

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
March 12, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Longmeyer at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Keith Shaw, Ms. Elizabeth Williams, Mr. Richard Nitsch and Mr. Dave Longmeyer. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun.

Members absent: Ms. Catherine Shallue

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members were logged into BoardBook.

A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Elizabeth Williams, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2019, Special Board meeting.

Jefferson Elementary School Principal Stacie Opahle introduced School Counselor Ms. Schley and several 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who participate in the Griffin Go-Getters Group. This group is comprised of 5 clubs, the Culture Club, Community Helpers, the Box Top Club, School Store Club and the Volunteer Club. The students involved in each of these clubs are committed, engaged and excited to be helping others and giving back to their school and community.

Board President Dave Longmeyer again briefed the people in attendance of how the public input session will proceed. The public input portion of the meeting will be allowed a total of 30 minutes of time. Each person who would like to speak will have 5 minutes to share their input. Six (6) members of the audience completed a Request to Speak form and were given to the Board President. All six individuals were allowed to speak during the public input section. The first member to speak during the public input section asked the board to stop the current proposed middle school model and to keep the model as it currently is. A letter from a former student was read that shared her support of the arts and the lasting affect the arts have had on her and a current student spoke in support of the theatre class she is currently enrolled in. Others in attendance spoke on the importance of students having a variety of electives and the support for the music, particularly jazz band.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Elizabeth Williams reported on the February 28, 2019 Learning Walk that took place at Franklin Elementary School. Committee members were able to observe students transitioning from their community circles to reading workshops. The team also received an update on character education work and the Student Leader role being done within the building. Ms. Williams also had the opportunity to see the great work being done in the Special Education Department.

Personnel Committee Chairperson Keith Shaw gave a brief review of the Personnel Committee Meeting that was held February 25, 2019. Report of this meeting was also shared at the

February 26, 2019 meeting. Mr. Shaw shared the EL Teacher Staffing for 2019-2020 will be brought to the full Board under New Business for approval.

The payment of vouchers was presented by Director of Business Services Shawn Alfred. A motion was made by Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried (6-0 ) to approve Bill List 2-1-19 through 2-28-19, district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense in the amount of \$5,844,907.04. Mr. Alfred also shared that the reimbursement from DPI for our lunch program will give us the ability to reinvest in the program. He also shared the health insurance has an overall projected increase of 8%. The financial report for month ending February 28, 2018, was accepted as presented.

Director Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of two (2) retirements, two (2) professional staff appointments, and extra-curricular stipends. On motion by Keith Shaw, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report as presented.

Superintendent Holzman acknowledged the Superintendent and Directors Report. Board members had the opportunity to ask additional questions. Board Member Dave Nickels asked if the Staff Survey has been received. Superintendent Holzman mentioned that the all Admin team will be meeting tomorrow morning where they will go over the results with the building principals. Survey results will be shared with the Board in the near future.

Superintendent Holzman provided a district activity update which included the Youth Art Month display at Rahr West Art Museum. MPSD will be showcasing our student talent March 3 – March 31, 2019. Mr. Holzman reported the Spring sport season has started. The softball team is practicing at Wilson and the track team is practicing inside the JFK. We are fortunate to have great indoor facilities and hopefully the snow will be gone soon and the weather will cooperate to allow these groups to practice outside. Superintendent Holzman shared the great opportunity he had participating in mock interviews held at Lincoln High School. People from the community and local businesses also volunteered their time to give our students an opportunity to learn what may happen during a job interview. It helped students learn what to wear, the importance of eye contact and other skills employers may look for in an employee. Mr. Holzman also mentioned that Summer School registration is coming up April 4th, 2019 and lastly, this is CTE month. He encouraged everyone to please visit the website and see the wonderful opportunities our students have the option to participate in.

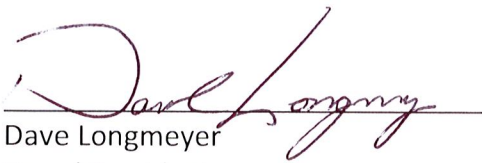
Board President Dave Longmeyer opened with stating the challenging time this has been recently with the grade alignment. The Guiding Coalition's intent was to develop a plan to provide more opportunities in our District. When decisions were made to do what is best for the majority of students, it unintentionally decreased some opportunities for a few students. We acknowledge that communication regarding this could have been a little better, but the goal is to do what is best for all students. Mr. Longmeyer also stated that he values and respects the passion and the input the community has shared with Board Members. Dave Nickels questioned what might be offered with the 6th grade extra-curricular activities.

Superintendent Holzman shared that Athletic Director Dave Steavpack is currently addressing this. Some of the extra-curricular sports will have an easier transition such as track, but we are working through the specific details with others like basketball. Board Member Keith Shaw, reflected that at the end of the day the Committee and Board are looking to do what is best for the students. We need to move forward to make a decision what is best for our kids, our future. Mr. Shaw stressed the importance of enhancing student learning and the possibility of how we could offer electives to students differently in the future. Board member Elizabeth Williams echoed that there is room for improvement with communication. Mr. Nitsch shared that time is a huge concern, the time for extended dialogue is not a luxury right now in order for us to be ready this fall. Elizabeth Williams, questioned the Excel Classes. Mr. Holzman shared that there is a slight misunderstanding of the Excel vs. the gifted and talented or enriched. We will continue to offer curriculum for students who are learning at a high level such as with accelerated math. How we identify who is enrolled in enriched or excel classes may change and we will continue to work on what will be offered at both schools. Mr. Longmeyer asked what type of deadline we have for students. Stating the sooner we continue to move forward, the better we are from a student and a staffing standpoint. Board President Dave Longmeyer asked if we can set a deadline of 2 weeks and then move forward to implement the model that has been proposed. Board members agreed with receiving a little more information regarding the proposed model and then to possibly compare to the current model. Information regarding the proposed middle school model will be presented at the next board meeting.

After some discussion and clarification regarding the proposed EL Staffing Plan for 2019-2020. On motion brought forward from the 2-25-19 Personnel Committee, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the proposed EL Staffing Plan for 2019-2020.

On motion by Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Longmeyer  
Board President