

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2023

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:01 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Collin Braunel, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, Mr. Tony Vlastelica, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Directors, and Executive Assistant Laurie Braun.

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

On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Kerry Trask, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of the minutes from the 3-13-23 Personnel Committee, the sixteen (16) proposed Handbook revisions brought forward from the 3-13-23 Personnel Committee, the minutes from the 3-14-23 Regular Board Meeting, and the minutes from the 3-15-23 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting. Personnel Committee Chairperson Stacey Soeldner stated the catalyst for these handbook revisions were due to some items in the current handbook were vague and did not provide the clarity needed for a given situation. This prompted HR to review and make revisions to our handbook.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by Interim Director of Human Resources Mike Nault. The Personnel Report consisted of one (1) retirement, nine (9) resignations, and hiring three (3) support staff. On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Matthew Phipps, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report as presented. Mr. Nault provided a comparison of the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 staff resignations stating the numbers are similar and in the range from previous years.

On motions brought forward from the 1-10-23 Regular Board meeting, the second read of Policy 7230-Gifts, Grants, and Bequests, was unanimously approved (7-0). Director Erdmann stated the revision reflects a change of the donation dollar amount to more than \$5,000. All donations under the \$5,000 amount will be shared with the Board monthly, but will not require Board approval.

Remarks from the Board President included Ms. Soeldner asking the Board members who attended the WASB Day at the Capitol to share their experience and give feedback. Board member Spaulding stated the event was well attended by Administrators and Board members, giving them the opportunity to speak to our Legislators on the importance of supporting our schools and how they are funded. Board member Braunel shared they were able to listen to the plan the Governor is proposing and to hear comments from both sides of the aisle. Superintendent Feil shared the group was able to attend an informational session that highlighted the state's current literacy issues in many of our school districts. Board President Soeldner also shared that the joint Finance Committee will have the first of its public hearings for the state budget. This may be something the Board may want to consider attending or at least provide a written testimony on behalf of our district.

Board President Soeldner shared information regarding the Board Governance Review stating the Executive Committee began discussing this last September and how they can begin taking on some of the work that needs to be done. Superintendent Feil explained that we need to think about getting out of the silo committees and move to a systems approach model. The Board has been referencing Doug Eadie's book, "Building a High Impact Board-Superintendent Partnership" who suggests boards of our size have a Governance Committee, a Strategic & Operations Committee, a Performance Monitoring/Audit Committee, and an External/Stakeholder Relations Committee. This type of model will

enable the Board to have a deeper engagement in conducting business in our district. Mr. Feil has also made contact with Dan Nerad who is a Governance Consultant with WASB. Mr. Nerad is willing to work with our Board to help implement our new governance model for a reasonable consultant fee. Board President Soeldner stated we need to have a good plan in place, know what that plan will look like, how it will be implemented, and then present it to the full Board. The Board continued to discuss the possibility of a future Board Retreat, not being a Board of micro-managers, but working as a Board who is accountable and fully understands the work that is being done in the district.

Future meeting dates include the Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee on 3-30-23 at 4:15 p.m., the Personnel Committee Meeting on 4-10-23 at 5:30 p.m., and the next Board meeting on Tuesday, 4-11-23 at 6:00 p.m. which will also include a closed session to discuss the parameters of contract negotiations. The Board will also discuss a potential Committee of the Whole/Special Meeting on 4-12-23 or 4-19-23. Superintendent Feil will discuss with his Executive Team and will notify the Board after further discussion.

A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (7-0) by a roll call vote to move into closed session at 7:08 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following matter(s): the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of a public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes - Review of Potential Resignation Agreement. Also for the consideration of the reputational interests of a person involved in an investigation pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(f) of Wisconsin Statutes - Preliminary Factual Findings and Conclusion of the Investigation. The Board extended a brief recess before convening into closed session to allow the public present to exit the Board Room. The Board began closed session at 7:12 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session by a unanimous vote (7-0) at 7:47 p.m.

A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept the resignation agreement for Chris Dupre' as presented.

On motion from Collin Braunel, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) to adjourn the March 29, 2023 Special Board meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner