

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
February 23, 2021

A virtual 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, Mr. Kerry Trask and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Board Member absent was Catherine Shallue.

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 Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Jackson Elementary Principal Duane Simmons presented their school showcase. Mr. Simmons shared how Jackson has implemented the Professional Learning Community (PLC) model. This model is based on the over-arching belief that "All students can learn at high levels". The 3 big ideas of the PLC Model are Focus on Learning, Results Orientation and Collaborative Culture. Jackson is divided up into four different collaborative teams; Grade level teams, Specialist teams, Special Education teams and Admin teams. These teams work together to transform learning for the students by answering three questions; what do we want students to learn, how will we know they have learned it and how will we respond if students struggle or need enrichment. By using these strategies Jackson's SMART Goal is to close the opportunity gap between Special Ed and Non-special Ed students by 50% from 1st quarter to 4th quarter. The presentations shared videos of staff and students using these strategies and testimonials of how it is working and the progress being made with the student learning targets. Mr. Simmons explained that they are engaging families with this information through a new elementary report card based on grade level power standards, communication through the school newsletter and through parent teacher conferences. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Meredith Sauer reported on the February 18, 2021 meeting. Ms. Sauer shared an update and overview of what the Student Learning Office does and the roles and responsibilities of the Education Director, Pam Lensmire and the Teaching, Learning & Assessment Director, Jason Bull. Ms. Sauer next shared a summary of the Excel system that was given by Chris Dirkes, what it is and how students qualify for the program. Ms. Lensmire then reported on the first semester AGR reports for Franklin and Jefferson in reading and math, and how they have identified instructional coaching as their strategy for the 2020-2021 school year. Both schools have identified where students are proficient or are exceeding the proficiency target. Each school has identified their baseline, what their goals are and the mid-year progress. The final topic of discussion at this meeting was the Student and Parent Engagement Surveys. The surveys will be distributed in late April through early May and will include 4 different sets of questions: 1. How has learning gone this year, 2. Engagement, 3.

Equity, and 4. Support and interests for virtual learning in the future. Survey results will be shared with Board when available. A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Lisa Johnston and unanimously carried to accept the minutes from the February 18, 2021 Curriculum Committee Meeting.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of two (2) retirements, and extra-curricular spring stipends for the fall curricular activities that have been moved to spring. On a motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report as presented. The Administrative Contracts were also presented to the Board. On motion by Kerry Trask, seconded by Richard Nitsch, the Board moved into discussion of the Administrator Contracts. Lisa Johnston made a motion to amend the original motion and postpone the approval of the Administrative Contracts presented until the April 13th Meeting. Discussion continued and Board member Willis stated that we should wait until after we know if the referendum passes or not. After lengthy discussion, the amendment to the original motion did not pass by a vote of 2-4. Board member Meredith Sauer made a motion to amend the original motion to reflect no approval of any employee contracts for the 2021-2022 school year until after the April 6th election and then revisit at the April 13th Board meeting, Lisa Johnston seconded the motion. Discussion then took place where Board member Richard Nitsch acknowledged that by doing this, we could possibly be sending a negative message to our staff and lack of confidence in the passing the referendum. The second amended motion to the original motion did not unanimously pass by a vote of 3-3. Board President Nickels brought the Administrative Contracts original motion back for a vote that passed unanimously with 4 votes.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann provided a summary of the Second Friday Enrollment Numbers. Ms. Erdmann over the past two years enrollment has declined and from September 2020 to January 2021, enrollment is down 1.29%. As discussed and previous meetings, this decline is most likely to the instruction model the district was in due to the pandemic. We will also be taking some steps to survey our families who have selected to open-enroll out of our district and how we can lower those numbers that are in our control in the future.

Mr. Holzman next shared a Return to School Update stating we will be returning to a face-to-face model on Monday, March 9th. We continue to make a few adjustments as we prepare to return on March 8th and continue to communicate with families to verify what learning model they want their student to be in. Currently, we expect 251 K-5 students, 151 6-8th grade students, and 225 9th-12th grade students who will remain virtual, which is approximately 12.7%. Mr. Holzman also reported that teachers will stay in the building and grade level they were originally assigned to when returning to the full-time face-to-face model. We continue to work on the logistics in the classrooms and to ensure we have the protocols and safety pieces in place to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our staff and students for the March 8th return.

Superintendent Holzman provided a Referendum Update that identified MPSD and 53 other districts will be going to referendum at the April 2021 Spring Election. Mr. Holzman also shared

data that shows MPSD is spending money in the right areas with the majority, over 61%, being spent on Pupil Instruction compared to 53.5% the state average. He also shared results from an independent community survey showing our schools and K-12 education ranking the highest of importance to the impact the future of Manitowoc County. Superintendent Holzman also had the opportunity to meet with three different parent organizations to share the referendum presentation and answer questions. An informational postcard with the referendum facts will be mailed out to every address within the Manitowoc School District. Mr. Holzman is also putting together virtual referendum presentations for the public and our community; one on March 11th, one March 16th and one on March 24th. These presentations will be held at 6:30 p.m. An informational video will also be added to the District webpage sharing the facts of the referendum. Mr. Holzman will also be sharing the referendum information during his monthly radio appearances and he will also share information with local organizations over the next several weeks.

A District Activity update was shared that included all students continue to receive free school lunch through the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Holzman also discussed the fall alternative sports schedule which includes volleyball, tennis, swimming, cross country and football. These curricular activities will be held in spring with a revised schedule. LHS is also working on a musical, School House Rock. These activities are a sign that although we are not back to “normal” yet, we are getting closer and look forward to seeing these activities.

No comments or discussion was conducted regarding the agenda items of School Culture/Student Behavior.

Board President Dave Nickels next addressed opening the Board Office to individuals for Public Input that is conducted at the second Tuesday Board Meeting. Any individuals who would provide public input would be asked to complete the necessary paperwork and submit online or in person to the Board Secretary before the start of the meeting, following all district facility safety protocols. Board members and the public would still have the option to participate in the meeting virtually if they chose to do so. Board member Meredith Sauer commented that virtual options for meetings that are held mid-day provides some flexibility for Board members and the public alike. Board members agreed to consider the possibility of continued virtual meetings in conjunction with in-person attendance.

Board President Nickels provided a summary of the Spring Primary Elections results; having 8 candidates moving forward to the April 6th Spring Election. The top two candidates will fill the two, 3-year term positions, the next top candidate will fill a 2-year term and the candidate with the fourth most votes will fill the 1-year term.

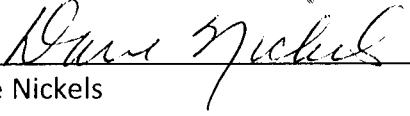
Board member Meredith Sauer provided a summary from the February 11, 2021 Equity Advisory Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Sauer shared the group reviewed the options for the committee’s mission statement and after lengthy discussion agreed the mission statement to read: The Equity Advisory Committee’s mission is to educate, empower, and galvanize students, teachers, and parents to remove barriers caused by injustice and inequality while engaging in the community to promote equity and compassion for all. The group also discussed

what they would like the committee's short and long-term goals to be. Committee members will each bring goal ideas to the next meeting.

Future meeting dates include the next Regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, March 9th. A Finance & Budget Committee Meeting and a Personnel Committee Meeting will be scheduled before the March 9th Board Meeting.

On motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels
Board President