

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
March 9, 2021

A virtual regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Dave Nickels, Mr. Richard Nitsch, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Mr. Kerry Trask and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Board Member absent was Ms. Catherine Shallue.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members logged into BoardBook and verification of virtual connection to the meeting was confirmed.

A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2021 Special Board meeting.

Board President Dave Nickels acknowledged no Board communications were received.

The Board received no requests for public input at the March 9, 2021 Board Meeting.

Wilson Middle School Principal Cory Erlandson, along with Associate Principal Anna Beatty presented their School Showcase. Mr. Erlandson began by explaining the heart of Wilson's work is compiled in their core values; relationships, engagement and growth, and their mission and vision. These values signify who we are and ground us in how staff and students work together to embrace learning for all, creating effective communicators, creative problem-solvers and engaged citizens. Wilson's Leadership Team created a structure of content and house teams and also established a set of protocols that are helping to make a positive impact on student learning. The Board was able to hear accounts from three different teaching teams and how these collaborative practices are showing to be beneficial for both teachers and students. The SMART Goal set is for 80% of Wilson students be proficient in the identified power standards for quarters 3 and 4 in each of the core content areas. Associate Principal Beatty also stated there definitely needs to be a strong partnership between our school and our students' families. Parent and student engagement is essential and the Wilson team supports this through the student support teams. Mr. Erlandson and Ms. Beatty are also conducting attendance meetings when and where needed. The student's voice is crucial in these meetings to help find out the root cause of the attendance issue and any other struggles they may be having. Students also have the opportunity to participate in "WALT", Wilson Afternoon Learning Time. This provides students with a quiet study area and time for students to connect with their teachers for additional support. Mr. Erlandson also shared Wilson is conducting online parent engagement meetings that allows for 2-way communication between parents and the school. These meetings have shown to be very positive having 30-60 parents participating at each meeting. Board members had the opportunity for questions and comments.

Richard Nitsch, chairperson for the Finance and Budget Committee provided a summary from the March 2, 2021 meeting. Mr. Nitsch shared the Kupper Ratsch funds background and the list of requested funds from buildings for special projects and non-typical budget items. This item will be brought forward to the full Board for approval. The committee next discussed a new Cash Handling Policy that would provide student activity funds to be transferred to the district ledger in Fund 21. This policy will also be brought forward to the full board for the first read approval. Director of Business Services also provided a preliminary 2021-2022 Budget look, discussing enrollment projections, the start of Principal building budgets and other general considerations. In closing, the committee also discussed the upcoming referendum and Mr. Holzman stated he continues to share referendum communications throughout the community and a district-wide mailer was sent out this week to all MPSD addresses. On motion by Kathy Willis, seconded by Kerry Trask, the minutes from the March 2, 2021 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting were unanimously approved.

Chairperson Lisa Johnston shared a report of the March 5, 2021 Personnel Committee Meeting. Ms. Johnston presented a draft copy of a proposed revision to Policy 1240-Evaluation of the Superintendent that she, the Personnel Committee and board member Richard Nitsch have collaborated on. The proposed policy was also shared with the school district's attorney for any legal compliance to ensure the policy represents the best interest of the board. Attorney Burns provided some guidance with the practical application regarding Policy 1240. The policy will be brought forward to the full board for first read approval. The committee also received HR related updates that included the District in partnership with Holy Family were able to coordinate COVID vaccinations for over 300 of MPSD staff. Currently, over 400 MPSD staff have received their first or both doses of the vaccine. A huge thank you to Mr. Holzman and Holy Family Memorial for making this opportunity a reality for our district staff. An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) update was also provided from Ms. Greenwood-Aerts. The EAP program is a great benefit available to all MPSD employees. The final item discussed was the 2021-2022 school calendar. There were many things learned during the past year and the adjustments made to our calendar due to the pandemic. Ms. Greenwood-Aerts and a group of principals will continue to discuss and consider the many elements that are involved when putting together the school calendar. On motion from Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kerry Trask, the minutes from the March 5, 2021 Personnel Committee Meeting were approved.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for month ending February 28, 2021. A motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve Bill List 2-1-21 through 2-28-21. The presented Bill List reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$6,444,328.06. Ms. Erdmann also presented the financial report for month ending February 28, 2021. The financial report for the month of February 2021 was accepted as presented.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of four (4) resignations, hiring one (1) support staff, and extra-curricular stipends. On a motion by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Richard Nitsch, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report as presented.

The Superintendent and Director's Report was acknowledged and Board members had the opportunity to review, provide comments and ask questions. Board member Meredith Sauer questioned which groups Mr. Holzman has share referendum presentations with. Mr. Holzman stated the first focus group he shared this information with was all MPSD staff. He has also shared the virtual referendum presentation with 4 school parent groups, as well as boards that he serves on or participates in; Progress Lakeshore, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and Rotary. Mr. Holzman also had the opportunity to meet with Representative Tittl and continue to have conversations with other area Legislators. Mr. Holzman welcomes any suggestions of other groups or organizations to share our referendum facts with and is happy to do so. Conversation also took place regarding Categorical Reimbursement for Special Education Aide. Mr. Holzman shared there was a proposed increase in state budget for special education aide as it is not funded at 100%. To date, revisions are being made to the proposed reimbursement and school districts have not yet been made whole. Because of this, we have to supplement this shortfall of funds out of our Fund 10 Budget. An increase in reimbursement from the state would be a significant benefit to our district.

Superintendent Holzman shared public referendum sessions are scheduled with the first being Thursday, March 11th at 6:30 p.m., the second session is scheduled Tuesday, March 16th at 6:30 p.m. and the last one is scheduled Wednesday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. The public will have the opportunity to submit questions they may have regarding the referendum. These questions will be answered at the end of the session or at the next scheduled session.

Mr. Holzman happily shared that Monday (March 8th) was the first day back for students in person, 5 days per week and he was able to witness a lot of smiling faces from students and staff at Franklin Elementary. Mr. Holzman also shared that he saw approximately 80 kids at Ron Rubick Field participating in football practice, and saw the volleyball and cross country team in their practice elements as well. This is such a welcomed site within our district. We also continue to monitor the safety protocols are in place at our building to ensure the safety of our students and staff. It was also noted that the district made March 26th day a no school day for staff and students to accommodate staff in the event they would experience any side-effects after receiving the second dose of the Covid vaccination on March 25th. In doing this, April 29th will be a full school day and April 30th will be a staff development day.

On motions brought forward from the March 2, 2021 Finance and Budget Committee Meeting, the board unanimously (6-0) approved the Kupper Ratsch Funds for the 2020-2021 school year.

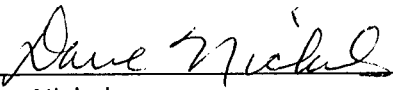
On motions brought forward from the March 2, 2021 Finance and Budget Committee Meeting the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the first read of new Policy 6630-Cash Handling and Deposits.

On motions brought forward from the March 5, 2021 Personnel Committee Meeting and after some continued discussion, the first read of revised Policy 1240-Evaluation of the Superintendent was unanimously approved (6-0) by the Board.

Future meeting dates include a Curriculum Committee meeting March 18th, an Equity Advisory Ad Hoc Committee Meeting scheduled March 25th. The Building & Grounds Committee a meeting within the next two weeks, and the next scheduled Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 23rd at 12:00 p.m.

On motion by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dave Nickels", is written over a horizontal line.

Dave Nickels
Board President