

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Professional Development Session Minutes
March 6, 2024

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education Professional Development Session was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Stacey Soeldner. Members present were: Mr. Chris Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Mr. Tony Vlastelica. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall (attending virtually), Directors, and Executive Assistant Laurie Braun. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Network connection and access to BoardBook were confirmed.

WASB Attorney Bob Butler was introduced to the Board. Mr. Butler shared that he sits as Staff Counsel and Associate Executive Director for the School Board Association. Attorney Butler was asked to provide a professional development session to the Board to discuss and clarify some of the questions and concerns surrounding Title IX and First Amendment language in our policies. Board members, staff, and community members were able to submit questions in advance they would like addressed and answered at the meeting. Mr. Butler provided a detailed overview of what Title IX is and referenced recent court cases surrounding some of the challenges school districts are facing today and the laws that apply. Other topics discussed included school clubs, gender pronouns, and curriculum. The Board actively engaged in the conversation with Attorney Butler and was able to ask candid questions and review how certain scenarios could affect our school district. The Board was also able to ask questions related to the tabled Policies; 2260-Non-Discrimination and Access to Equal Education Opportunity, 2266-Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Education Programs or Activities, and 2521-Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment.

After the conclusion of the professional development session with Attorney Butler, the Board agreed to address the three tabled policies. A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica to remove "(including gender status, change of sex or gender identity). Board member Spaulding made a friendly amendment for policy 2260 2nd paragraph to include "The Board does not *unlawfully* discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, remove (*including gender status change of sex or gender identity*). Tony Vlastelica agreed to the friendly amendment. The amended motion passed (4-3) with Board members Able, Hansen and Trask opposing. The first read of Policy 2260-Non-discrimination and Access to Equal Education Opportunity with the amended language carried (4-2-1), with Board members Able and Hansen opposing, and Board member Trask abstaining.

A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding to amend the language in Policy 2266 (first paragraph) to include the same language as stated in Policy 2260, Tony Vlastelica seconded the motion. The motion for the amended language passed (4-3), with Board members Able, Hansen and Trask opposing. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica to approve the first read of Policy 2266-Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex Education Programs or Activities with the amended language carried (4-3), with Board members Able, Hansen, and Trask opposing.

A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Matthew Spaulding to amend the language in Policy 2521-Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment (5th paragraph) to reflect the same language as in Policy 2260 and 2266 carried (4-3) with Board member Able, Hansen and Trask opposing. A motion to approve the second read of Policy 2521-Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment with amended language was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and carried (4-3) with Board members Able, Hansen, and Trask opposing.

Future Meeting Dates include the scheduled March 12, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting and the March 21, 2024 Special Board of Education Meeting-CESA 10 Facilities Assessment Presentation.

On motion from Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the Board voted (6-1) to adjourn the February 27, 2024, Regular Board of Education Meeting at 6:48 p.m. with Chris Able opposing.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner