

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Manitowoc Board of Education

October 25, 2022

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Collin Braunel, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kery Trask, Mr. Tony Vlastelica, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Interim Superintendent James Feil (attending virtually), Directors, and Board Secretary Laurie Braun.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and access to the internet and BoardBook was confirmed.

The Consent Agenda was presented, on motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Matthew Phipps, the Board unanimously approved (7-0), the minutes from the 10-11-22 Public Budget Hearing, the 10-11-22 Regular Board Meeting, and the 10-19-22 Joint MPSD Executive and MPSDF Executive Committee meetings. At the request of Board member Phipps, clarification surrounding the next step for acquiring the Municipal Baseball Field was provided and will be discussed in more detail under New Business. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Spaulding and unanimously (7-0) approved the minutes from the 10-12-22 Buildings & Grounds Meeting. At the request of Board Member Trask, the 10-18-22 Curriculum Committee Meeting minutes were further discussed. Board Member Trask made a motion for the Board to reconsider the proposed Middle School Science Book/Curriculum, Kathy Willis seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-3), to bring the Middle School Science Curriculum to the full Board for further discussion, with Board members Phipps, Soeldner and Vlastelica opposing. A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Tony Vlastelica and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the minutes of the 10-18-22 Curriculum Committee Meeting. Board Member Collin Braunel requested clarification of the 10-19-22 Finance & Budget Committee Minutes regarding the compensation rates for substitute paraprofessionals and the benefits open enrollment. Director Erdmann provided a summary and clarification for the request. On motion from Collin Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding the Board unanimously (7-0) accepted the minutes from the 10-19-22 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting as amended.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by the Interim Director of Human Resources Michael Nault. The Personnel Report consisted of one (1) resignation, the hiring of four (4) professional staff personnel, two (2) support staff, and numerous extra-curricular stipends for class advisors and athletics. On motion from Collin Braunel, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report as presented. Interim Director of Human Resources Michael Nault was also introduced to the Board.

Interim Superintendent Feil shared an overview of the Success for All (SFA) program and introduced SFA Director of Implementation Debbie Christiansen, and Lynett Gorman, Principal of West Elementary School in Steubenville, OH a current user site of the SFA program. Mr. Feil

reported he has met with the two selected MPSD pilot school sites and the directors where staff had an opportunity to ask questions and get more information about the SFA program. Debbie with SFA provided a base overview of the SFA program and explained how SFA is aligned with the science of reading. It is a model that can help fill the gaps, bring up the lower readers and challenge the advanced readers. SFA is modeled as a 5-star piece to help to build the systems, provided detailed lesson plans that give the framework that is research-based and proven, provide professional development and ongoing coaching, provide compiled research, and student discussion. Lynett Gorman from Steubenville, OH shared their district's elementary schools are reading 98% at or above level. She also acknowledged that SFA has allowed for a collaborative learning environment and also gives the teachers the flexibility to express their own teaching personalities. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions of the guest SFA presenters. The SFA PowerPoint presentations are also shared on the District website.

The adoption timeline for the pilot school program was next discussed. Interim Superintendent Feil suggested extending the timeline by two months with implementation scheduled for the next school year. Mr. Feil explained this would allow staff and others to have the best understanding of the program and to engage all stakeholders in order to be successful. A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept the recommendation of Interim Superintendent James Feil to extend the pilot school program by 2 months/the end of January 2023. Board member Kathy Willis reiterated that the Board has not yet approved the SFA model and Mr. Feil agreed to welcome any other suggested programs that would be equally or better will also be considered.

The interim Superintendent shared a plan to Restructure of Central Office. Mr. Feil stated it is necessary to restructure Central Office by reviewing all positions so that more support can be made available at the school buildings rather than housed solely at Central Office. Mr. Feil recommended the Reading and Math Specialists be moved to a school building site and develop a lab-like classroom to help elevate student achievement. Mr. Feil will also evaluate all Central Office positions and bring a recommendation back to the Board in January. Board President Soeldner made a motion to accept the recommendation of Interim Superintendent Feil with the responsibility of recommending a new lean central office administrative structure to lead the district's improvement efforts and that this action supports the restructuring and reassignment of the district's reading and math specialist positions to a combined role of practitioner/curriculum content leader at an MPSD school site, Board Member Braunel seconded the motion. The motion passed (6-1) with Board member Trask opposing.

Board President Stacey Soeldner provided the Strategic Plan update. Mr. Norell has met with and conducted listening sessions with the Principals, the Associate Principals, and the Directors. Listening sessions have been scheduled with staff at seven of our school buildings and is in the process of scheduling sessions at the remaining buildings. The timeline is to complete the listening sessions and to provide a draft by the December 13th meeting or possibly sooner. Ms. Soeldner also stated there is a Strategic Plan link on our District website for anyone to review.

The 2022-2023 Budget and Tax Levy were presented to the Board. Collin Braunel made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 MPSD Budget as presented at the Budget Hearing on October 11, 2022, with final budget adjustments, in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which includes revenues and expenditures in the General Fund of \$72,679,656; total expenditures of all funds of \$91,087,497; and total revenues of \$90,267,089 with a tax levy of \$18,350,898; mill rate of \$5.51 (\$1.91 decrease from the previous year). Matthew Spaulding seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0) by a roll call vote.

On motions brought forward from the 10-19-22 Finance & Budget Committee, the Board unanimously approved (7-0), the Paraprofessional Substitute Rate Increase as presented.

On motions brought forward from the 10-12-22 Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting, a drafted Memo was presented to the full Board to initiate the Municipal Baseball Field Land Transfer from the City of Manitowoc to the Manitowoc Public School District. The Board had a lengthy discussion surrounding the potential costs that might be incurred with the acquisition of this property. Director of Buildings & Grounds Chris Dupre stated as listed in the meeting minutes, the scoreboard, bleachers, and fencing were a few of the facility upgrades needed when funds were available. Board member Phipps addressed the fact that the Municipal Field does have land value. We want MPSD to be a destination school district and this would be an addition to the district. If we choose to do nothing the district would need to look into renting another facility for our baseball team to play at. Board President Soeldner reiterated that we are not budgeting any further funds for this property other than the maintenance of what we are currently doing. The original motion presented did not pass with a vote of (2-5). A motion was made by Collin Braunel seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (7-0), to have the acquisition of Municipal Baseball Field moved back to the committee, requesting a presentation of the forecasted expenditures associated with the acquisition of this land.

Remarks from Board President Stacey Soeldner included Girl's Volleyball advancing to sectionals. Senior Mason Gates will be competing at the State with Cross Country. Congratulations to Terry Augustine for being recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wisconsin School Counselor Association, Jackson Elementary will be holding its Trunk-or-Treat event this Friday and a concert was held last night at Lincoln High School.

Future Meeting Dates include meetings of the Executive Committee on November 2nd, the next Board Meeting is November 8th at 6:00 p.m. The Special Meeting in November will be held on Tuesday, November 22nd.

A motion was made by Colling Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (7-0) by a Roll Call Vote to move into closed session. The Board moved into closed session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility as authorized by section 19.85(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes.

The Board was extended a brief recess before convening into closed session to allow the public present to exit the Board Room.

The Board did not reconvene in open session and adjourned from closed session at 10:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner