

Manitowoc Public School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Board President Chris Able. Members present were: Mr. Chris Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Mr. Keith Shaw, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, and Mr. Tony Vlaselica. Board member Kerry Trask was absent. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Directors, and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Network connection and access to BoardBook were confirmed.

Public Input began at 6:03 p.m. Three (3) individuals submitted a request to speak. The first individual spoke on the importance of children learning to read and the importance of parental involvement to help their children master this skill. The next individual shared the importance of inclusion and a district-wide behavior plan that is used by all teachers. The last speaker thanked the Board for working with teachers and supporting public education.

There were no requests to amend the order of the agenda as presented.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board. Board members requested the following Consent Agenda Items be removed for further discussion; Items D. Monthly Financial Report, E. Payment of Vouchers, H. Out-of-State Travel Request, and I. Pupil Non-Discrimination Self-Evaluation. A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A, April 23, 2024 Organizational Meeting Minutes, B. April 23, 2024 Special Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes, C. May 2, 2024 Board Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, F. Monthly Donation List, and G. Personnel Report was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Matthew Spaulding and unanimously carried (6-0). Consent Agenda item D. Monthly Financial Report was discussed and clarified. A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Keith Shaw, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve as presented. Clarification to Item E. Payment of Vouchers was provided. A motion was made by Keith Shaw, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the payment of vouchers as presented. Item H. Out-of-State Travel was discussed expressing the huge value it has to those participating. A motion to accept the Out-of-State Travel as presented was made by Matthew Phipps seconded by Keith Shaw, and unanimously carried (6-0). Item I. Non-Discrimination Self-Evaluation was discussed and clarification was provided by Director Eichmann. Ms. Eichmann shared that this is a DPI requirement, and we are currently in our 6th cycle of the process. Lengthy discussion took place surrounding how and what data is collected and the systems and supports our district has in place. Board member Vlastelica questioned the identity politics-based language mandated by the DPI in the report, referencing what the Board adopted in Policies 2260 and 2266. Board member Spaulding made a motion to strike the words "and transgender," the motion was seconded by Board member Vlastelica. The motion did not pass with a (3-3) tie vote. Matthew Phipps made a motion to deny the entire report, seconded by Matthew Spaulding. For clarity, a vote of aye denies the report and nay, approves the report. Discussion continued with Board member Shaw asking for a call to question. Director Eichmann suggested revising the report to reflect the necessary changes as dictated by the wording the Board previously approved in the policies. Board member Phipps rescinded his motion and made a new motion to accept the report contingent on the corrections made to the document following state statutes,

removing the word transgender and reflecting the verbiage approved by the Board. The motion on the floor passed (4-2), with Board members Vlastelica and Hansen opposing.

Winona Grossman shared the Student Representative's Report including students are wrapping up AP testing and are looking forward to Prom this weekend. Student Senate has also raised over \$1200 from the John Ricke t-shirt fundraiser. Funds raised will go towards scholarships for students pursuing a career in Environmental Science. Student Senate is holding a blood drive this Friday, and members will meet with Representative Tittl in Madison at the end of the month. Miss Grossman also shared the School Board Committee is being presented with the Democracy in Action Award from the League of Women Voters for their work in organizing and conducting the election forums. The School Board Committee continues to meet, discussing topics such as, how taxpayers invest in our district, prioritizing building maintenance projects, and school culture.

Superintendent Feil provided an update of the District Priority Goals including the science of reading and how it is linked within SFA. Mr. Feil thanked our HR staff for arranging boxed lunches for staff in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week, and provided a brief update on our facilities assessment/ long-range facilities plan and the next steps.

A Central Office Update was provided by Superintendent Feil stating he will not be moving forward with the previously suggested restructuring model for Central Office, but instead proceed with our current directors with some updated roles and a traditional committee structure.

Angela Erdmann, Director of Business Services provided a 2024-2025 Budget Update including building leaders are finalizing their building budgets. The goal is to have look at the preliminary budget in July. Ms. Erdmann also shared we are exploring potential borrowing options. This will allow the district to get a head start with planning for some of the critical needs regarding capital improvement projects within the district. A facilities referendum is a possibility due to the results of the facilities assessment. The Board discussed the importance of keeping the community informed, providing options, and including them in the process.

The District Activity Update noted the week of activities at LHS, Youth Apprenticeship Awards Night tomorrow, May 15, 2024, at the Capitol Civic Centre, LHS Senior Scholarship & Awards Night May 22, 2024, the Quarter Century and Retirement Celebration Wednesday, May 29th, McKinley Academy Graduation Thursday, May 30th and Lincoln High School Graduation Friday, June 7th.

Director Lee Thennes and McKinley Principal Stephanie Boncher summarized the McKinley Charter recommendation. The Board again discussed the options presented and the rationale for the recommendation. The recommendation presented to the Board is to disband the Charter School after the 2024-2025 school year. A motion to accept the recommendation and disband the McKinley Academy Charter after the 2024-2025 school year was made by Keith Shaw, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0).

Director of Human Resources Mike Nault presented the proposed recommendation for the 4.12% Consumer Price Index (CPI) Increase for all Non-Teaching Staff and Stipend Positions; July 1, 2024 -

June 30, 2025. A motion to accept the proposed recommendation was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and carried (5-1) as presented, with Board Member Shaw abstaining.

Proposals for new LHS Science Textbook, Forensic Science, and the Math Textbook, Advance Placement Statistics were presented to the Board for adoption. A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (6-0).

The Elementary Science Curriculum, Amplify Science presentation was shared with the Board. Mr. Thennes shared the process including information from the fifteen elementary teachers who have piloted the curriculum program, and the total cost to the district for six years, including professional development, \$336,584.67. A motion to approve the adoption of the Amplify Science Curriculum was made by Tony Vlastelica, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0).

Director Mike Nault and Buildings & Grounds Manager Mike Schwarz presented a proposal for a 1.0 FTE Buildings and Grounds Clerical Position. The rationale, comparisons to other districts, and an estimated budget cost for the new position were provided. A motion to accept the proposal as presented was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (6-0).

The Rahr-West Memorial Endowment Fund was presented to the Board on behalf of the School Forest Advisory Committee. This Environmental Education Endowment Fund will be housed within the Manitowoc Public School District Foundation with the School Forest Coordinator and the School Forest Advisory Committee prioritizing projects. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Biff Hansen, and carried (4-2) with Chris Able and Matthew Phipps abstaining.

The First Read of Policy Revisions that were brought forward from the 4-23-24 Special Board Meeting were presented to the Board. Board member Hansen made a motion to move the policies listed under Agenda Item IX. F and G to the Personnel & Policy Committee, Board member Shaw seconded the motion. Director Lee Thennes provided a strategy to review and process policies in a more timely manner, noting the policies that have technical changes, policies that are considered to be a "mirroring" policy, and those policies that require more significant changes. Mr. Thennes presented an option to the Board to move the review and first read of the policies to be done at the committee level and the second/final read be brought forward to the full Board for approval. The motion to move the policies listed under Agenda Item IX. F and G to the Personnel & Policy Committee did not pass (3-3) with Board members Phipps, Spaulding, and Vlastelica opposing. Board member Spaulding made a motion to approve Policies 0151.1 Annual Board Reorganization, 0171.4 Treasurer, 7541.05 Assistive Technology and Services, and 0175 Association Memberships, Board member Phipps seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-1) with Chris Able opposing. A motion to approve Policy 0167.3 Public Comment at Board meetings was made by Matthew Spaulding and seconded by Matthew Phipps. Discussion surrounding section H within this policy, jurisdiction of the Board and what are the parameters. Mr. Thennes provided some clarification regarding the parameters question. Matthew Phipps made a motion to amend the length of time for public input from 20 to 30 minutes (letter k), Biff Hansen seconded the motion, and unanimously carried (6-0). A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding to amend the individual public input time from 2 minutes to be determined by the Board President or designee. The motion was seconded by Keith Shaw. Additional discussion surrounding the motion ensued. Board member Phipps made motion to call to question, Matthew Spaulding

seconded the call to question. A vote on the call to question carried unanimously (6-0). A vote on the motion made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Keith Shaw carried (6-0) as presented. Board member Phipps made a motion to accept the first read of policy 0167.3 as amended, the motion was seconded by Board member Spaulding and unanimously carried (6-0).

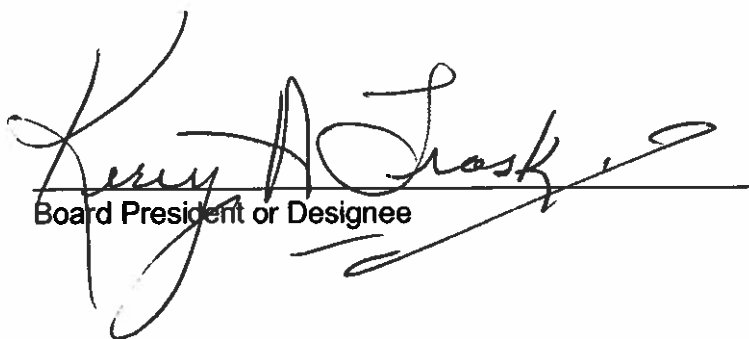
The introduction of 9 policy revisions was presented to the Board. Board President Able made a motion to move the 9 policies presented to the Personnel & Policy Committee, Board member Keith Shaw seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried (6-0).

Policy 1240-Evaluation of the Superintendent was next presented to the Board. Board President Able stated that according to this policy, we are starting the process of the summative evaluation of the Superintendent, and the process will concluded by the end of June.

Remarks from Board President Able included the correction and the clarification regarding the call-to-question process as referenced in the Roberts Rules of Order.

Future meeting dates include a tentative Board Meeting on May 28, 2024, the Regular Board Meeting June 11, 2024, the Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting May 20th at 5:00 p.m., the Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting June 3rd at 3:30 p.m., and the Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting June 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the May 14, 2024 Regular Board of Education meeting was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.


Board President or Designee

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Secretary