

Manitowoc Board of Education
January 13, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Linda Gratz at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Barbara Herrmann, Mr. Dave Longmeyer, Ms. Karen Rohrer, Ms. Catherine Shallue, Mr. Keith Shaw, and Ms. Linda Gratz. Also present were Superintendent Marcia Flaherty and Board secretary Rebecca McLafferty. Member absent: Mr. Dave Nickels

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 (6-0) carried, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2014, regular meeting and the December 15 and 16, 2014, special meetings.

Madison Elementary School teachers Sarah Binversie, Ruth Krause, Jennifer Sloniker, and Angela Schardt introduced students who talked about the reader's/writer's workshop model, which is the approach the MPSD is using for literacy instruction.

Keith Shaw introduced Drs. Eric Dimmit and Vance Dalzin from Ray and Associates, the search firm hired to conduct the district's superintendent search. Their update included results of well attended district and community input sessions, including characteristics sought in a new superintendent. Ray and Associates will collect superintendent applications through March 11.

The following individuals spoke to the Board in support of the District's music program: Drake Nickels of 3104 Wildwood Drive, Manitowoc; and Connor Madison and Mary Madison of 1634 Atlanta Circle, Manitowoc.

Dave Nickels arrived at 7:28 p.m.

Board members provided input for the superintendent recruitment flyer being prepared by Karen Rohrer.

Karen Rohrer, Chairperson of the Finance & Budget Committee, reported on the December 16, 2014, meeting. During the Committee meeting, Director of Business Services Ken Mischler discussed health insurance benefit comparisons based on deductibles, out of pocket maximums, HRA/HSA contributions, percent paid by the employer, and drug costs.

Keith Shaw, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee, reported on the December 16, 2014, meeting wherein Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Debby Shimanek presented the MPSD Academy Course, First Steps in Mathematics: Diagnostics and Interventions for Math Students. The course was unanimously approved by the committee. The Committee was also

informed that the Washington DC trip for Washington Jr. High had been cancelled due to low participation. Students were provided the option of traveling with the Wilson Junior High Washington DC trip in June.

Dave Nickels, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, reported on the December 29, 2014, meeting. Committee members discussed the plan design change process and the District Medical Insurance Committee (DMIC)'s role. It was decided that potential changes to the insurance plans will continue to be discussed at DMIC meetings with Ken Mischler presenting updates and proposed plan changes to the Personnel Committee, to be forwarded to the Board for action. Also, the following policies were approved by Committee, to be brought forward to the Board of Education for their first read: 1422/3122/4122 Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity; 1623/3123/4123 Section 504/ADA Prohibition against Disability Discrimination in Employment; 1662/3362/4362 Employment Anti-Harassment; 2260 Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity; 2260.01 Section 504/ADA Prohibition against Discrimination Based on Disability; 3120/4120 Employment of Professional Staff/Employment of Support Staff; 3236/4236 Receipt of Legal Documents by District Employees; 3340 Grievance Procedure; 5320 Immunization; 5330 Administration of Medication/Emergency Care; 5335 Care of Students with Chronic Health Conditions; 5517 Student Anti-Harassment; 5517.01 Bullying; 7540.01 Technology Privacy; 8210 School Calendar; and 8325 Receipt of Legal Documents by District Employees. On motion by Keith Shaw, seconded by Karen Rohrer, the Board unanimously approved the first read of the above-stated policies.

The payment of vouchers was presented by Director of Business Services Ken Mischler. A motion was made by Keith Shaw, seconded by Catherine Shallue, and unanimously carried to approve voucher #528 totalling \$2,683,833.32, and voucher #531 totalling \$3,384,334.10, for a total of \$6,068,167.42. Also presented was the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2014.

It was moved by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Keith Shaw, and unanimously carried to approve the availability of funds from the Manitowoc Board of Education Trust Fund as follows: 2015 scholarships totaling \$165,575, and authorization of \$163,950 for 2014 student loans.

On motion by Barbara Herrmann, seconded by Dave Longmeyer, the Board unanimously approved \$300,000 for initial or continuing student loans for 2015.

Director of Human Resources Andrea Holschbach presented the Personnel Report consisting of recommended approval of two retirements and two resignations of professional staff, recommended approval of hiring four professional staff, recommended approval of hiring three support staff, recommended approval of lane movement for one person (effective the 2015-2016 school year), and recommended approval of two extra-curricular contracts. On motion made by Barbara Herrmann, seconded by Keith Shaw, the Personnel Report was unanimously approved as presented.

On motion by Karen Rohrer, seconded by Catherine Shallue, and carried, the Board unanimously accepted the donation from the Shopko Earn to Learn Program of a SmartBoard Interactive Whiteboard and Smart Notebook for Jefferson Elementary School.

On motion by Keith Shaw, seconded by Barbara Herrmann, the Board unanimously approved the second read of Policy 6800 Systems of Accounting (from the Finance & Budget Committee).

On motion brought from committee, the Board unanimously approved the second read of the following policies brought from the Curriculum Committee: 2340 Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips, 5113 Open Enrollment Program (Inter-District), 5113.01 Course Options, 5451.02 Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship, and 5460 Graduation Requirements.

Board member Keith Shaw requested feedback from Board members on resolutions that will be voted on during the 2015 Delegate Assembly in Milwaukee. Shaw referred to various resolutions and Board members commented on the same.

Superintendent Flaherty began the referendum discussion by briefly reviewing the district's financial situation and efforts to develop an awareness in the community, and reflected on the "Strong Schools = Strong Community" campaign. After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Board members that they would generally support the three proposed referendum questions with the three-year timeframe. In response to inquiries, Finance Director Ken Mischler reminded Board members that the district's property taxes went up 3.5% with a tax rate increase of 2.8%, but the district lost \$900,000 in aid this year. In response to Board inquiry, he stated that the district's total expenditures increased .5% this year. Referendum wording must be approved by January 27. Board members discussed referendum details.

Considerable discussion ensued by Board members, discussing how to explain to the public what each referendum question would fund, without tying the Board's hands in the future. Board members contemplated how to best inform the public of the district's "dire straits" financial situation in an easy to understand, informative manner. Board members questioned the public's desire to understand the referendums before going to vote as opposed to reading the referendum questions and voting on the spot.

After extensive discussion, motion was made by Dave Nickels to move forward with the three referendum questions as presented, with one change to Resolution #1, to delete the area in parenthesis at the end of the sentence, and to insert a period there. Motion was seconded by Karen Rohrer.

Barbara Herrmann made a motion to amend Dave Nickels' motion by inserting in Resolution #1 an explanatory phrase as to what operating expenses, current programs, and services would be. Motion was seconded by Dave Longmeyer.

Director Mischler explained the timeline for drafting and approving the resolutions no later than January 27, 2015.

Vote was held on the motion made by Barbara Herrmann. Motion failed unanimously (0-7).

The Board discussed the original motion made by Dave Nickels, and whether or not to add more specific language after the word “services”, which could be determined later. It was the consensus of the Board that more specific language would be addressed, not in the resolution, but in publicity from now until the election, and that the resolutions be approved as set forth in the original motion.

Motion was made by Keith Shaw and seconded by Dave Nickels, to vote on calling the question, to close debate and further amendment discussion. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The original motion made by Dave Nickels and seconded by Karen Rohrer was addressed, to move forward with the three referendum questions as presented, with one change to Resolution #1, to delete the area in parenthesis at the end of the sentence, and to insert a period there. Motion passed 6-1 (Herrmann opposed).

Referral was made by Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Debby Shimanek for the Curriculum Committee to meet on January 27 at 11:00 a.m.

At 9:00 p.m., motion was made by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Barbara Herrmann, 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 9:42 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca McLafferty, Secretary

Linda Gratz
Board President