

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Mr. Tony Vlastelica. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall, Directors, and Executive Assistant 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 6:01 p.m. The Board received eight (8) requests from the public to speak. The Board heard input regarding the Rising Phoenix Program and his view of political activism on campus. Several community members spoke in support of the GSA and LGBTQIA+ groups and how it allows a safe place for these students to come. A submitted letter from a community member was read regarding questions surrounding the proposed ag2240-Controversial Issues in the Classroom. A recent graduate spoke reminding us that the mission of MPSD is to educate and inspire all learners. The Board also heard from a community member supporting family values and have the American Creed issued to all graduating students, and finally another member spoke in support of the purpose of schools, trust and the Parent's Bill of Rights. Public input concluded at 6:32 p.m.

On motion from Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Consent Agenda; amending the minutes to reflect Board member Kerry Task was present at the 5-23-23 Special Board Meeting Meeting.

Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for the month ending May 31, 2023. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the Bill List dated 5-1-23 through 5-30-23. The Bill List presented reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$5,622,773.05. The Financial Report for the month of May was also shared with the Board and accepted as presented. Ms. Erdman shared that the Business Office is busy with closing out the end of the 2022-2023 school year financials.

The Monthly Donations List was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Kerry Trask to accept the Donation List as presented. Board member Biff Hansen questioned if it would be the best practice to approve the donation list due to the donation list inadvertently not being included in BoardBook for the Board to review prior to the Board meeting. The original motions were rescinded. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Matthew Phipps and unanimously carried, to table the June Donation List and include it on the agenda for approval at the June 27, 2023 Special Board Meeting.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by Director of Human Resources Mike Nault. The Personnel Report consisted of thirteen (13) resignations, one (1) layoff, three (3) terminations, the hiring of eighteen (18) professional staff, two (2) support staff, and three (3) extra curricular stipends. The Board discussed getting the results from the exit surveys from staff who are leaving the district. Mr. Nault shared he will be evaluating the exit survey data collected by School Perceptions and will share this information with the Board in the coming weeks. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the Personnel Report. An Addendum to the

Personnel Report was also presented to the Board, consisting of one (1) professional staff resignation. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (6-0) to accept the Addendum to the Personnel Report as presented. Mr. Nault provided a brief summary of what is happening from a district standpoint with WECAN and the current number of vacancies we have in our district. Mr. Nault will update the Board of the vacant positions in the District as we navigate through the summer months.

Superintendent Feil shared a Strategic Plan Update stating the team continues to work on and define the metrics we will use. We also continue to collect the trending data and will be selecting what template we will use to communicate that data to the Board and the public.

The District Activity Update included the district will be moving to the original food service program prior to Covid regarding the breakfast plan. Breakfast will still be available to those students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Mr. Feil acknowledged the wonderful graduation ceremony at Lincoln High School and congratulated the Ships Baseball Regional Team for being Regional Champions. Mr. Feil also reported that some of our 8th grade students are participating in the Washington DC trip which is part of our Social Studies Program.

A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the annual WIAA Membership Renewal for Lincoln High School for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Out-of-State Travel Request for the Spanish Live Trip to Spain, June 14-30, 2023 was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the Spanish Live Trip to Spain, June 14-30, 2024.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann presented the Pupil Transportation Contract 2023-2028. A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the contract as presented. Contract clarification was provided regarding the special education student transportation.

The proposed Student Accident Insurance Policy for the 2023-2024 school year was presented to the Board. A motion to approve was made by Biff Hansen seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (6-0) as presented. The Student Accident Insurance expenditure for the 2023-2024 school year is \$8,8223, a decrease in the amount of \$2,767 from the previous year.

The district's insurance broker MC provided a Property, Liability & Workers Compensation Insurance Policy Coverage recommendation for the 2023-2024 school year. The district requested that all lines be placed out to bid for the 2023-2024 school year. On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously approved (6-0), the Property, Liability & Worker's Compensation Insurance recommendation as presented.

Superintendent Feil has submitted an Administrative Guideline for Policy 2240-Controversial Issues in the Classroom. Mr. Feil submitted his draft to our attorney for any suggested edits to keep the district in line from a legal standpoint. This policy is to be in the parameters and look out for the best interest of all students. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding and seconded by Matthew Phipps to adopt the guidelines as presented. Board member Trask suggested the draft of the administrative guideline undergo some edits before adoption, stating the district needs to show professional responsibility and provide the best education to all students through academics and extra-curriculars. The Board held significant discussion surrounding the submitted ag2240 and Board members had the opportunity to

share their view on the proposed guideline. Board member Vlastelica stated that we need to look at this guideline in the context it was intended for; Controversial Issues in the Classroom. We need to be collaborative but also mindful of the parent's rights. Superintendent Feil added that this policy is not at all intended to do anything other than what the law requires. Board President Soeldner referenced line item 5 of the policy which states all students deserve to feel welcome at school regardless of religious beliefs, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. It also states in line item 8 that controversial issues have a place in the instructional program of the district when related to the instructional goals of the course of study and when introduced and conducted properly, the content is age-appropriate, and is without bias or intent to or otherwise cause harm or disruption. All of this is included in this administrative guideline. Board member Hansen commented that this needs to be designed in a way that students and teachers feel comfortable knowing that they are in a safe place and will not be retaliated against. Board member Vlastelica asked for clarification of the administrative guidelines and asked if we should explore having a separate policy for the Student Personal and Gender Identity and get the legal advice from our attorney with Board member Trask in agreement. Board President Soeldner made a suggestion that because this is an administrative guideline, this could cover many policies we have. She proposed to vote on the administrative guidelines as presented and have administration identify the policies we currently have, make reference to these guidelines, and create additional or revise the guidelines when necessary. Board member Hansen asked if this should be brought to the Committee of the Whole as a discussion group for a more in depth look. Superintendent Feil shared that Board policies require a first and second read, however it is written in our policy that administrative guidelines do not. This guideline was brought forward to the board as courtesy for discussion and significant enough to include the board. Board member Soeldner stated she will agree to support the vote with the understanding from the Administration team that the Board would like to see how each of these will coincide with existing policies and those that we would need to adopt in the future. Board member Trask shared his disagreement and asked for this to be moved to the Committee of the Whole. Board President Soeldner made a motion to amend the current original motion on the floor to reflect approving the administrative guideline as is, but specific to the page 4; Student Personal and Gender Identity, we would adopt the guidelines but the Superintendent would not act upon until a formal policy is in place. Board member Spaulding disagreed with the amended motion and asked to move to the original motion. With no second to the amended motion presented by Ms. Soeldner, the amended motion failed. The Board voted on the original motion to adopt the ag2240-Controversial Issues in the Classroom as presented. The motion passed (4-2) with Board members Trask and Hansen opposing.

Remarks from the Board President included Ms. Soeldner confirming if any Board members would be attending the WASB Leadership Conference in July. No Board members will be attending.

Future meeting dates include the next Board meeting scheduled for June 27, 2023 at 6 p.m. Board President Soeldner and Board member Vlastelica will be virtual for this meeting. There will be no second Tuesday Board Meeting, (July 11, 2023). The Board will meet July 25, 2023 at 6 p.m. The Board agreed to have public input included on the agenda at this meeting. The August, 2023 Board meeting will have a shortened business agenda and will begin at 5 p.m. This meeting will include a strategic planning session. Stacey will have additional information at the June 27th meeting regarding the committee of the whole.

A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and unanimously carried (6-0) by a roll call vote to move into closed session at 8:16 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following matter(s): the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of a public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility pursuant to section

19.85(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes - Superintendent Evaluation Progress, Goals and Objectives, and the Superintendent Contract. The Board extended a brief recess before convening into closed session to allow the public present to exit the Board Room.

On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried, the Board to reconvened in open session at 9:41p.m. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Matthew Phipps and unanimously carried (6-0), to give a 4-½% wage increase to the Superintendent. Superintendent Feil asked for clarification of his contract. Board President Soeldner stated the Superintendent's contract goes through June 30, 2024 and the Board decided to vote on the Superintendent's contract in January as is required and done in the past.

On motion from Kerry Trask, seconded by Biff Hansen, the Board unanimously voted (6-0) to adjourn the June 13, 2023, Regular Board of Education Meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner