

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:00 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, 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.

Public Input began at 6:01 p.m. The Board received four (4) requests from the public to speak. The Board heard input from a student in the district who shared concerns with the GSA Club at the High School, two members of the community thanked the outgoing Board Members for their work and efforts to move the district in the right direction, and one individual shared concern for students at the high school who are outside loitering and concern for student truancy. Public Input concluded at 6:15 p.m.

On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of the minutes from the 3-29-23 Joint Meeting of the MPSD Foundation and the MPSD Executive Committee, and the 3-29-23 Special Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes.

Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for the month ending March 31, 2023. A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the Bill List dated 3-1-23 through 3-31-23. The Bill List presented reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$8,187,463.46.

The Financial Report for the month of March was also shared with the Board and accepted as presented.

The Monthly Donations List was presented to the Board consisting of one donation for Youth Apprenticeship Night from Shady Lane and a donation for the Ron Rubick Run from BayCare Clinic. No action from the Board was necessary as the donation amounts were within the parameters of district policy. The Board thanked the donors for their contribution to the district.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by Interim Director of Human Resources Mike Nault. The Personnel Report consisted of one (1) retirement, eight (8) resignations, and issuing one (1) extra-curricular stipend. Mr. Nault noted the resignation effective date for Addison Fowler needed to be corrected to 6-30-23. The Board noted the correction. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the Personnel Report with the respective correction.

Superintendent Feil shared a restructuring and staffing update acknowledging Lee Thennes will serve as the Director of State and Federal Programs and Assessments. We are still in the screening process for the Director of Educational Programs position and the Manager of Buildings & Grounds will be starting in a transitional role in the next week.

The Board next discussed the Student Art Selection and Display. Board member Kathy Willis has been instrumental in the return of the district's student art purchases. Ms. Willis has been working with the Art

Teachers and has selected art pieces from each level; one elementary, one middle school, and one high school. The students will be notified and will give the approval to sell their pieces of art. Each student will then receive \$50 for their art piece and the district will pay for the framing or cost incurred to professionally display the art piece. These pieces will be proudly displayed at the District Office as part of a permanent collection.

Superintendent Feil shared a summary of the newly launched PTO/PTA & Superintendent Advisory Group to increase parent involvement and to strengthen the voice of our parents in the district. Mr. Feil has also initiated a Special Education Parents Advisory Committee. Mr. Feil shared that Katie Eichmann has been instrumental in establishing this advisory group and is working to increase parent involvement at the special education level. Ms. Soeldner also acknowledged that Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee will continue and will be included with the other advisory committees that Mr. Feil is working with. The Board will also continue to increase the support and connection with student leadership with the Board.

Superintendent Feil thanked the Board Members, Staff, and our Community for their support to pass the Referendum. We will continue to be mindful of how we are spending district funds so we get the best results for our students. Mr. Feil expressed appreciation to the two outgoing Board members, Kathy Willis, and Collin Braunel for their dedication and efforts made to MPSD. He also welcomed the two newly elected members, Biff Hanses and Chris Able. Board member Trask also thanked Lisa Johnston for all of the hard work she has put forth to help pass this referendum and past referendums. Superintendent Feil also acknowledged we have established a platform with our Legislators on the importance of public education and to continue being advocates for our students to be in a top-tier school district.

District Activity Update included Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Jame McCall sharing a list of eleven staff members who will be participating in our Administrative Intern program starting in May and continue through next December. This is not a paid opportunity, however, the payoff will be having these individuals stay in the district and share their knowledge and talents in future years. Mr. Feil shared we have completed the 3rd Quarter of this school year and staff participated in a Professional Development Day yesterday which was led by building principals. Spring Sports are well underway and Mr. Feil recognized Coach Michael Longmeyer and Lincoln High School for receiving National Recognition as an NHSSCA Program of Excellence. This honor recognizes LHS and Mr. Longmeyer's Strength & Conditioning Program operating at the highest level of professionalism. Also recognized were four LHS students, Laci Kitzmann, Lizzy Leikam, Christina Ferguson, and Allee Bender as they participated in the Wisconsin State FCCLA Leadership Event, competing in STAR (Students Taking Action for Recognition) and bringing home two golds and a silver. Congratulations to our students, advisors, and coaches for their dedication, hard work, and accomplishments.

The SFA Update included the need to finalize the SFA contract so we can process the orders for the materials and supplies needed. The Board will not vote on the final contract but will have access to view the contract. Mr. Feil stated May 19th will be a professional development day for staff that will highlight SFA as we continue to prepare and gear up for implementation. The SFA Leadership roles will also be in place by the May 19th professional development day. Ms. McCall shared that the scheduling committee is working on middle school schedules and has drafted three schedule models. We will be evaluating these models and hope to make a recommendation by the end of this week. Ms. McCall reiterated this is the first schedule and we have the ability to make revisions to allow for better opportunities.

Remarks from the Board President included a reminder for Board members to keep in touch with what is happening in our district. Check out the district website and building social media pages, as a lot of information is being shared for upcoming activities. Ms. Soeldner thanked the outgoing Board members and welcomed the two new members that will be joining the Board later this month. Ms. Soeldner also mentioned there is a WASB New Board Member gathering at Reedsville Elementary on April 18th. This information was shared with our current and two new Board members.

Future meeting dates include setting the date for the Organizational Meeting which will be Wednesday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m. and the Special Board Meeting will follow at 6:00 p.m. or immediately following the Organizational Meeting. No other committee meetings are set at this time.

A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (7-0) by a roll call vote to move into closed session at 6:49 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 - Negotiation Parameters and Personnel Matters. The Board extended a brief recess before convening into closed session to allow the public present to exit the Board Room. The Board began the closed session at 6:58 p.m.

The Board adjourned from closed session at 8:26 p.m.

On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) to adjourn the 4-11-23 Regular Board Meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



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Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner