

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Stacey Soeldner. 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 (attending virtually), Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall (attending virtually), 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 six (6) requests for public input. The first speaker provided comments regarding dual enrollment for students and the increased cost of college tuition. The next speaker, a teacher and taxpayer in the district questioned the haste in approving Central Office Administrator contracts and also shared that there is much more to student behaviors in the district than what is being shared. The next speaker addressed her concern about the numerous recent payroll errors, the financial impact on the district, and the need to reinstate a Finance Committee. The fourth speaker expressed the need for citizens to be role models to kids and the difference between student isolation and socialization. The next speaker thanked the Board President for her work and congratulated the district on increasing reading scores. The last speaker shared concern for the staff benefit packages and the savings benefit to the district when the district employs couples and why aren't teachers getting the same benefit who opt out of the insurance? Public input concluded at 6:25 p.m.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board. Board member Hansen asked to discuss in open session the \$35,000 and \$20,000 benefit given to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in lieu of taking the insurance. Board President Soeldner stated we can add this to the next meeting agenda. Board member Vlastelica asked to remove the second read of Policy 2521-Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0), to approve the 1-23-24 Special Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes, the 1-25-24 Special Board Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes, the January Monthly Financial Report, the Payment of Vouchers, the January Monthly Donation List, the Personnel Report and the second read of Policies 2105-Mission of the District, Policy 2120-Management Restructuring and School Improvement, 2131.01-Reading Instructional Goals and Kindergarten Assessment, 2440-Summer or Interim Session School, 5111.02-Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and 5112-Entrance age as presented. A motion to approve the second read of Policy 2521-Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and opened to discussion. Board member Tony Vlastelica made a motion to table this policy until we receive clarification from the attorney as it contains the same language as the two other policies that have been tabled (Policy 22260 and 2266); 5th paragraph "gender status, change of sex, or gender identity". Matthew Spaulding seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-3) with Board members Hansen, Able and Trask opposing.

Board President Soeldner introduced Ely Reed, the Student Representative to the Board of Education. Ms. Reed provided a report sharing some of the celebrations happening at Lincoln High School including the student senate implementing a new tardy policy, many events and post-basketball game parties for students held at the JFK, a ski trip, dodgeball tournament, and many bake sales. The student senate is also working on various projects to improve the school, involvement with the Board, and working with the Administrative team to address student concerns. The group has recently established a diversity committee to work on inclusivity within our schools. Ms. Reed shared that the group is raising money for the John Ricke Memorial Scholarship by selling t-shirts, and they are also working to make voter

registration more accessible for students. Ms. Reed also expressed the student body has discussed some concerns such as the school infrastructure, allowing an ample amount of free time, and class choices for students. Ms. Reed and the student senate are excited to pilot this new program to work with the Board and to help be a voice for not just the LHS student body but all students within the district. Board President Soeldner stated with this being a pilot program we need to establish some parameters. The Board needs to determine what the expectations of the Board and the Student Representative are. Ms. Reed feels it is important for her to stay the entire meeting, participate in the discussions, and advocate for students. Board President Soeldner asked if the Board feels they should address the Student Representative for input on a certain topic or if they would be allowed to participate in the conversation as much as they would like within the laws of decorum. It was also noted that the Student Representative is not a voting member, however, they should be given latitude and allowed to speak and participate in discussion rather than just providing a monthly report.

At the request of the Board, the list of District Priority Goals; SFA Implementation, Culture Student/Staff, and Facilities Plan was presented to the Board. The Board had the opportunity to ask any questions or provide any comments. These goals will be discussed at each regular Board meeting. No questions were posed to the Superintendent.

A professional development session for the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2024, starting at 4 p.m. WASB Attorney Bob Butler will be joining the meeting to discuss and answer questions relating to some of the controversial topics school districts are currently facing, along with providing some clarification to the three policies that have been tabled. This meeting will be open to the public. The Board, staff, and the community will be able to submit any questions in advance of what they would like addressed during this professional development. The district will accept these questions until February 27, 2024, and will share them with Attorney Butler to address at the March 6th professional development session.

The second Friday enrollment and survey information was shared by Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann. Enrollment projections primarily serve as an estimate for the amount of state aid the district will receive. The district lost 36 students between the September 2023 count and the January 2024 count. Ms. Erdmann stated we need to address the issue with students who cannot be counted because they are not attending or are absent too often. Statewide we are seeing smaller Kindergarten classes coming in compared to the size of graduating classes. Ms. Erdmann stated that approximately 75% of districts are seeing enrollment decline and Manitowoc County is experiencing an overall decline in the birth rate. The Board discussed options of what the district is doing to attract students to enroll in our district. Director Thennes stated that we have so many opportunities in this district including dual enrollment, school-to-work and YA programs, and we need to do a better job at promoting these amazing opportunities for MPSD students. Superintendent Feil and Assistant Superintendent McCall will keep the Board informed of a plan to showcase the positive things happening and opportunities available in our district, and how we can share that with our community.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann provided an update regarding the 2023 W2 withholding error, the steps taken to address and correct the issue with our employees, and the impact it has on the district.

Policy 2260-Non-Discrimination and Access to Equal Education Opportunity and Policy 2266-Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Education Programs or Activities were tabled at the

November 28, 2023 Board Meeting and will continue to be tabled until legal representation can be present to discuss the policies in greater detail. This is scheduled for March 6, 2024.

Director of Human Resources Mike Nault and Lincoln High School Principal Micah Hoffman provided the rationale, cost, and job description for the newly proposed LHS Security Monitor position. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Biff Hansen, to accept the proposal for the new LHS Security Monitor Position. The Board discussed the role of this position and the impact on the budget. The motion unanimously carried (7-0).

Director Nault shared the proposed 2024-2025 school calendar amendments. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Biff Hansen, and opened for discussion. Board member Able made a motion to make MLK Day a holiday for both students and staff, Matthew Spaulding seconded the motion. Director of Human Resources suggested that we table the recommended amendments to further review the calendar to allow MLK Day as a no-staff, no student day. Matthew Spaulding made a motion to table the suggested calendar change, and Chris Able seconded the motion. The motion to table the amended 2024-2025 school calendar for further review unanimously carried (7-0).

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann presented the 2023-2024 Budget Amendments to the Board. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) as presented. Ms. Erdmann clarified the budget amendments did not include any additional taxpayer money but rather grant money. The budget amendment information will be published as required.

The Board was presented with seven (7) new Policies for the first read with suggested revisions. A motion to approve the first read of Policy 2110-Statement of Philosophy (New) was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Biff Hansen. Discussion surrounding the contents of this policy took place. The motion to pass the first read of Policy 2110-Statement of Philosophy did not pass and will not move forward for the second read by a vote of (3-4) with Board members Able, Soeldner, Spaulding, and Vlastelica opposing. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2131-Educational Outcome Goals and Expectations. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and carried (6-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2132-Educational Process Goals (Matthew Spaulding was not present for the vote). A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy Policy 2230-Course Guides. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2250-Innovative Programs. A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2271.01-Start College Now Program. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the first read of Policy 2330-Homework. Six of the seven policies presented will move forward for the second reads at the February 27, 2024, Special Board Meeting.

Nine (9) policies with suggested revisions were introduced to the Board; Policy 3120-Employment of Professional Staff, Policy 3120.01-Job Descriptions, Policy 3120.04-Employment of Substitutes, Policy 5330-Administration of Medication/Emergency Care, Policy 5340-Student Accidents/Illness/Concussion & Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Policy 5341-Emergency Medical Authorization, Policy 6108-Authorization to Make Electronic Fund Transfers, Policy 6110-Federal Funds, and Policy 6116-Time and Effort Reporting. These nine (9) policies will move forward for the first read at the next Board meeting.

Remarks from the Board President included Ms. Soeldner stating that she and Kerry will be attending the McKinley visioning session this Thursday. Chris Able will be attending the WASB and WASB School Attorneys School Law Conference in Appleton at the end of the month. Ms. Soeldner also shared School Board Members have been invited to the discussion of "How School-Based Mental Health Services Help Manitowoc County Students" at the Public Library this Thursday. A notification will be posted in the event there would be a quorum of the Board.


Future Meeting Dates include the standing fourth Tuesday Special Board Meeting on February 27, 2024 at 6 p.m., and the scheduled Board of Education Professional Development session, March 6, 2024 at 4 p.m. February 20, 2024 Biff Hansen will attend the Board Committee Meeting at LHS to meet with the Student Sentate Representatives. Student Representative Ely Reed would appreciate if the Board could let her know which Board members will be attending future meetings.

The Board did not receive a first and second motion to move into closed session.

Board member Hansen congratulated the Girl's Basketball Team on their 3.86 average G.P.A.

On motion from Biff Hansen, seconded by Chris Able, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) to adjourn the February 13, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner