

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
December 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Collin Braunel, Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Board Member Meredith Sauer was absent. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman, Board Secretary Laurie Braun, and Directors.

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

A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (7-0), to approve the minutes from the November 23, 2021, Board Meeting.

Board President Nickels acknowledged there were no communications to share with the Board.

Public Input began at 7:02 p.m. The Board received requests from six (6) individuals to provide public input, one individual was not present to speak. The public was allowed 5 minutes each to speak and to respectively keep input relevant agenda topics of discussion. The Board heard comments that included trust within the board and school district, not being in favor of the mask requirement, board concerns and having a question and answer session, DPI test scores, and conversation in favor of public schools/public schools unite and the need to practice empathy. Public Input concluded at 7:19 p.m.

Personnel Committee Chairperson Kerry Trask provided a report of the December 8, 2021 meeting. The committee received an HR update including the Employer Sponsored Clinic, a Staffing Process Overview, and the current substitute teacher situation, and how the district is filling teacher absences. Mr. Trask then shared that the committee moved into closed session to discuss the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent. On a motion from Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the minutes from the December 8, 2021, meeting were unanimously (7-0) approved.

Director of Business Service Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for the month ending November 30, 2021. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Meredith Sauer, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve Bill List 11-1-21 through 11-30-21. The presented Bill List reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$6,806,423.62. The monthly financial report for November 2021 was also provided and accepted as presented.

Director of Human Resources, Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report. The Personnel Report consisted of two (2) resignations, one (1) termination, two (2) retirements, hiring one (1) professional staff, four (4) support staff positions, and one (1) extra-curricular

stipend. On motion by Collin Braunel and seconded by Kerry Trask, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report as presented.

The recommendation for the 2022-2023 McKinley Academy Enrollment numbers was presented to the Board from the McKinley Academy Board of Directors. A summary of the current year was shared, along with the recommended enrollment limit for each grade level. When enrollment numbers are equal to or less than the maximum enrollment for any grade level, all enrollments will be honored. If the enrollment requests exceed the maximum limit, those individuals will be put on a waitlist and prioritized by grade level. Superintendent Holzman explained that by setting an enrollment cap or limit it helps the district to align staff accordingly. The opportunity for questions and comments was extended to the Board. On motion from Kerry Trask, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the recommended 2022-2023 Enrollment Limits as presented.

Superintendent Holzman provided an introductory overview to the goals and moving student achievement forward. Mr. Holzman stated there is a significant amount of information and data that is being shared with the Board. He also reiterated that we need to keep in mind the factors within student achievement involve more than one department and one test score. Student achievement involves many factors that aren't physically seen in the numbers. Directors Jason Bull and Pam Lensmire provided a comprehensive presentation of Longitudinal Data from our district buildings and the goals each building has set. Director Lensmire stated these numbers are provided by the state and give a high-level overview of the district's data. With the large amount of information provided, Board members asked if it was possible to have more time to review and understand the data. After a lengthy discussion, Board member Kerry Trask suggested having a workshop or meeting solely to discuss this information to get a better understanding of the information. Board member Braunel suggested forming a sub or ad-hoc committee to work with Directors Bull and Lensmire to aid in and understand the solutions put in place to improve our achievement numbers. Board member Nickles stated both of these suggestions are possibilities, however, as Board members, it is our job to support and be informed. The Directors are the professionals who are trained in these areas who provide the information to the Board, and it is always good practice for the Board to be educated and learn as much as we can about the information shared with us. Directors Bull and Lensmire continued the presentation sharing the smart goals and building action plans being put in place to improve student engagement and learning. Board member Willis agreed that this is a great deal of information to digest in a short amount of time. Board member Trask commented that even if given more time to review, this information may not be any more clear without someone who is trained in it to explain it to us. Board member Soeldner questioned how these goals are determined or implemented. Director Lensmire clarified that the goals being presented coincide with the State Educator Effectiveness System. Every school has the obligation for building leaders being responsible to work with their leadership teams to set building goals and teachers being responsible to develop and set the student goals.

Superintendent Holzman shared a slideshow presentation surrounding current student behavior data and data comparisons to past years. The data provided included in and out of school suspensions, the number of days students were suspended, the number suspended by race/ethnicity, the overall number of students suspended, and the suspension by incident type. Mr.

Holzman shared it is never the district's goal to suspend a student, however, we like many other districts are noticing that students are bringing their own personal crises with them to school. Superintendent Holzman also stated, these kids are from our community, some coming from environments that are not always great, but it is our job to teach them and help them be successful. If a student suspension is deemed necessary, and if relevant, an in-school suspension allows the student to remain in school with opportunities to learn in a positive environment. Mr. Holzman reported as part of professional development, all staff will be participating in Verbal Intervention Training, a model from the Crisis Prevention Institute. This training will provide staff with the tools necessary to de-escalate student behavior situations. Discussion continued with opportunities for questions and comments from the Board. Superintendent Holzman reiterated that educators who have great lessons and great relationships with kids will most likely have engaged students who want to learn with fewer negative behaviors.

The Superintendent and Directors Report was presented to the Board. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Board member Meredith Sauer commented on her appreciation for the continued availability and a half-day increase of mental health services at the high school. This is a partnership we share with HFMBH and have added a half-day of support.

A District Activity Update was shared by Superintendent Holzman where he acknowledged the Holiday Concert season is underway and some of our student musicians have been sharing their talents at different sites throughout our community. Winter sports have started with our student-athletes participating in gymnastics, wrestling, swimming, and boys and girls basketball. Board member Nickels added his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in judging classroom door decorations at Riverview. This was a fun opportunity and a great way to interact with the staff and students at Riverview.

Board President Dave Nickels provided a report from the December 6, 2021, COVID Protocols Ad-hoc Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of three Board members and four parents. The minutes from the December 6th meeting were also shared with the Board and the public. The committee continues to have discussion and provide input regarding the Covid protocols that are in place in our District. The next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Future scheduled meeting dates include the Curriculum Committee Meeting, December 16th. Finance & Budget Meeting, January 5th at 4 pm, and the next Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 11th.

Board member Kathy Willis reminded Board members to review the 2021 WASB Resolutions prior to the WASB State Education Convention the third week in January.

Superintendent Holzman addressed the Board stating we may need to schedule a special meeting of the Board to discuss the possible sale of the district-owned property located at 1010 Huron Street.

A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (7-0) by a roll call vote to move into closed session for the purpose considering the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools of the School District; authorized pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes. The Board convened in closed session at 9:20 p.m.

On motion from Collin Braunel, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried the Board reconvened from closed session at 9:51 p.m. and returned to open session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels, Board President