

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
October 13, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Keith Shaw at 6:30 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Linda Gratz, Ms. Barbara Herrmann, Mr. Dave Longmeyer, Ms. Karen Rohrer (6:37 p.m.), Ms. Catherine Shallue, and Mr. Keith Shaw. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board secretary Rebecca McLafferty. Members absent: Mr. Dave Nickels

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director of Business Services Ken Mischler conducted a public hearing on the proposed 2015-2016 budget. A summary of the 2014-2015 and proposed 2015-2016 budget expenditures, revenues, total tax levy, equalized property value, and the net tax levy rate was provided. Mischler noted that the tentative budget numbers voted on tonight will be adjusted at the October 27, 2015, Board meeting. The revenue limit is expected to increase by \$2,034,707 over last year, with the passing of the three referendum questions. State equalization aid is projected to increase from \$29,195,920 to \$29,367,482 or an increase of \$171,562. General Fund budgeted expenditures grew by \$567,252, an increase of 1.03%. The total tax levy will increase \$1,640,398 (+8.47%), for a projected tax rate of approximately \$9.09. Questions were answered regarding effects of declining enrollment and competitive salaries needed to retaining/recruiting employees. There being no further comments, Board President Keith Shaw declared the public hearing closed at 6:56 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Shaw at 7:00 p.m. The meeting began with roll call. All Board members were logged into BoardBook.

A motion was made by Dave Longmeyer, seconded by Linda Gratz, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2015, regular meeting and the September 22, 2015, special meeting.

Lincoln High School Principal Luke Valitchka and numerous staff members spoke about Professional Learning Communities (PLC's). Some Lincoln High School PLC topics included the history and evolution of PLCs; the WIN period; building leadership teams; literacy and math goals; the IB program, creative brainstorming; increasing student engagement; universal themes; science and ELA; and the new ACT writing prompt; "every student every day". Principal Valitchka emphasized the framework that allows people to capitalize on their knowledge and skills, and that teachers are engaged in some form of collaboration.

Dave Nickels arrived at 7:37 p.m.

The 'Hockey Proposal' was moved ahead on the agenda to accommodate public speakers. Duane Simmons gave a presentation to the Board of Education on behalf of the "Manitowoc

United" WIAA High School Hockey Team. Also present were Mark Herzog, President of the Blue Line Club (booster/sponsor); Marie Hammill, Vice President of the Manitowoc County Youth Hockey Association; and MPSD Athletic Director Dave Steavpack. Some topics included a brief history of the hockey team; player expenses; MPSD support requested; and the future of the hockey program. President Shaw indicated that the Board would meet to discuss this issue and would respond.

Barbara Herrmann reported on the September 22 and October 13, 2015, Curriculum Committee meetings. Four proposals (AP Statistics course proposal, College Algebra and Trigonometry proposal, Lincoln Chamber Choir trip request, and Calkins Teacher College trip request) were approved by the committee to be brought forward to the full board for a vote. The timeline and guidelines for implementation of the civics exam, as required by Act 55, was also discussed. Superintendent Holzman indicated that before the end of the 2015-16 school year, the Board needs to discuss a policy regarding implementation of the civics exam.

The payment of vouchers was presented by Director of Business Services Ken Mischler. A motion was made by Barbara Herrmann, seconded by Catherine Shallue, and unanimous carried (7-0) to approve voucher #613 totalling \$2,766,247.04 and voucher #616 totalling \$3,601,778.50, for a total of \$6,368,025.54. Mr. Mischler presented the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2015.

Director Mischler presented the third Friday enrollment count to the Board. The District reported 5,184 students. Discussion around this topic included the district's declining enrollment trend, potential future numbers, and summer school's participation that resulted in +10 FTE.

Director of Human Resources Lori Miron presented the Personnel Report consisting of five resignations, the hire of one teacher and five support staff; level movements for nine teachers and extra-curricular appointments. On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Linda Gratz, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Personnel Report as presented.

Pupil Services Director Joanne Metzen presented a report on the 2015 Special Education Caseload. Director Metzen indicated that student/teacher ratios are always watched closely. In response to an inquiry about 16.4% of district students receiving special education services, Superintendent Holzman responded that our district does have a high special education population, partly because of the district's quality program.

Motion was made by Linda Gratz, and seconded by Karen Rohrer, to designate Debby Shimanek as the District's Equity/Title IX Coordinator. Motion passed.

Superintendent Holzman's district activity update acknowledged a very successful homecoming week which was full of numerous well-attended activities. Also, three district staff members will be acknowledged in the newspaper as young achievers by the Chamber of Commerce.

Motion was made by Catherine Shallue and seconded by Karen Rohrer, to approve the 2015-2016 Manitowoc Public School District budget presented at the budget hearing on October 13, 2015, in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which includes expenditures in the General Fund of \$55,570,009; total expenditures of all funds of \$71,305,837; and total revenues of \$68,804,737 with a tax levy of \$21,003,340. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

On motions brought from committee, the following proposals were unanimously approved by the full Board: AP Statistics Course Proposal, College Algebra and Trigonometry Proposal, Lincoln Chamber Choir Trip Request, and Calkins Teacher College Trip Request. Discussion revolved around the district's lack of policy for out-of-state travel. It was questioned whether the Board wanted to be involved in approving individual out-of-state travel requests. Some Board members felt that they did not want individual trip requests coming to them for approval, but that the principal and administrators would approve them. A number of Board members thought a policy should exist for out-of-state travel. It was questioned what surrounding District's use for their policy for out-of-state travel. Barbara Herrmann felt that requests should come before the Board, and that there should be a consistent approach to dealing with out-of-state travel. After considerable discussion, motion was made by Barbara Herrmann and seconded by Linda Gratz to have the topic of a policy for out-of-state travel go to the Curriculum Committee for consideration, for out-of-state travel requests to go to the Board for approval. Motion passed 4-3 (Longmeyer, Rohrer, and Nickels opposed).

On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Linda Gratz, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved acceptance and ratification of the MEA proposal for 2015-2016, to increase minimum salary by \$900 and the maximum by \$400, and base by 1.0%. The budget will be adjusted and tax levy set at the October 27 Board meeting.

Superintendent Mark Holzman read a resolution recognizing and saluting the members of the Manitowoc Public School District Board of Education and proclaiming October 4-10, 2015, as Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week.

On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Barbara Herrmann, motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca McLafferty, Secretary

Keith Shaw
Board President