

Manitowoc Public School District  
Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
June 25, 2024

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Board President Chris Able. Members present were: Mr. Chris Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, and Mr. Kerry Trask. Also present were Superintendent Feil, Directors, and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Board members Keith Shaw and Tony Vlastelica were absent

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

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board consisting of a Personnel Report. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (5-0), accepting the Personnel Report as presented.

A Three-Phase Facilities Improvement Plan was presented to the Board. Superintendent Feil stated the information being provided is a follow-up from the last Board meeting with the goal being to elevate the level of understanding of the condition and capacity of our buildings, as well as acknowledge this is a time-sensitive matter. Board member Hansen requested that this information be shared at the committee level and that the committee bring a recommendation to the full Board. Superintendent Feil shared an overview of options including the option of moving from 6 to 5 elementary schools. This would mean the district would repurpose one building and decommission two elementary buildings that require the most repair. This would create \$1 million in savings each year that could be utilized to cover maintenance in other buildings. The information shared would create Jefferson Elementary as a model school, making the necessary upgrades with the work to begin in the summer of 2025. John Berget from CESA 10 stated the assessment information included is not only their observations but also input from staff, administration, contractors, and compliance concerns. Mr. Burget provided an overview of each phase and the reasoning for supporting option 1. The Board held significant discussions regarding how are we communicating this to the public, the fact that historically Manitowoc has been known as a neighborhood school district, and what are the options for our other buildings in need of repair.

Directors Lee Thennes and Katie Eichmann provided additional information from an instructional lens stating the goal is to provide our students with a safe and optimal learning environment while operating our district in a fiscally responsible and efficient manner. In 2001 we had 5700 kids and currently, we have 1000 fewer students and we are operating in the same way with fewer students. The district needs to determine if it is in the best to consolidate efforts around some of our schools. When we answer this, we can then have a vision of what our district's roadmap for success will be. Mr. Thennes provided a clear snapshot of the current enrollment and capacity of our district. We also need to engage our transportation company in the conversation when discussing consolidation and any route changes, and finally we will need determine what the overall savings the district would have if we decided to consolidate schools. The example presented for comparison purposes was to decommission Madison and Jackson due to having the biggest need for repair and to recommission Stangel which is a large capacity school. Mr. Thennes provided the projected enrollment, the number of sections per grade level at each school, and the efficiencies of operating as a three-section model. Mr. Thennes also made reference to the AGR schools which requires us to keep those class sizes smaller.

Director Katie Eichmann shared information after discussions with Steve Roekle from Bradt buses indicating there would be a very minimal impact to our transportation routes or costs with a proposed change in school boundaries. This information would also be communicated with families so families would not be excluded. Discussion regarding students with IEP's and what that would look like was also discussed. It was also noted that our community is seeing growth in the west/southwest region. Protecting the boundaries in these areas could allow MPSD to be a more viable option for those students to enroll in MPSD. The district would also be able to allocate its resources more efficiently by having fewer sites to provide services at.

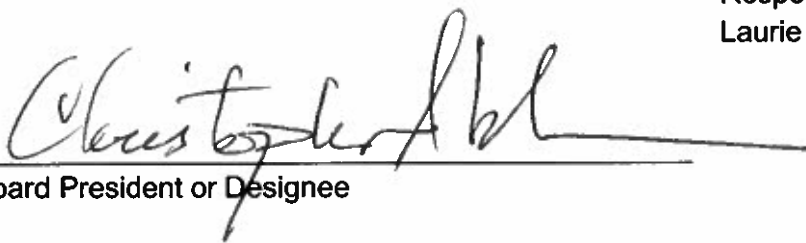
The district has the space available that will allow students to have an optimal learning environment while utilizing 5 buildings. This recommendation would afford the district to operationally save \$1 million each year. It was acknowledged these are tough conversations and tough decisions to make, but we also have a responsibility to our taxpayers. The Board continued with the discussion surrounding declining enrollment and the information presented this evening. The Board agreed that this information needs to be shared with the public so they can also have the time to process the information and have the necessary discussions. It was acknowledged that having 21st-century learning facilities, along with good PR communication would be a means to attract families and staff to our district. It was noted that the choice to do nothing is not an option, but rather what work will we do and what is the cost.

No remarks from the Board President were shared.

Future meeting dates include the Personnel & Policy Committee Meeting, on July 1, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., the Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting on July 1, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., and possibly scheduling another Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting before the August meeting.

A motion to adjourn the June 25, 2024, Special Board of Education meeting was made by Matt Phipps, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Board Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher A. Blum", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Board President or Designee