

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Collin Braunel, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, Mr. Tony Vlastelica, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Jame McCall, Directors, and Executive Assistant Laurie Braun.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Network connection and access to BoardBook were confirmed.

On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of the minutes from the 2-13-23 Personnel Committee Meeting, the 2-14-23 Regular and Closed Session Board Meetings, the 2-15-23 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, and the 2-23-23 Curriculum Committee Meeting.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by Interim Director of Human Resources Mike Nault. The Personnel Report consisted of four (4) retirements, one (1) resignation, one (1) termination (support staff), hiring three (3) support staff, and extra curricular stipends. On motion from Collin Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report as presented.

On motions brought forward from the 2-23-23 Curriculum Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously approved out-of-state travel requests for the Science-Chemistry Education in Ontario, Canada, July 23-27, 2023, the World Language-French Impression, Chicago Art Institute and French Market, May 18, 2023, and the Central States Swim Coach Clinic in Oakbrook, IL, May 19-21, 2023.

The Board was presented with the proposed eight (8) new SFA Coordinator Positions, along with the position job description. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Jame McCall shared there will be one SFA Coordinator at each of the elementary and middle school sites. The coordinator position will have strong instructional and data analysis skills, as well as be a leader among their peers. This role will be a key component in implementing SFA. These positions will be budgeted from the general fund, paid at a teacher's salary with a 5% stipend. Ten (10) additional calendar days will also be added to this position to help with preparation for the school year. The Board has opportunity for questions and comments. A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Mathew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (7-0) approving the proposed eight (8) New SFA Coordinator Positions as presented.

Remarks from the Board President included acknowledging it is Public Schools week, Reading Across America week, an Open House is scheduled for 4k on March 7th, an SFA Materials Open House on March 1st at 6:00 p.m. here at Central Office in Room 1, and Youth Art Month Reception at the Rahr-West Museum. Ms. Soeldner also acknowledged the Public Referendum Presentations that are scheduled the month of March.

Future meeting dates include a Personnel Committee Meeting March 13th, a Finance & Budget Committee Meeting March 15th, an Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee Meeting March 9th and March 23rd, and the next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 14th.

Board President Soeldner stated the Executive Committee has been discussing in more detail our governance model and the current committee structure; is it effective or do we need to look at something different? Superintendent Feil shared the book *"Building a High-Impact Board-Superintendent Partnership"* by Doug Eadie with the Board members and asked if our current model supports our new strategic plan. Superintendent Feil communicated that Boards who have seven or fewer members would have three standing committees and encouraged the Board to consider a Governance Committee, which is similar to our current Board Executive Committee, a Strategic and Operational Planning Committee, and a Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee. Mr. Feil stated the book also suggests having a consultant help develop this new model, which in turn helps our governance be strategic and systematic. Lengthy discussion of our current model and the model being suggested by the book took place. Board members asked if there were specific constitutional reasons why we are currently doing what we are and what would happen to the committees we currently have if we move to the three committee governance model. Board member Braunel questioned the vagueness of the suggested committee model and if there would be overlap that would require additional joint meetings. Board President Soeldner explained the book provides examples of what items of discussion would fall under which committee, and also what items need to be included on a Board agenda and which items should be addressed by our Administration leaders. She also reminded the Board that our Strategic Plan talks about being a bridge between the public and our Administration, and also the need to build that bridge between our political partners who are making decisions in Madison. This plan is showing that Boards no longer want to be passive but more actively engaged. The Board agreed to review the book, specifically Chapter 8, and come back with a better understanding of what a transition to these new committees would look like and how this new model would better support our Strategic Plan; focusing on student achievement and student behavior. This agenda item will be discussed at the next Board meeting, March 14, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner