

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
December 22 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: Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Richard Nitsch, Ms. Meredith Sauer and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Board Member Ms. 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 Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

The Finance and Budget Committee Chairperson Richard Nitsch reported on the 12-16-20 committee meeting. Mr. Nitsch shared the objective for this meeting was to provide information regarding the 2021-2022 budget and in the absence of a referendum, the district would be faced with a \$3.5 million budget reduction. Mr. Nitsch communicated this amount does not include the \$1.3 million that the district is utilizing from the Fund balance. The committee also discussed although there has been an increase in revenue due to higher property value the past few years, that revenue increase has been fully absorbed by the increase in payments to voucher school program. The voucher program has claimed almost \$2 million from our District for the 2020-2021 school year. When planning for the future, the District is faced with some unknowns such as the amount of state aid we will receive, student enrollment and property values. We know that expenditures typically increase 2 ½ to 3% each year and our state revenues are not keeping up with the increased cost to educate our students. The committee recommended to bring forward a \$4.3 million, 3 year referendum to the full Board for discussion. Motion was made by Meredith Sauer, second by Lisa Johnston and unanimously approved (5-0) to accept the minutes from the 12-16-20 Finance and Budget Committee Meeting.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Meredith Sauer reported on the 12-17-20 committee meeting. Ms. Sauer provided a summary of the Student Learning Liaison (SLL) update. This group is made up of 37 teacher leaders from the elementary, middle and high school levels representing core academic areas as well as electives, school counselors and specialists. These Liaisons serve as a leaders in their departments. These leaders provide benefits not only in their department but throughout the district. The next agenda item discussed is a program called "College Here and Now". This program provides college course work within the high school and allows students to earn dual credits; meaning students would be able to earn credits toward their high school diploma as well as college level credits. LHS Principal Lee Thennes is working with LTC Representative Doug Hamm on this partnership. A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis and unanimously approved (5-0) to accept the minutes from the 12-17-20 committee meeting.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of numerous high school athletic/co-curricular stipends. On a motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (5-0) the Personnel Report as presented. An Addendum to the Personnel Report was also presented by Ms. Greenwood-Aerts introducing Ms. Angela Erdmann as the new Director of Business Services. On motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (5-0) the Addendum to the Personnel Report.

Superintendent Mark Holzman provided a Phase 2 Returning Students to School. Phase 2 will provide additional opportunities for small groups of students to participate in face-to-face testing and learning activities. All COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be followed to participate in Phase 2. Phase 2 would include students who are currently engaging in Phase 1, and students who meet the criteria for IEP in-person learning. It would also allow for increased opportunities for co-curriculars that meet the safety guidelines and prepare student athletes to participate in the modified FRCC schedule. Phase 2 would also provide individual in-person learning opportunities approved by administration prior to moving to a blended learning model. Board members had further discussion and the opportunity to ask questions. Superintendent Holzman asked the Board's approval to move to Phase 2 and make any appropriate adjustments to Phase 2 until we are able to meet the Board approved Blended Learning Gating Criteria. A motion was made by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Kathy Willis to move forward with Phase 2. At this time Kathy Willis made a motion to amend the motion and bring back all students in a face-to-face learning at the start of second semester, Dave Nickels seconded the motion for the purpose to have further discussion. Some members of the Board expressed concern of setting an exact date of returning to school fulltime with face-to-face learning at this time. Superintendent Holzman communicated that a survey will be sent out to families tomorrow to get their feedback on returning to school. Board members were then asked to vote on the amended motion. The amended motion did not pass with a vote of 1-4. Board members were then asked to vote on the original motion of the Phase 2 plan as presented by Superintendent Holzman. The original motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

On motion from Meredith Sauer, and seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (5-0) the second and final read of Policy 2266 – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities.


After lengthy discussion, motions brought forward from the December 16, 2020 Finance and Budget Committee, the Board approved (4-1) with Lisa Johnston opposing, to move forward with drafting a Resolution for Referendum Recommendation at the April 6, 2021 Spring Election.

Ad Hoc Equity Advisory Committee and Board Member Meredith Sauer provided a report from the December 15, 2020 meeting. Ms. Sauer shared the committee discussed creating a mission statement, as well as, short and long-term the goals the group would like to accomplish. The committee is working on identifying core areas of improvement and how we can bridge those gaps. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 19, 2021.

Motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Meredith Sauer, and unanimously carried (5-0) by roll call vote to move into closed session for the purpose of considering the annual performance evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools of the School District, as authorized pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The Board did not reconvene in open session and on motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels
Board President