

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
December 16, 2014

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Linda Gratz at 12:03 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 was Board secretary Rebecca McLafferty.

Director of Business Services Ken Mischler referred to a memo from Superintendent Marcia Flaherty to the Board of Education, outlining possible budget cuts submitted by district administrators and directors, if the Board does not seek or win a referendum vote in April.

Potential budget cuts, in no order of significance, included:

- Sale of Fleetwood property (cost savings \$125,000-\$150,000 estimated);
- Evaluate employee benefits (cost savings \$0-\$400,000);
- Cut D.A.R.E. program (cost savings \$7,770);
- Cut I.B. program (cost savings \$130,000 plus possible savings of \$15,600 from reduced FTE);
- Study attendance areas, change boundaries, and/or close Madison Elementary School (cost savings approximately \$475,000—does not include cost of redistricting);
- Cut School Forest Coordinator (cost savings \$50,000 [1 FTE salary + fringes]) or \$81,390 for full program;
- Reduce paraprofessionals (classroom aides) (cost savings \$210,000);
- Cut instrumental music 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade (elementary) (cost savings \$220,800);
- Cut 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletics/extra-curricular activities (cost savings \$130,300);
- Gifted and Talented Program (cost savings \$102,250);
- Elementary library program (reduce media managers to ½ time positions) (cost savings \$123,000);
- Increase class sizes (cost savings to be determined); and
- Defer Technology, Safety and Maintenance Items (cost savings approximately \$400,000).

Based on current projections for 2015-16, there will be a shortfall of at least \$1 million. Considerable discussion ensued on many of the suggested cuts. Keith Shaw expressed concern that the listed items directly impact students. In light of a failed or non-pursued April referendum vote, he suggested looking into outsourcing second shift custodial work.

Dave Nickels expressed concern for lost revenue from children that don't attend the MPSD but live within district boundaries. He also voiced concern that the district needs to do a better job of attaining monies from the state. Overtime costs were clarified to be much lesser than was erroneously reported. Lincoln High School needs to be examined and a way found to reduce the cost of LHS building maintenance/heating, including the tower. Nickels also suggested that the

cost of retaining a police liaison officer be examined, with the consideration of paying for a teacher instead of a police officer.

Dave Longmeyer questioned the feasibility of maintaining the McKinley Academy. Mischler reiterated the importance of students obtaining high school diplomas. Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Debby Shimanek acknowledged the success of the Lighthouse Learning Academy and the need to continue marketing to recruit students.

Board members questioned what constituted employee benefits and what might be changed, that would not directly impact students, including post-employment benefits. Linda Gratz indicated that after this matter is brought to the Finance & Budget Committee, it should be reported back to the full board.

Barbara Herrmann stressed the importance of keeping the climate of our school district as strong as possible. Ken Mischler indicated that the issue of a board referendum will be discussed in January. Karen Rohrer acknowledged that this list of potential budget cuts could be avoided with the passing of a referendum in April.

Motion was made by Dave Longmeyer, seconded by Karen Rohrer, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca McLafferty, Secretary

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Linda Gratz  
Board President