

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
April 13, 2021

A virtual regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 7:02 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Mr. Kerry Trask and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Board members Catherine Shallue and Richard Nitsch were absent.

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 Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the minutes from the March 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 April 13, 2021 Board Meeting.

Madison Elementary School principal Stacie Opahle presented the school showcase. Ms. Opahle shared Madison Elementary is a Kids at Hope School which means "*All Kids are Capable of Success, No Exceptions*". Each day is started with the Pledge of Allegiance and then I Matter Pledge. This helps staff and students get in the right mindset for learning. Madison has been focusing on giving and receiving feedback. Giving and receiving feedback is a great way to move student learning forward, helping them become better thinkers and questioners. Madison, Monroe and Riverview are working together with their teaching and learning practices, which applies to all areas of learning and connects to the MPSD Milestones of Success. Ms. Opahle shared how staff and students determine what is good feedback. They do this by asking, where am I going, how am I going, and where to next? They also address stuck strategies; what to do to keep moving forward when you get stuck on something, and the growth mindset, which allows us to open our mind and learn new things. All of these practices help teachers teach and students learn so they can reach their goals. Students and staff from Madison shared their own experiences of how these strategies. Ms. Opahle also shared that Madison Elementary is engaging families by sharing their weekly celebrations of learning and growth mindset opportunities on their social media page and in their weekly newsletter. Board members had the opportunity to asked questions and provide comments.

In the absence of Committee Chairperson Richard Nitsch, Dave Nickels reported on the April 7, 2021 Finance and Budget Committee meeting. Mr. Nickels shared the group discussed the referendum results from the April 6, 2021 Spring Election. It was also noted that with the passing of the \$4.3 million referendum, the District will still need to make \$1.3 million in expenditure cuts without fully knowing what our state funding will be. Mr. Nickels also shared the debt payment will end in 2024, which will help the district's financial forecast significantly contingent on there being no additional debt incurred. The Committee also discussed the recommendation from the Wisconsin Employee Relations Commission (WERC) Rate Increase of 1.23% for the 2021-2022 budget, which is the maximum for negotiations. The committee was

reminded that May 15, 2021 is the deadline for Teacher contracts. Superintendent Holzman and the Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann have already started to review and identify areas of possible budget reductions. On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the minutes from the April 7, 2021 Finance and Budget Committee were unanimously approved (5-0).

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for month ending March 31, 2021. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Meredith Sauer, and unanimously carried (5-0) to approve Bill List 3-1-21 through 3-31-21. The presented Bill List reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$6,534,210.55. Ms. Erdmann also presented the financial report for month ending March 31, 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 two (2) retirements, five (5) resignations, hiring one (1) professional staff, one (1) support staff, one (1) level movement and numerous extra-curricular stipends. On a motion by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Kerry Trask, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report as presented.

Superintendent Holzman thanked outgoing Board members Catherine Shallue and Richard Nitsch for their service on the Board and to our community. We will be welcoming two new Board members at the next meeting, Collin Braunel and Stacey Soeldner. The Board members who were elected from the April 6th Spring Election were reminded to complete their Oath of Office by the end of the day on Monday, April 26, 2021. Superintendent Holzman sincerely thanked the public for passing the referendum. The referendum passed with 59% of the communities votes during a time of many challenges. This speaks volumes from our community for the importance of our students in public education. Because of this, our district will be able to serve our students and community in a positive manner for years to come.

The Superintendent and Director's Report was acknowledged and Board members had the opportunity to review, provide comments and ask questions. Board member Nickels asked Business Director Angel Erdmann if we have received any of the CARES funding yet. Ms. Erdmann shared that we have just submitted our first claims. It's a process of the district paying for the item or service, then submitting a claim explaining how this will serve our student's and district during the pandemic. We will hopefully be expecting those funds in the next several weeks. Board member Kathy Willis also asked for clarification regarding the ESSER funding and the GEERS funding. Ms. Erdmann explained the ESSER funding was given to all school districts in the state and the GEERS funding was provided to 156 districts across the state based on Title Funding. Superintendent explained this funding is very much appreciated, however there are specific accounting responsibilities that must be met and requires additional effort from our Business Office.

Mr. Holzman next provided a return to school/district activity update and shared we are seeing very little illness within our schools, both with staff and students. We continue to follow all mitigation strategies to the best of our ability; wearing masks, social distancing whenever possible and hand sanitizing. Mr. Holzman continues to meet with district and local health officials to discuss the health of our community. This past Sunday the district welcomed over

110 families to our 4K Open House. 4K Enrollment sets the tone of enrollment for the next 13 years which is very important to our district. The student musical Schoolhouse Rock is taking place this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Due to limited ticket availability while following health protocols, a live stream link will be made available for the public to have the opportunity to view. We are excited to announce the girls' volleyball team just won sectionals, football and cross country continue in this revised season and schedule. Baseball, softball, track, tennis and golf will start next week. Our 1st-8th grade students will be taking the State Assessments in the upcoming weeks and our 9th and 10th grade students are schedule for assessments May 7th. Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences are taking place this week which shows another positive event of things getting back to a normal routine. Mr. Holzman also shared information for Board members, both current and new, to participate in some training opportunities through WASB.

Board President Dave Nickels shared information for the Association for Equity in Funding with the Board. MPSD belonged to this association years ago, however the district has not participated for the past several years. There is a fee involved and is based on the size of the district. MPSD was asked if we would like to again be a member of the association. Board members were asked to look at the organization's website and have continued discussion at a later meeting.

The Organizational Meeting date was set for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 starting at 12:00 p.m. The Special Board meeting will start at 12:30 p.m. or immediately following the conclusion of the Organizational Meeting.

Committee member Meredith Sauer provided a summary from the March 25, 2021 Equity Advisory Committee. Ms. Sauer shared the committee has set a mission statement and discussed some potential short and long-term goals. These goals are as follows: Including supporting a student diversity/equity inclusion club; Include an equity question in the interview process when hiring employees in the district; Providing a statement of support and continuation of the Derute Training; Encouraging parent engagement and involvement, and Updating the artwork in the building by adding artwork or posters of more diverse leaders. The committee also discussed the possibility of including an appointed, non-board member to be the representative of diversity in our school community. This member would be able to share input but would not have voting privileges. The committee will continue to review the goals and the possible appointment of adding a diversity representative.

Future meeting dates include a Curriculum Committee meeting April 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

On motion by Kathy Willis, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (5-0), the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary


Dave Nickels, Board President