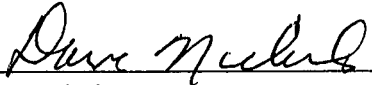
Mr. Nickels proposed to the Board the consideration of re-opening the meetings to the public. It was acknowledged that the Board Room is not large enough to bring all Board members, Directors and members of the public back and safely social distance. The Board also agreed the importance of having virtual meeting participation as an option. The Board discussed other meeting locations and acknowledged holding meetings at any of the school sites would be a challenge due to students are back in buildings. Mr. Holzman will discuss the possibilities with

the District's IT Staff. Mr. Nickels expressed the importance of making a continued effort to opening the meetings to the public.

At this time there are no committee meetings scheduled prior to the next scheduled Board Meeting, February 9, 2021.

On motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Secretary

  
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Dave Nickels  
Board President