

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2024

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Stacey Soeldner. Members present were: Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Mr. Tony Vlastelica. Board member Chris Able was absent. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall, Directors, and Executive Assistant Laurie Braun.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Network connection and access to BoardBook were confirmed.

Superintendent Feil shared a brief McKinley update stating that the listening sessions are complete and discussions of what the alternative high school/program will look like. The Board also discussed they will need to select a curriculum in the coming weeks so it is ready for the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Once the curriculum is determined it will help us decide if McKinley will continue to be a Charter School. The Board will need to make a decision by fall if they no longer want McKinley to function as a charter school, this would make it official next spring.

The preliminary 3rd Quarter Reading Results were shared with the Board, again showing positive gains overall. We are waiting to get the results from two of our schools, Monroe and Washington and those results will be shared when completed. Director Eichmann provided clarification regarding the significant increase in the reading scores at Franklin Elementary. Ms. Eichmann stated that Franklin Elementary and Jefferson Elementary are full Title/AGR Schools which provides added funding for additional positions such as reading teachers and math coaches, along with smaller class sizes in K-2nd grade. Board member Vlastelica thanked the staff for their hard work and the great job they are doing.

A presentation for the LHS Baseball Field Renovation Project & Fundraising was shared with the Board by the Committee's Team Lead Andy Konkle. Mr. Konkle's presentation shared a list of current issues with our baseball field including no restrooms, no functional concession stand, deteriorating bleachers that are not up to code, poor and outdated lighting, unsafe pedestrian walkways, a public address system that does not work properly, and the drainage and maintenance issues on the field. MPSD will take official ownership of the Municipal Baseball Field property upon approval from the DNR, which is expected to be complete in the coming months. Mr. Konkle stressed the importance of community and district involvement to help get this project started so our student-athletes (currently 190 kids participating) have a facility to play and compete like other districts have. The complete turnkey project would be \$3.8 million, with a goal to be playing on the new field in 2026. Mr. Konkle stated that fundraising needs to start soon, and is requesting Board approval to begin the fundraising process, as well as, retain a commitment from the district for a cost-sharing strategy and contribution. It was also noted that part of the \$3.8 million renovation includes the sewer work that needs to be done on the property. After significant Board discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Biff Hansen to approve the fundraising campaign for the Baseball Renovation Project. Discussion continued surrounding the budgetary commitment from the district. Board member Vlastelica made a friendly amendment to the motion that would allow the district to commit a set dollar amount after a follow-up report from the committee in 6 weeks. This allows for the fundraising to begin and shows commitment from the district as well. The friendly amendment was accepted. Board President Soeldner called for a vote on the amended motion. The motion passed (4-2) with Board members Soeldner and Trask opposing.

CESA 10 Representatives John Berget, Nate Curell, and Luke Schultz shared the final report and findings of their Facilities Assessment. Mr. Berget shared the objectives of this report is for the district to create a master plan from this assessment, create a list that defines and prioritizes our facilities' needs, and develop a 1-2 year, 2-5 year, and a 5-10 year maintenance, repair, and energy management plan. The district will also need to address School Safety, EHS, and ADA-compliance issues, and will also need to develop and maintain a true Facilities Master Plan. The needs of each building's project prioritization will reflect on Safety/Health/Compliance, the lack of functional condition, return on investment, and overall project cost. The draft report presented is 265 pages long, containing photos and notes.

The report is currently 265 pages long, including photos and notes for each building site with needs and costs for 1-2 year, 2-5 year, and 5-10 year projects. The final reports for Washington Middle School and Lincoln High School are almost complete and will be shared with the Board in April. Jefferson Elementary is the target school for projects this summer. The CESA team also stressed we have a very short window to get bids for some of the more complex projects that should be completed in July 2025. CESA 10 would like to meet with the principal and the custodial staff at each building to fully understand what the final scope would be for making individual improvements at that building. Jefferson, Monroe, and Franklin Elementary schools show the least amount of immediate need for improvements but also have that major construction piece attached to their site. The report showed that Madison Elementary is in the worst condition of the elementary schools. The district will need to make some big decisions with consolidations and possibly new constructions at some of our buildings.

The middle schools' report shared both buildings are in very poor condition, the worst in the district. These buildings have a lot of asbestos in them, have very old electrical and HVAC systems, and lifts that are not working. The total project cost review shared for Wilson was \$26 million, and approximately \$30 million for Washington. The total cost to fix these buildings is approximately \$110 million, not including Lincoln, and still leaving the district with old buildings.

The CESA team shared that the next steps for the district are very important and we need to shift into developing and maintaining an up-to-date Facilities Master plan while tracking the the critical maintenance and safety projects. They suggested creating a Master Plan Facilities Planning Team to build the 1-5 year, 5-10 year, and 10-20 year MPSD Facilities Roadmap. Conversations need to take place regarding having swimming at the middle schools, and what the future of our Tech-Ed Programs should look like in a community that highlights Tech-Ed. We will also need to have conversations of where we should renovate, where we should add on, and where we should do new construction or consolidate. The CESA team will finish the report for Lincoln High School, however, they will need to include the expertise and engagement with architects.

The gentlemen from CESA will regroup with the Board in April, but in the meantime, the district will need to start looking at what this team and timeline will be. We need to be aware of the bigger picture while addressing the immediate needs of the district's facilities so we don't get further behind, while still keeping the students safe in the day-to-day operations. CESA 10 also shared there is a lot of value in community discussions after the Board has set the parameters of the Facilities Master Plan. Lengthy discussion included questions, comments, and the next steps moving forward.

Comments from Board President Soeldner included a reminder of the Spring Election and well wishes for a great Spring Break.

Future Meeting Dates include the April 9, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

On motion from Biff Hansen, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously voted (5-0) to adjourn the March 21, 2024, Special Board of Education Meeting at 8:25 p.m. (Matthew Spaulding was not present for the vote to adjourn).



Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant

---

Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner