

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
May 24, 2022

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 5:33 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, Mr. Tony Vlastelica, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Board member Collin Braunel was not present. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman, Directors, and Board Secretary Laurie Braun.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and access to BoardBook was confirmed.

At the request of Board President Stacey Soeldner and agreed upon by the entire Board, a motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve all minutes and reports from the May 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, the May 18, 2022, Special Board Meeting, the May 9, 2022 Finance & Budget Committee, the May 13, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting, the May 18, Personnel Committee Meeting and the May 19, 2022, Curriculum Committee Meeting

The Personnel Report and Addendum to the Personnel Report were presented by the Director of Human Resources, Joyce Greenwood-Aerts. The Personnel Report consisted of four (4) resignations, one (1) retirement, hiring of seven (7) professional staff personnel, three (3) support staff, and one (1) extra-curricular stipend position. The Addendum presented consisted of two (2) resignations, hiring one (1) professional staff, and one (1) support staff position. On motion from Kerry Trask, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented.

Superintendent Holzman shared a District Activity Update including tomorrow's Scholarship Night at Lincoln, the Quarter Century and Retirement Celebration next Wednesday, McKinley Academy Graduation next Thursday, and Lincoln High School Graduation Friday, June 10th. We continue to support our student musicians at their concerts and our student-athletes who are participating in the WIAA State Sporting events. Mr. Holzman also shared that our district is keeping the students, staff, and families at the Texas Elementary School in our thoughts and prayers. Mr. Holzman reiterated that safety in our district is a top priority and we will be providing support for any students or staff who may need it.

Board member Collin Braunel arrived at 5:37 p.m.

The Strategic Plan Vendor Proposal was next discussed. Board President Soeldner forwarded a copy of the two proposals received to all Board members and noted we are waiting on one proposal from School Exec Connect. The Board will review and discuss all proposals when received.

The next agenda item discussed was the Future Health Protocols and Modifications. Board member Soeldner made a motion to suspend the current 2021-22 COVID plan effective immediately.

Matthew Spaulding seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed (7-0) stating any further protocol would be brought to the full Board for review.

Policy 2240 was next discussed. Superintendent Holzman shared that NEOLA is the most used firm for policies by school districts. Policy 2240 will be forwarded to the Curriculum Committee for further review to see if any revisions need to be made and to also ensure we are compliant. Discussion continued surrounding how controversial issues are discussed and handled within our District and the option for parents to make the determination if they want their child to be part of any curriculum that may be deemed "controversial". The Committee will also discuss the process of how we will notify parents if a controversial issue is going to be discussed in the future.

On motions brought forward from the May 18, 2022, Personnel Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0), the 2022-2023 EL Staffing Recommendation, the Special Education Staffing Recommendation-Teacher of the visually Impaired, and the Work from Home Handbook Policy.

On motions brought forward from the May 19, 2022, Curriculum Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0), the Out-of-State Travel for the Football Competition in Ludington, MI, the Boys Soccer Competition in Ludington, MI, the Advanced Placement U.S. History Professional Development in Indianapolis, IN, and the Kids at Hope Masters in Phoenix, AZ.

Other Board Business included discussion of having a Consent Agenda. Board President Soeldner shared that the Consent Agenda would include all items from committees, such as recommendations, minutes, and reports. Ms. Soeldner stated that the Board would still have the ability to discuss and/or remove an item if necessary. The thought is the consent agenda would help the progression of meetings. The Board had time to provide comments and ask questions surrounding the consent agenda.

Board President Stacey Soeldner suggested having the Committee Agendas be conducted with a more collaborative effort by having the committee chair, committee members, and the Directors better communicate what is being included on the agenda. Board member Trask stated his past experience has proved that committee agenda topics have been conducted in a collaborative way and doesn't see this as a big change. Board President Soeldner shared that this isn't a big change, however, the additional discourse is a means to get more items included and presented at the committee level.

Board President Soeldner also discussed a few of the Committee assignments that are no longer active and with agreement from the Board, would like them to be removed from the District website. The committees being removed from the district website are the Employee Relations Committee (ERC), the Administrative Relations Committee (ARC), the City Recreation Board, and the Business Education Partnership Council. The Board discussed that in the future if a new committee was warranted, we could definitely create a committee at that time if it did not fall under one of the current standing committees.

The last item discussed regarding committees was the Personnel Report. Board President Soeldner suggested having the Personnel Report shared with the Personnel Committee Chairperson and if there were any questions or concerns, they could be addressed prior to sharing with the full Board. The Personnel Report would then be shared with the full Board by noon the Monday prior to the meeting and will also be included in BoardBook at that time. Significant discussion surrounding the new process took place. It was agreed that the Board's intention is not to micro-manage or "bottle-neck" the hiring process. The goal is to bring more transparency and clarification to the Personnel Report prior to it being shared with the full Board for approval. The Director of Human Resources respectfully stated that by the time a name is included in the Personnel Report, the thorough hiring process, including interview(s), reference checks, and offer of employment has already been completed. The final step would be Board approval. This process will be further discussed at the Personnel Committee level.

The Board discussed meeting times and frequency. The General Board meeting has typically been the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and there would be a fourth Tuesday Special Meeting. Board President Soeldner suggested that we have one General Board meeting and if we need a Special Meeting we could schedule it as needed. The Board did acknowledge they don't want to disrupt any Board business, but if the meetings can be streamlined it would be welcomed as long as it allows the public to have access to the meetings. The Board agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting.

Board President Soeldner addressed the agenda item of Communication. Past communications have been noted as thank you's from scholarship recipients, etc. Any correspondence received would be funneled through to the entire Board and then shared with Committees if necessary. There being no dispute from the full Board, Board President Soeldner asked for the Communications agenda topic to be removed from future agendas.

Remarks from the Board President included there are a lot of activities going on within the District. Ms. Soelner encouraged the Board, parents, and community members to participate in some of the great things going on. Ms. Soeldner also shared an update on the Interim Superintendent search, with interviews starting next Thursday. The Board will have the guidance of Joe Sheehan, our Search Firm Representative during this process as well. Mr. Sheehan will be sharing the candidate information with Board members in the next few days.

Future Meeting Dates include the Finance & Budget Committee has a scheduled meeting on May 25th. The Buildings & Grounds Committee will be meeting Thursday, May 26th, the Curriculum Committee will meet on June 21st, the Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee will meet May 26th, and the next General Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a Special Board Closed Session Meeting for the purpose of conducting the Interim Superintendent Interviews on Thursday, June 2, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Collin Braunel, and unanimously carried (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Board President, Stacey Soeldner