

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:08 p.m., following the public hearing. Members present were: Mr. Chris Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, and Mr. Tony Vlastelica. Board member Trask was absent/excused. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall (virtually), 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 6:10 p.m. As a result of many public input requests (16), Board President Soeldner asked the speakers to keep their comments to three minutes. The Board received a thank you from one member of the public for their work this past year and bringing SFA to the district. The Board heard comments from a past paraprofessional employee and some of the struggles she faced while working with special needs students and administration. Three (3) individuals spoke in favor of Superintendent Feil's decision to not accept CEP funding and heard from nine (9) individuals who spoke in favor of CEP and the frustration with Superintendent Feil's decision to not accept the CEP funding. One individual shared concern over social media and controversial books we have in our libraries and one individual shared concern for the removal of rainbow and safe place stickers in our district and the growing lack of respect for the LGBTQ community in our district. Public input concluded at 7:17p.m.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Phipps and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the consent agenda as presented; minutes from 9-26-23 Special Board Meeting, the Parents of Vouchers for the month of September, 2023, the Monthly Donation List, the Personnel Report, and the Second Read of Policies 2260.0-Services for Bilingual Students/English Learners, 2261-Title I Services, 2460-Programs for Students with Disabilities, and 5630.01-Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint with Students.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann provided the Third Friday Enrollment information. Ms. Erdman shared our total Third Friday Enrollment count is 4852, down from last year's count of 4931. The report also included we have 107 students enrolled into our district and 348 students enrolling out of our district, which accounts for a net Open Enrollment In/Out of -241, or a cost of -\$2,022,310. Board member Hansen questioned what are we doing to stop the open enrollment out. Ms. Erdmann shared the district will be sending out a survey in the next few weeks to find out why students are enrolling out. Ms. Erdmann also noted that the open enrollment out count does not include the the voucher students which count for \$3.8 million out of our district. The Board discussed the importance of promoting the district and the opportunities and programs we have to offer that other districts don't. We need to reach out to those who have left or are thinking of enrolling outside of MPSD and bring them back. The report also shared 4K enrollment went from 248 last year to 238 this year.

Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall shared a student learning update for math and reading focusing on some of the scores. The presentation included Math trend lines starting from 2020, showing a slight increase of 6.5%, compared to the state increase of 7.5%. Our scores are below the state average and we will continue to monitor and evaluate some of those foundation skills that are not as solid as we would like them to be. Information data for ELA shows we have a flat lined or stayed the same where the state showed an increase of 7%. This shows we were in need of a curriculum that would improve this score

noting the implementation of SFA. Ms. McCall shared K-8 Grade Summary of Benchmark Data and how we are utilizing a cycle of "Plan, Do, Check, Adjust" to remove any barriers for our educators. Director Heidi Schoroderus shared we have shifted some of the professional development days from during the school year to the summer to get teachers the information they needed before the start of school. Staff also participated in the professional development components withing SFA; Getting Along Together Training, the Reading Componenets Training, and the Leadership Kickoff where current data was shared. Director Katie Eichmann provided a summary of SFA and our Special Education Students. Ms. Eichmann provided a comparison of SFA and other Literacy Curriculums. It was acknowledged that because this is a new curriculum and the delivery being presented in a different way, we are learning to make adjustments to ensure students with individualized plans (IEP) needs are being met. Assistant Superintendent McCall and Director Eichmann provided clarification to how students with IEP's are being assessed and how areas of growth are monitored. The Administrators shared how some of the concerns with class size are being addressed and some of the additional staffing needed to assist some of these larger groups.

Superintendent Feil provided a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) update. Mr. Feil shared a packet of information and a presentation with the Board and those in attendance that identified some background information for his decision not to participate in the CEP program. Mr. Feil reiterated that Free & Reduced Lunch is still available to those families who qualify. Superintendent Feil has also given principals the authority to authorize free meals to students with extenuating circumstances, acknowledging we need to understand the needs of every child. Mr. Feil also stated that SFA will help us address this need through our solutions teams. We need to really identify what our needs are and where the funding should really be spent, while following our strategic plan. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Director of Business Services Erdmann provided an explanation of the process for applying for Free & Reduced Meals and the assistance available to families if needed in completing the forms. Director Erdmann also provided clarification to how food service this year differs from last year regarding volume, staffing and other miscellaneous costs. Breakfast is still provided for students, however it is no longer being served in the classroom but in each building's gym/cafeteria area prior to the start of the school day. Clarification was provided acknowledging the district cannot use food service funds for special education programs. Discussion also took place about food waste and lunch trays being taken away from students and discarded in the trash. Board member Able suggested moving forward topic of this weight should be publicly sited by the people they elected rather than having to explain after the fact.

A District Activity Update was shared where Superrintendent Feil the athletic events weekly calendar. Superintendent Feil also met with area Superintendents and Legislators where they discussed the new ACT 20 reading law and the urgency to adopt a new literacy program. The Special Education Advisory Group will meet Monday, October 23rd and we are working to follow up with building PTO/PTA groups. Mr. Feil recognized the commitment of our teachers and our SFA Coordinators.

Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall shared information regarding the Response to the Communtiy Concern-Book Titles. Ms. McCall provided a memo containing five (5) book titles and if they exist in our libraries or not. The Board does have Policy 9130 in place and would like to bring this policy forward for a first read and determine if we have a solid policy in place to address these concerns. Ms. McCall then suggested creating a community group to come together and review any items of concern.

The first read of seven (7) policies were brought forward from the September 26, 2023 Special Board Meeting. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2411-School Counseling. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 5310.01-Emergency Nursing Services. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 5350-SuicidePrevention, Intervention, and Postvention. A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 5451.01-Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship. A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 5451.02-Technical Excellence Higher EducationScholarships. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and carried (5-1) with Chris Able opposing to approve the first read of Policy 5771-Search and Seizure. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 5772-Weapons. These policies will be move forward for second readings at the October 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

An introduction and summary was provided for suggested policy revisions by Director Lee Thennes for the following policies; Policy 1100-District Organization, Policy 1110-Assessment of District Goals (New), Policy 1130-Conflict of Interest, Policy 1210-Board/Superintendent Relationship, Policy 1211-Whistleblower Protection (New), Policy 1213-Student Supervision and Welfare (New), Policy 2260-NonDiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity, and Policy 2260.01-Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the above eight policies introduced for revision. Board President Soeldner stated this policies will be brought forward for the first read at the next Board meeting.

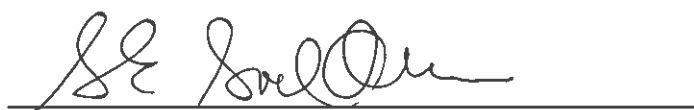
Remarks from the Board President include Ms. Soeldner sharing she visited Franklin Elementary and received an overview from the SFA Facilitator, visited a couple of the classrooms to see what is taking place, and encouraged the Board to visit the schools as well. Ms. Soeldner stated we need to acknowledge the teachers in our district who are there late at night and during the weekend. We need to be mindful of their well-being and support them as they are working hard to implement this new curriculum. We also want to congratulate Coach Henschel and wish luck to the four girls who will be competing at the State Tennis Tournament.

Future Meeting Dates include the Special Board Meeting scheduled October 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Board President addressed the Board if there is no objection we will push the closed session agenda item to the next Board Meeting, October 24, 2023.

On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously voted (6-0) to adjourn the October 10, 2023 Regular Board of Education Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner