

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
November 2, 2022

The Executive Committee of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 5:30 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Stacey Soeldner and Mr. Collin Braunel (attending virtually). Board member Kathy Willis was not in attendance. Also present were Board members Matthew Phipps and Tony Vlastelica, Interim Superintendent James Feil, and Board Secretary Laurie Braun.

The Executive Committee continued discussion of the book “Building a High-Impact Board-Superintendent Partnership” by exploring the reorganization of committees that are suggested in the book. The Book suggests that Board members should ideally only be on one committee. Ms. Soeldner shared this model would consist of a Governance/Board Operations Committee that would be responsible for the overall functioning of the Board, setting Board performance standards, revisions to Board bylaws, Superintendent progress and review evaluation, public relations, etc. The second committee would be the Strategic & Operational Planning Committee. This committee would be involved with the annual calendar development cycle, strategic work sessions, and overseeing the Superintendent and Admin work sessions. The third committee would be the Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee which would consist of the financial and education performance, budget, reviewing operational policies, and assessments. Mr. Feil stated this is a more systems approach and would keep us focused on what we need to accomplish. Board member Braunel asked if we were able to increase our Board size to share in the work that needs to be done. Board member Soeldner stated we are trying to be more effective as a Board and questioned if this restructuring would help with the overall effectiveness in comparison to the committees we currently have. The Board would need to identify and clarify what actually needs to be done at the committee level and have a deep understanding of what is being brought forward to the full Board. Board President Soeldner recommended that we keep this on the agenda for one more month to continue our look at how we can be the most effective Board, setting some goals and finding the model that will be the best fit for our district.

The committee next discussed policy updates. Interim Superintendent Feil stated we have been in contact with Neola and recognize that we are significantly behind with reviewing and revising our policies. We are working with Neola and have a goal to review and become current with our policies within a year. Neola provides us with the suggested template for policy revisions. The district does have the ability to make suggestions for revisions, however, we need to be mindful that we are within the parameters of the law. Board President Soeldner asked for the Superintendent to bring forward the policies that need to be updated to the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Interim Superintendent Feil shared an update for the pilot schools and shared that Washington Middle School is arranging a trip to visit Steubenville, OH school that is using the SFA model. We are looking to get Franklin Elementary School on board as well. Mr. Feil also shared he is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the MEA to share more information. The committee also discussed if it would be possible for the district to expand the SFA model beyond the pilot schools. Mr. Feil reiterated that the SFA is a whole system that provides all of the components of a proven program.

Mr. Feil shared that he has consulted with the District's legal counsel regarding the parameters of discussing the restructuring of Central Office staff and doing so in closed session. We want to be conscious of the implications that this discussion may hold. Board member Soeldner asked what moving some of our specialists into our buildings would look like. Mr. Feil shared that it has been proven that they should have split appointments while modeling what teaching that curriculum should look like. This would also allow for another individual to be a resource in that building when needed. Mr. Feil stated that we are looking at where the right locations would be for our specialists, possibly having our Math Specialist at Wilson Middle School and the Literacy Specialist at one of the elementary schools. We will also take a deeper look into the Educator Effectiveness review system.

Board President Soeldner acknowledged that nothing has been brought forward regarding Board development topics at this time.

A motion to adjourn was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Stacey Soeldner, and unanimously carried (2-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Board Secretary



---

Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner