

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Chris Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Mr. Tony Vlastelica. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall, 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 6:01 p.m. The Board received two requests for public input. The first speaker spoke about concerns regarding student technology and acceptable use policy, along with the monitoring of student use on district owned computers. The second speaker spoke the closure of the special needs Riverview center and how full inclusion was not implemented. This speaker also spoke about having empathy for all students especially special needs students. Public input concluded at 6:10 p.m.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board. At the request from members of the Board, the following items were removed from the consent agenda; Payment of Vouchers, Monthly Financial Report and the Personnel Report. A motion to accept the following consent agenda items; the minutes from the Novembr 28, 2023 Special Meeting and Closed Session, the Monthly Donation List, and the second read of Policies 1100-District Organization, 1110-Assessment of District Goals, 1130-Ethics and Conflict of Interest, and 1211-Whistleblower Protection, was made by Chris Able, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (7-0). A friendly amendement to the motion was accepted to also remove Policy 2260.01-Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability from the consent agenda. Director Angela Erdmann provided a detailed explanation to the Payment of Vouchers and the Monthly Financial Report as requested by Board members Vlastelica and Hansen. A motion to approve the Payment of Vouchers and Monthly Financial Report was made by Biff Hansen, secondon by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (7-0). Director of Human Resources Mike Nault provided clarification to current staffing questions in regards to the Personnel Report. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried to approve the Personnel Report as presented. After a brief clarification to the policy content, a motion to approve the second read of Policy 2260.01-Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability was made by Chris Able, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (7-0).

Director of Human Resources Mike Nault provided a summary of the 2023 Fall Staff Survey. Mr. Nault shared recent history of the district's survey timeline and the request from the Board to conduct this survey quarterly to review the data, the trend lines and any areas of concern. The participation rate for the fall survey showed a 68% participation rate or 485 participants. The current data received is consistent with data received from the survey last spring, showing student behavior concerns and staff feeling their voice isn't being heard. Moving forward we will compare the 1st Quarter and 2nd Quarter results and share with the Board. Superintendent Feil recognizes the results continue to be low and acknowledged the amount of heavy lifting staff has been asked to do. Mr. Feil noted we need to do better to connect with staff and have launched listening sessions at each school to get firsthand information from our staff who are communicating they need help. Mr. Nault noted that we continue to look for the right people and will pursue reaching out to colleges for internships. Administration will contact the district's legal counsel regarding the open records request to release the comments from the staff survey.

Three Lincoln High School Textbooks were brought forward for adoption after completing the 30-day review process. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the textbook adoption for AP Environmental Science, Terrestrial and Aquatic Environmental Science, and Biology.

The McKinley Academy Virtual K-8 Program was discussed. Board President Stacey Soeldner stated the McKinley Academy Board met and agreed to modify the contract for the McKinley K-8 Virtual Academy to end effective July 1, 2024. Ms. Soeldner made a motion to modify the contract for the McKinley K-8 Virtual Program to align with what the McKinley Board approved due to reduced enrollment, Matthew Spaulding seconded the motion. It was acknowledged that the district does need to have an alternate program, however we need to take the appropriate steps to research what the needs of the students in our district are for an alternate program. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The Board was present with the first read of district policies. Policy 1210-Board/District Administrator Relationship which was tabled from the last meeting was again tabled and will be brought back to the January meeting along with the referenced policies 0144.5-Board Member Behavior, Communications, and Code of Conduct, 3362.01-Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, and 4362.01-Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members. Policy 1213-Student Supervision and Welfare which was tabled from the last meeting was again tabled and will be brought forward at the January meeting along with referenced policies; 7540-Technology (Technical Correction), 7540.03-Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, and 7540.04-Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety. Policy 2260-Non-Discrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity and Policy 2266-Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities were both tabled until an attorney can be present to address questions regarding some of the language within these policies and current ongoing lawsuits. A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Kerry Trask and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 1230.01-Development of Administrative Guidelines. A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 1400-Job Description. A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve Policy 1421-Criminal History Record Check and Employee Self-Reporting Requirements. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Phipps and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 1619-Group Health Plans. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 1619.01-Privacy Protections of Self-Funded Group Health Plans. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 1619.02-Privacy Protections of Full-Insured Group Health Plans. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 1619.03-Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 9130-Public Requests, Suggestions, or Complaints.

The following policies introduced with suggested revisions will move forward for first reads; Policy 1210-Board/District administrator Relationship, along with referenced policies - 0144.5 - Board Member Behavior, Communications, and Code of Conduct, 3362.01 - Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, and 4362.01 - Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members, and Policy 1213 - Student Supervision and Welfare, along with referenced policies; 7540 - Technology (Technical Correction), 7540.01 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, and 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, and Policy 5113 - Open Enrollment Program (Inter-District).

Director of Business Services presented the MPSD 2023-2024 Budget Adjustment-Fund 50. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Kerry Trask, and carried (6-1) to approve the Fund 50 Budget Adjustment as presented, with Matthew Phipps opposing.

The District Activity Update included Superintendent Feil sharing all of the upcoming holiday concerts taking place. Superintendent Feil also mentioned there is a LHS Student Senate and Board Member meeting scheduled Thursday, December 21, 2023. This meeting will be a noticed meeting due to a quorum of the Board being present.

Remarks from Board President Soeldner included her appreciation for Administration, the Board and all of the hard work and ongoing discussion to improve the district the past year.

The WASB Proposed 2024 Resolutions were shared with the Board. We will look at these again in January and if you have any concerns we will discuss further. Board member Trask is our representative and will be casting the vote on behalf of our district at the WASB State Education Convention in January 2024.

Future Meeting Dates include the Regular Board Meeting scheduled January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. There will also be an additional meeting in January to work on policies, tentatively January 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The 4th Tuesday Special Board Meeting is scheduled January 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (7-0) by a roll call vote to move into closed session at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following matter(s): the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of a public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes - Superintendent evaluation, progress goals and objectives, and a pending personnel matter. A brief recess was taken to allow the public to exit the Board Room.

The Board adjourned from closed session at 9:19 p.m. and moved to open session.

On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) to adjourn the December 12, 2023 Regular Board of Education Meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



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Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner