

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
November 11, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Linda Gratz at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Barbara Herrmann, Mr. Dave Longmeyer, Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Karen Rohrer, Ms. Catherine Shallue, Mr. Keith Shaw, and Ms. Linda Gratz. Also present were Superintendent Marcia Flaherty and Board secretary Rebecca McLafferty.

The meeting began with Board members logging in to Boardbook, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Karen Rohrer, seconded by Dave Longmeyer, and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2014, regular meeting and the October 28, 2014, special meeting.

Director of Elementary and Secondary Instruction Debby Shimanek introduced Wilson Jr. High Principal Eric Johnson and Assistant Principal Jodee Stahmer who gave a brief presentation and discussed the High Achieving Wilson Kids (HAWK) program. The program utilizes 24 minutes per day for intervention, enrichment and building community. Students can be prescheduled by teachers based on need, or students can self-schedule if they desire extra help. Students and teachers Bob Feller, Kris Conrad, and Cindy Mischler, expressed support for the program, which provides academic support to students, as well as enrichment classes.

Lisa Johnston of 7315 CTH C, Manitowoc, spoke in support of the recently failed referendum; also speaking on behalf of the referendum were Jennifer Balma of 1702 Ruby Lane, Manitowoc; Colleen Vander Linden of 3214 Serenity Drive, Manitowoc; and Cecilia Held of 1406 Hamilton Street, Manitowoc.

Keith Shaw, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee, reported on the October 28, 2014, meeting. A course proposal for 2015-16 "College Algebra and Trigonometry with Applications" was approved to be brought forward to the full Board. After learning that the course is no longer being offered at Lakeshore Technical College, the Committee will not need to bring this forward for Board approval, nor changes to the course map. While in committee, summer school travel courses for summer 2016 to Spain, Germany, and Japan were approved to be brought forward to the full board. On motion brought from committee, the Board unanimously approved 2016 trips to Spain, Germany, and Japan. The committee reported making revisions to Policy 2340, "Field and Other District Sponsored Trips", which were given to Director Shimanek to be corrected, brought back to the Curriculum Committee for approval, and then to the Board for approval. Director Shimanek reported that the District is currently meeting the needs of six Lighthouse Learning Academy students at the junior high and high school levels.

The payment of vouchers was presented by Director of Business Services Ken Mischler. A motion was made by Keith Shaw, seconded by Dave Longmeyer, and unanimously carried to approve voucher #518 totalling \$3,045,056.58, and voucher #521 totalling \$3,019,566.18, for a total of \$6,064,622.76. Also presented was the financial report for the month ending October 31, 2014.

Director of Human Resources Andrea Holschbach presented the Personnel Report consisting of recommended approval of one professional staff, recommended approval to add an additional Occupational Therapist, and recommended approval of extracurricular contracts. After considerable discussion regarding the Occupational Therapist position, Dave Nickels requested that approval of the Occupational Therapist position be considered separately from the remaining personnel report. On motion made by Dave Nickels, seconded by Keith Shaw, the Personnel Report was unanimously approved, excluding approval of the additional Occupational Therapist position. Considerable discussion then revolved around justification for the additional Occupational Therapist position in light of the recently failed referendum, case load comparisons, and how the position would be funded. On motion by Dave Longmeyer, seconded by Keith Shaw, the board voted on approving an additional occupational therapist as presented. Motion failed (Nickels, Herrmann, Gratz, Shallue dissenting).

Director of Pupil Services Joanne Metzen presented the Emergency Nursing Services Plan. On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Barbara Herrmann, the plan was unanimously approved as presented.

Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Debby Shimanek reported on School Learning Objectives. Her presentation defined SLOs, outlined the process, highlighted the data analysis-literacy completion on November 14, and reported on elementary, junior high, and high school proficiency.

Superintendent Flaherty reminded board members that registration is open for attendance at the WASB convention in Milwaukee, in January 2015.

Superintendent Flaherty expressed her appreciation to all parents, staff and the community for support and embracing the "Strong Schools = Strong Community" slogan. She announced her retirement from the district, at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Board President Gratz thanked her for her years of service.

Second reads of the following policies, from the Buildings and Grounds Committee, were held: 7217 Weapons, 8420 Emergency Preparedness, 8405 Environmental Health and Safety Programs, 7440 Facility Security, and 9150 School Visitors. Motion was made by Karen Rohrer, seconded by Dave Longmeyer, to approve the policies as presented.

Director of Human Resources Andrea Holschbach presented a draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar. Motion was made by Keith Shaw and seconded by Barbara Herrmann to approve the 2015-2016 school calendar as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Board members voiced thoughts regarding the failed referendum vote:

- Board President Linda Gratz reflected on the process and the need to move forward.
- Catherine Shallue felt the recurring issue was detrimental; she phoned Madison weekly, requesting a change to the education funding formula.
- Keith Shaw thanked reporter Phil Bock and the Herald Times Reporter for reporting/coverage.
- Director Mischler added that political stands on the referendum were unfortunate.
- Karen Rohrer voiced frustrations in running a school district with continuous financial constraints.
- Barbara Herrmann expressed distress caused by the responsibility of running a district with inadequate finances. She added that Board decisions made in light of the failed referendums must be clearly visible to the public.
- Dave Nickels stressed the need to discuss the financial situation with the Finance and Budget Committee.
- Dave Longmeyer emphasized the importance of solving District financial problems locally, finding a strategy to engage “no” voters, and the importance of remaining optimistic.

Board members expressed a possible interest in bringing revised referendum questions for a vote in April. All committees will examine where to make cuts as a result of the failed referendums, and will report back to the full Board.

At 9:40 p.m., motion was made by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Keith Shaw, and unanimously carried by roll call vote to convene in closed session for the purpose of considering the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, as authorized pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

(The Board voted to adjourn from closed session at 10:20 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca McLafferty, Secretary

Linda Gratz
Board President