

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2023

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board Vice-President Matthew Spaulding at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Christopher Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, 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. Board member Stacey Soeldner was absent.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Network connection and access to BoardBook were confirmed.

On motion from Matthew Phipps, seconded by Biff Hansen, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Consent Agenda as presented, consisting of the minutes from the 5-9-23 Regular Board Meeting and Closed Session Meeting.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by Interim Director of Human Resources Mike Nault. The Personnel Report consisted of six (6) resignations, the hiring of eleven (11) professional staff, and one (1) support staff. Mike Nault made an amendment to the lane and salary amount for the 4K teacher listed to reflect Lane A and a salary of \$48,999. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the Personnel Report with the amendment stated above.

On motions brought forward from the 5-9-23 Regular Board Meeting, the second read of Policy 2261.01-Parent and Family Engagement in Title I Programs. A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the second and final read of revised Policy 2261.01-Parent and Family Engagement in Title I Programs.

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Jame McCall shared a presentation of the Assessment Recommendation. Ms. McCall stated a review team was organized to evaluate our current assessment process, to review other assessment options, and to bring forward a recommendation. The recommended assessment tool is the Fastbridge Assessment. The Fastbridge Assessment is a nationally normed Pre-K thru Grade 12 assessment that covers the math and ELA component and is also a tool for Special Education assessments. It will allow educators to have more consistency, cover all learners, and our educators will be able to collectively focus on one assessment platform which will drive our professional development. The Fastbridge Assessment will also provide a cost savings of approximately \$69,893. Ms. McCall acknowledged the benefit of the cost savings, however, the bigger benefit is we will have a system in place to monitor our growth. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0) to accept the Fastbridge Assessment recommendation.

The recommendation for the Middle School Science Curriculum was presented. The goal is to adopt a science curriculum that is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards for grades K-12. We need a curriculum that is relevant and viable, one that increases outcomes, provides sustainable materials, and a rigorous hands-on experience. Upon review of several curriculums by the Middle School Science Team, OpenSciEd is the recommended middle school science curriculum. OpenSciEd will provide our middle school students exposure to Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth & Space Science. The initial cost of the curriculum is \$7500 for supplies and teacher resources and we will budget \$3000-\$5000 for consumable materials for subsequent years. The professional development will be

conducted in-house upon completion of training for the department chairperson. Science chair Kevin Kiel noted that because this curriculum is an open education resource, it will give us the opportunity to collaborate with other school districts. A motion was made by Christopher Able, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (6-0), to adopt the OpenSciEd science curriculum for our middle school students.

Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann provided a Business and Operations update. Ms. Erdmann shared a building budget update with the goal to have the first draft of the budget to the Board by the end of June. Service contracts are being put together and insurance renewals for the 2023-2024 fiscal year are being finalized. Ms. Erdmann shared that our current Worker's Compensation carrier has issued a non-renewal notice to the district due to our high mod rate and the significant number of claims over the past few years. The district continues to put systems in place and educate our staff on how to improve managing our worker's compensation claims. Our insurance broker will be sharing new bids for our property, liability, cyber, and worker's compensation insurance carrier and coverages and we hope to have them to share with the Board by the June 13th Board meeting. Board member Phipps requested that the report of the claims be categorized by job duty/profession in the future so we have a better idea of what areas require improvement or additional training.

The Board Vice-President shared there is a WASB Summer Leadership Institute being held in July. If any Board Member is interested in attending please let the Board President or Board Secretary know to allow time for registration.

Future meeting dates include the next Board meeting scheduled for June 13, 2023, and there have been numerous notifications for Board Invitations to the many upcoming end-of-year activities including the Quarter Century & Retirement Celebration, Scholarship Night, and Graduation.

On motion from Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen the Board unanimously voted (6-0) to adjourn the May 23, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner or
Board Vice-President, Matthew Spaulding