

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
June 14, 2022

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. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, Mr. Tony Vlastelica, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Board Member Braunel was in attendance virtually, then later arrived at 6:05 p.m. to attend in person. 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.

Public Input began at 6:02 p.m. The Board received seven (7) requests to provide public input. Due to the number of requests to speak, individuals were permitted 2 minutes to speak and respectively keep input relevant to the agenda topics of discussion. The Board read a letter from an individual who was unable to attend that shared disappointment in the Board and the details of the June 2, 2022, Executive Committee meeting. Several individuals shared their concern and disapproval of Board members requesting fobs to be allowed universal access to district buildings. One speaker shared not being in favor of using ALEC for district policies that they are not supportive of public education, and several other individuals shared concerns from the June 2, 2022, Executive Committee meeting surrounding adopting a pronoun policy and the concern with the district possibly being sued. Public input concluded at 6:21 p.m.

On motion from Board member Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Phipps, the Board unanimously approved (7-0), items included on the Consent Agenda; minutes from the May 24, 2022 Board of Education meeting, the May 25, 2022 Finance & Budget Committee meeting, the May 26, 2022 Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, the June 2, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting, and the June 7, 2022, Special Closed Session meeting. Discussion took place regarding the tree replacement plan. Buildings & Grounds Chairperson Kerry Trask stated there is no specific tree replacement policy, however, trees will be replaced when feasible or at the discretion of the district's Buildings and Grounds staff. Director of Buildings & Grounds Chris Dupre' provided clarification to Board member Braunel's question about building repair plans. Mr. Dupre' explained that many of our building repair projects do have a tentative plan, however, they come with a large price tag which will require further budgetary discussions to move any of these plans forward. Most of these large repair projects are not covered by our "normal" budget and right now we don't have the funds for them at this time. Mr. Dupre' will keep the committee and the Board updated.

Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for the month ending May 31, 2022. A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and carried with a vote of (6-1), Kerry Trask opposing, to approve Bill List 5-1-22 through 5-31-22. The Bill List presented reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$7,018,512.45. Director Erdmann also presented the monthly financial report for May 2022. The financial report was accepted as presented.

The Personnel Report, Addendum #1, and Addendum #2 to the Personnel Report were presented by the Director of Human Resources, Joyce Greenwood-Aerts. The Personnel Report consisted of eleven (9) resignations, hiring of eleven (11) professional staff personnel, three (3) support staff, three (3) level movements effective the 2022-23 school year, and extra-curricular stipend positions. Addendum #1 presented consisted hiring of two (2) professional staff, and two (2) support staff positions. Addendum #2 consisted of hiring one(1) professional staff personnel. On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Matthew Phipps, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report and Addendums as presented.

Superintendent Holzman shared a District Activity Update including trips for our middle-school students going to Washington DC and our music students who are currently in Hawaii to perform and do some sightseeing. Mr. Holzman also shared that starting Monday we will start to see hundreds of kids participating in our Summer school program, with the activities section for our K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grades, our student-athletes fitness and weight training, APEX Learning, and some students participating in credit recovery. Superintendent Holzman thanked Jason Bull who will be assisting with summer school in the absence of Stacie Ophahle who is leaving the district.

Board President Soeldner next asked for the approval of the Interim Superintendent contract. On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Interim Superintendent Contract for Mr. James Feil was unanimously approved (7-0). The Board commented on how informational and positive the search and interview process was. Board President Soeldner next asked for a motion and second to accept the resignation of Superintendent Jim Feil effective June 30, 2023. The reason for this is to allow the district to bypass the statutory renewal process and to honor the commitment of the one-year contract that was offered to Mr. Feil. A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried to accept Jim Feil's resignation effective 6-30-2023 for the reason previously stated. Board President Soeldner welcomed and announced Mr. James Feil as the Interim Superintendent of the Manitowoc Public School District.

Board member Stacey Soeldner next announced that the Board does not need to move into closed session to discuss the Strategic Plan Vendor Bids and asked for a motion and a second to move the discussion to unfinished business. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (7-0). The Board had the opportunity to review and engage in discussion regarding the three proposals, one from WASB, one from Brett Norell Healthcare Solutions, and one from School Exec Connect. In order to have more clarity regarding the proposals, the Board agreed to schedule an interview or Q&A session with each company to answer any further questions we may have before making a decision.

On motions brought forward from the 5-25-22 Finance and Budget Committee meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the 2022-2027 Transportation Contract. Discussion and clarification surrounding the insurance liability coverage within the contract. On motions also brought forward from the 5-25-22 Finance and Budget Committee, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the 2021-2026 OPEB Actuarial Contract.

The Board next addressed items discussed at the 6-2-22 Executive Committee meeting. The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to start the process of creating Committee shared folders. Jason Bull will serve as the liaison, and the District's IT Coordinator and Board Member Braunel will meet to discuss how we will proceed with the structuring of these folders. The Board acknowledged that each committee's chairperson will be managing said information in their particular folder.

The Board next addressed the FOBs being issued for Board of Education Members upon completion of a background check that was brought forward from the 6-2-22 Executive Committee. Significant discussion took place, with Board member Matthew Phipps asking to call the question. Board President Soeldner asked for a vote for the issuance of FOBs being issued to Board Members upon completion of a background check. The motion passed (4-2-1), with Board members Braunel and Willis abstaining and Board member Trask opposing.

The final item brought forward from the 6-2-22 Executive Committee Meeting was the Inclusion of the Personnel Committee Chairperson in the hiring process of all Director Positions until the Interim Superintendent is hired. The Board unanimously approved the process (7-0) as previously stated.

Remarks from the Board President included social media discussion regarding the consent agenda and the process of the consent agenda. The Board also welcomes the community at committee meetings and if necessary offers alternative access or accommodations to meetings with a 24-hour notice. Board President Soeldner thanked the community for coming to meetings and for sharing public input. The Board will continue to address and discuss controversial topics and have a meaningful dialogue. Board President Stacey Soeldner thanked Superintendent Holzman for his service to MPSD.

Future Meeting Dates include the Personnel Committee will be meeting Wednesday, June 15th, Joint Personnel and Finance & Budget Committees meeting on June 15th, a Finance & Budget Committee meeting on June 15th, and a Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for June 21st. The Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee will meet on June 16th and a Special Board of Education Meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, June 28th at 6:00 p.m. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will discuss a future meeting date.

A motion to adjourn was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Secretary

  
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Board President, Stacey Soeldner