

Manitowoc Public School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2024

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

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

Public Input began at 6:02 p.m. Two (2) individuals submitted a request to speak. The first speaker spoke on behalf of Moms for Liberty of Manitowoc County sharing concern for the policy revisions regarding public comment at Board meetings and the importance of free speech. The second individual spoke on the importance of inclusion, student behaviors, and the importance of collaboration and communication with all staff. Public Input concluded at 6:12 p.m.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board. Board member Vlastelica requested agenda item A. May 14, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, item E. June 3, 2024, Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Minutes, item G. Monthly Financial Report, and item L. 2. Second read of Policy 0167.3-Public Comment at Board meetings, be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. Board member Phipps asked that agenda item B. May 20, 2024, Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes be removed for further discussion, and Board member Trask asked for agenda item N. LHS Textbooks Adoption be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately. Mr. Vlastelica requested the 5-14-24 Regular Meeting Minutes (page 1, 4th paragraph) be amended to read "Board member Vlastelica questioned the identity politics-based language mandated by the DPI in the report". Board member Phipps gave an overview of the 5-20-24 Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting sharing comments on the 3.5% increase in the Transportation contract and the adjustments made to the printing services bid. Board member Vlastelica requested the minutes from the 6-3-24 Curriculum & Instruction Meeting be amended to read (section V. MPSD Library Plan, second paragraph) "Tony V. expressed concern with how to keep explicit sexual content out of our school libraries and wanted this addressed in the plan". Board member Vlastelica asked for Director Erdman to provide clarity to the Monthly Financial Report regarding the loss of \$177,000 in Fund 50 for the year. Ms. Erdmann shared the projected loss was \$120,000. This was due to supply chain assistance funds being a little higher and a change in the service model. Ms. Erdmann reiterated that increased participation will be the largest driver reflecting this number for next year. Board member Shaw also asked for some clarification to the quarterly payments and statement to CESA 10. Ms. Erdmann is requesting a more detailed billing statement from CESA 10 moving forward. Lengthy discussion took place regarding the district's policy and process to approve contracts for items classified as services. Policy 0167.3 - Public Comment at Board Meetings was addressed. Director Thennes clarified that the Board has already taken action to approve the wording in Policy 0167.3 at the 5-14-24 Board Meeting, to reflect 5 minutes per person to speak and 30 minutes allotted time for public input, unless otherwise stated by the Board President or designee. A motion was made by Biff

Hansen, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the consent agenda with the amendments as noted. A motion to approve the LHS Textbook Adoption of AP Government, AP Psych, Advanced US History, and World History/US History Civics was made by Board member Trask, seconded by Board member Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0).

There was no Student Representative's Report provided at this meeting.

Superintendent Feil provided an update on the District Priority Goals, including receiving the assessments for the reading and math scores. Mr. Feil noted that there were gains in some areas and some areas saw a bit of recession, but we have met our overall target. A full report to the Board will be shared in the coming weeks, and the Facilities Team continues to work on the Facilities Plan

The District Activity update included Superintendent Feil commenting on the wonderful day for Lincoln High School's Graduation ceremony, and today the last All Admin meeting for the school year was held. It was a very well-attended and positive meeting.

The June Director's Report was shared with the Board. Superintendent Feil shared that Lisa Sink with CESA will have a piece in the Director's Report and will be included moving forward. Discussion took place surrounding the concern of the number of unfilled staff positions for the new school year. Mr. Nault also shared a brief summary from a meeting with Elevate K-12 Company and how this may be an option for us if a particular position is not filled by the start of the school year.

The CESA 6 Contract was next discussed as requested by Board Member Shaw. Conversation regarding the cost of CESA 6 to the district and tax payers noting the amount of time utilizing CESA 6 has increased significantly over the last two years. Discussion surrounding the signature and approval of the CESA 6 contract and the need to bring a contract of this dollar amount to the Board as a way to be more transparent to the Board and the taxpayers. The Board also discussed the possibility of having someone within the district help with some of the work being done by CESA 6. Superintendent Feil supported having more visibility and an open discussion with the Board regarding service contracts.

New Business Items brought forward from the 6-4-24 Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting included the Firefighter 1 Course Proposal, the 2024-2025 Emergency Nursing Services Plan, and the MPSD Library Plan. Curriculum and Instruction Chairperson shared an overview of the items being brought forward for approval. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously (6-0) carried to approve the Firefighter 1 Course Proposal as presented. A motion was made by Keith Shaw, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the 2024-2025 Emergency Nursing Services Plan presented. Board member Trask next introduced the plan for the MPSD Library Plan proposal that was brought forward by the 6-3-24 Curriculum & Instruction Committee. Tony Vlastelica requested that additional language be added to this proposal for clarity reasons to include "no grade level shall contain sexually provocative or suggestive content". The Board was reminded that this is only a proposal to authorize a plan to be developed and any comments or revisions would be referred to the committee level. A motion to authorize the MPSD Library Plan to be developed was made by Keith Shaw and seconded by Biff Hansen. Director Thennes reiterated the goal of this is to develop a plan to file with DPI that shares the vision of the district which promotes

literacy and includes guidelines for our library professionals when buying books. All that is being asked for at this point is to move forward with generating a plan. Discussion continued surrounding the creation of the proposed plan and the suggested language that should be included. A motion to call to question was made by Biff Hansen, and did not pass with a (3-3) vote; with Board member Phipps, Spaulding, and Vlastelica opposing. Board member Vlastelica amended the motion on the floor to add the language to goal 1, “no grade level shall contain sexually provocative or suggestive content”, Matthew Spaulding seconded the motion. A lengthy discussion took place surrounding the definition of provocative and suggestive and if keeping historical literature such as Romeo & Juliet is possible. The vote on the amendment failed (3-3) with Board members Hansen, Shaw, and Trask opposing. The motion was moved back to the original motion made by Keith Shaw, was voted on, and failed (3-3) with Board members Phipps, Spaulding, and Vlastelica opposing. Board member Vlastelica laid a motion on the table to reconsider the motion, Matthew Spaulding seconded the motion. The motion to reconsider passed (6-0). Mr. Vlastelica made a motion for the language to read “no grade level shall contain sexually provocative or explicit content”, Matthew Phipps seconded the motion. Discussion again took place on the definitions of provocative and explicit and how each individual may interpret them. The motion failed (3-3) with Board members Hansen, Shaw, and Trask opposing.

New Business Items brought forward from the 6-3-24 Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting included the first read of forty-four (44) mirroring policies and thirteen (13) policies being introduced with revisions. Director Thennes provided an overview of the definition of the mirroring policies and the process to move them forward for Board approval. The policies attached will reflect any new and old revisions. The Board unanimously voted (6-0) to accept the first read of the forty-four (44) mirroring policies presented and to move them to the second read. Director Thennes provided an overview of the 13 policies being introduced with revisions. The Board unanimously voted (6-0) to move the 13 Introduction policies as presented to the first read.

New Business Items brought forward from the 6-6-24 Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting: Board member Shaw provided an overview of the possible Borrowing programs. The committee tabled the \$20 million non-referendum borrowing until more information including attendance mapping, an enrollment plan, and some detailed scenarios were provided. The Board acknowledged that this is a time-sensitive topic and needs to be addressed in an informed and timely manner. The Board also discussed the importance of having community input and keeping them informed. If the Board approves the district to borrow money, Ms. Erdmann shared that it would be a 10-20 year commitment with a projected payment of 1.6 million. Discussion of whether or not to hire an architect, the timing of hiring an architect, and the scope of work the architect would provide took place. It was again reiterated that the timeline for the 2025 summer projects is getting tight and the potential for those projects not to be completed if we delay any further.

Keith Shaw shared the Lighting Bid recommendation brought forward from the 6-6-24 Finance & Facilities Committee. The Board unanimously accepted (6-0) the bid from NCLED for the Jefferson Lighting project.

The following items were discussed and brought forward from the 6-6-24 Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting; District Camera Upgrades, IC Work-FlowSuite, and ClearGov projects. On

motions brought forward from the committee, the Board approved (5-1), with Matthew Phipps opposing, these projects as recommended.

The recommendation brought forward from the 6-6-24 Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting is to keep the Washington & Wilson pools closed for the next school year and move the heater from the Washington pool over to the Riverview Pool so it can be operational. The recommendation was accepted.

The Director of Business Services, Angela Erdman provided a Fund 46 Plan update. A motion to accept the updated Fund 46 Plan was made by Matthew Phipps, second by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0).

The Fund 46 Transfer Authorization was presented to the full Board. A motion to accept the Fund 46 Transfer Authorization was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0).

The Budget Amendments were presented to the Board. A motion to accept the Budget Amendments was made by Keith Shaw, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0).

The 2024-2025 Student Fees were presented. A motion to approve the 2024-2025 Student Fees was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0).

Future meeting dates include a potential Special Board Meeting, on Tuesday, June 25th and the Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 20th at 5:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the June 11, 2024, Regular Board of Education meeting was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (6-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Secretary



Board President or Designee