

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
November 24, 2020

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

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

A motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Meredith Sauer reported on the November 19, 2020 meeting. Ms. Sauer shared course proposals including a Baking and Pastry Arts which would provide another avenue of interest in the culinary arts. Competitive Team Sports that would provide juniors and seniors with the option to advance their skill work and strategy in a competitive team sports setting. The third course proposal was Exploring Arts 2 that would students to experiment with 2D and 3D art while learning more advanced techniques. Committee Chairperson Sauer provided a K-12 Literacy by grade band update that included curriculum being used and professional development for teachers to ensure we are providing the best opportunities in literacy for our students. The committee also discussed the Parent and Student Engagement Surveys which will be conducted in January or early February. Then final item of discussion regarded assessments. DPI is currently communicating to us that these assessments will still take place in spring and require being face-to-face. We will continue to monitor the assessment calendar moving forward. A motion was made by Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously approved (6-0), to accept the minutes from the November 19, 2020 Curriculum Committee meeting.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of one (1) resignation, two (2) retirements. On motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (6-0) to accept the Personnel Report as presented. At this time Superintendent Holzman welcomed and introduced Susan Schnorr to the Board. Ms. Schnorr will be serving at the Interim Director of Business Services for the District following the resignation of Shawn Alfred. Ms. Greenwood-Aerts explained the position has been posted and we are currently in the process of reviewing applications and conducting virtual screener interviews. We will then decide which of these candidates will move forward in the process for a virtual panel interview consisting of the director team and two principals, one secondary and one elementary.

A Return to School Update was provided by Superintendent Holzman. Mr. Holzman stated we continue to work with our local health department, school nurses and a group of district leaders to discuss the return to school phasing model that was shared with the Board at the last meeting. Conversations of how do we identify those students who will return in the Phase I setting, how do we balance the teacher workload when working with students who are brought back in Phase I, as well as continue to teach the virtual students. Mr. Holzman shared that after discussions with our nurses, we would use multiple indicators as a gating criteria that would allow us to be open or closed. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and after further discussion the Board agreed to move forward with exploring students and staff returning in a Phasing model. Board President Dave Nickels questioned the status co-curriculars, including athletics, when phasing students back into buildings. Superintendent Holzman stated that our conference has met and agreed that our conference schedule for winter sports will not start until after the first of the year. Mr. Holzman also stated that each school will need to determine if and when they will allow individuals or teams into buildings to practice. We have communicated that our district will not bring student athletes in buildings to practice if we don't have students academically in buildings. Some athletics, such as our co-op hockey team and wrestling have chosen to do this through a club role rather than through WIAA. Superintendent Holzman stated the plan will be to bring a potential multi-faceted gating criteria and a possible proposed plan for Phase 1 at the December 8, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Holzman shared a District Activity Update and acknowledged we just celebrated National American Education Week. We are grateful for the dedication our teachers and all of our staff to continue to work hard during this challenging times. Superintendent Holzman also shared through continued discussions with other county and conference Superintendents, they are experiencing very similar struggles and conversations as we are. Mr. Holzman reiterated that we still have many positive things going on in our district and that too needs to be acknowledged.

Board President Dave Nickels acknowledged an email that was received by all members from a parent. Further discussion took place and it was acknowledged that some board member did reply individually to this parent.

Discussion regarding the Superintendent Evaluation process took place. It was agreed by Board members to have a separate meeting with the Board and Superintendent Holzman to discuss the criteria the evaluation will be based on. Board members agreed to schedule an additional special meeting to further discuss the process and specific evaluation criteria. This meeting will take place before the December 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Public Input was the next item of discussion on the agenda. It was recommended by the Board to move forward to reinstate Public Input as an agenda item at the second Tuesday of the month regular meeting. The key is to do this virtually, while making sure it is equitable and accessible for all and we are following the Request to Provide Public Input guidelines. It was agreed by the Board to have this in place for the December 8, 2020 meeting.

On motion from Richard Nitsch, seconded by Meredith Sauer, the first read of Technical Changes to Policy 0131.1 By Laws and Policies was unanimously approved (6-0).

Equity Advisory Ad Hoc Committee member Meredith Sauer provided a report from the first meeting of this newly established committee. Ms. Sauer shared it was a solid open discussion of where we are now and where we would like to see this committee's work in the future. The committee selected Aaron Bailey as Chairperson, and Meredith Sauer as Vice-Chairperson. The committee agreed to start with establishing a mission and vision statement and will schedule another meeting before the holiday break.

Future meeting dates included; Personnel Committee Meeting, November 30, 2020, a Finance and Budget Meeting December 3, 2020. It was also agreed by the Board to conduct a Special Board Meeting on December 22, 2020.

On motion by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Nickels". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dave Nickels  
Board President