

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Manitowoc Board of Education

December 7, 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, Mr. Collin Braunel, and Ms. Kathy Willis (attending virtually). Also present were Board member Matthew Phipps, Superintendent James Feil, and Board Secretary Laurie Braun.

Unfinished Business began with the committee discussing what the Governance Model for the Board should look like moving forward. The committee agreed to look over the functions of the Board and the restructuring model, and include this within our strategic plan as a goal of the Board. The committee also agreed to keep the Governance Model as an Executive Committee agenda item in the event it needs to be discussed further.

The committee next talked through the process of updating district policies. Superintendent Feil shared a list of policies that NEOLA recommends we need to update, including 14 policies that the district should address first. The committee asked for Mr. Feil to share the district's current policy, along with the suggested revised policy template so we can begin the review process. Board President Stacey Soeldner will conduct the initial review of the 14 suggested policies and then forward to the necessary committee chairperson, noting most of the policies involved are relating to curriculum and personnel.

The streaming of committee meetings was discussed. Board member Soeldner stated that some of the Board members requested to have committee meetings live streamed. We currently have the capability however it requires a staff person, generally from IT, to initiate the process. We need to ensure that if we commit to live streaming that it is done efficiently. The committee discussed if we should start live streaming committee meetings now or wait until the Board Room upgrade is complete. Superintendent Feil suggested we wait until the Board Room upgrade is installed and tested. Mr. Feil will follow up at the next Board meeting with a timeline of when the upgrade will be completed.

A restructuring update was provided by Superintendent Feil informing the committee that Jame McCall is on Board and participated in the site visit to Stubenville, OH. She is working with meeting the Directors and Administrators this week and is scheduling meetings with Elementary and Secondary Principals. Ms. McCall will be in the district next week and the following week. Superintendent Feil stated we will have more definite information in January regarding the restructuring and reiterated we will continue to keep the focus on student achievement and providing the best resources to the staff and students in each building.

Superintendent Feil shared an SFA Update. Mr. Feil stated SFA information will be accessible on the district website for the families and the public to view. Lisa Sink from CESA 6 will be assisting us to create a high visibility, high transparency update to our overall website. Mr. Feil also shared there has been some interest in possibly expanding the SFA model beyond the two suggested pilot schools. Superintendent Feil invited Washington Principal Lance Masters to give an overview of the Steubenville, OH school site visit. Mr. Masters explained that he, along with 9 teachers, Franklin Principal Matt Heller and Jame McCall, participated in visit to Steubenville. Mr Masters described the trip as enlightening and viewed it as a whole school system that provides active student engagement. During the visit, Mr. Masters witnessed a similar format moving from one class to the next, with students working in cooperative teams across the curriculum. Familiar scenes included student teams collectively working around a specific learning target with teacher talk time at a minimum. Our staff saw specific anchor charts that would highlight specific skills and strategies that students can use. Mr. Masters stated they saw a program that was consistent and routine in the structure but allowed for flexibility on how the teacher chooses to present it. Mr. Feil also explained there is a support system put in place with SFA that will help with the implementation and also provides feedback. Mr. Masters did acknowledge that one of our biggest challenges will be with the schedule and creating a different structure than what we are currently using, but noted there are supports in place to help work through issues such as this. The group also shared they asked questions such as if the SFA program is adopted, what can we do to start getting ready, what supports are available to help our staff. It was noted that we will need to make some important decisions for this to work and work well if we move forward with the SFA program. Committee members had the opportunity to ask questions and provided comments.

A motion to adjourn was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Secretary



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner