

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2023

Board President Stacey Soeldner addressed the Board and asked Board Vice-President Matthew Spaulding to chair the meeting. The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board Vice-President Matthew Spaulding at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Chris Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner (attending virtually), Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Mr. Tony Vlastelica (attending virtually). Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall (attending virtually), Directors, and Executive Assistant Laurie Braun.

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

On motion from Kerry Trask, seconded by Matthew Phipps, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Consent Agenda including the minutes from the 6-13-23 Regular Board Meeting. The minutes from closed session were not included in this consent agenda and will be included on the July 25, 2023 Board Meeting agenda for approval.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by Director of Human Resources Mike Nault. Mr. Nault provided an update of the positions that currently need to be filled and the status of where the district is at with the interview process for these positions. The Board also discussed some of the Administrator resignations. Mr. Nault noted he will be sharing an updated report of resignations and retirements from this current school year in comparison to past years at the August Board meeting. The Personnel Report consisted of four (4) resignations, the hiring of seven (7) professional staff, and three (3) support staff. The Personnel Report also included the number of Administrator and Teacher vacancies currently in the district. An Addendum to the Personnel Report was also presented to the Board, consisting of one (1) professional staff resignation and the hiring of two (2) support staff. Board Vice-President Spaulding asked for a motion and second to vote on the Personnel Report and the Addendum together. A motion was made by Tony Vlastelica and seconded by Stacey Soeldner. Mr. Nault provided clarification surrounding the licensure for the new Elementary Principal at Monroe and the Associate Principal position at Lincoln High School as requested by Board member Able. Mr. Nault stated these two individuals will have a one year Administrator License, Board Requested. A motion to divided was made by Chris Able and seconded by Biff Hansen, to vote on the the two, one year Administrator Licenses, Board requested positions. The motion carried (4-3) with Board members Soeldner, Spaulding and Vlastelica opposing. The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the Personnel Report and the Addendum, minus the two, one-year Administrator Licenses. The Board next addressed the two one-year Administrator Licenses, Board Requested positions. Mr. Nault stated that if the two new administrators do not complete the required licensure, the two-year contract would be void. Board President Soeldner suggested that moving forward the Board be updated on the status of any credentials that need to be completed. A motion to approve the two-year contracts for the two, one-year Administrator License, Board Requested positions as presented was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Matthew Phipps and carried by a vote of (6-1), with Board member Able opposing.

The Monthly Donations List was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Chris Able, and unanimously carried (7-0) to accept the Donation List as presented. Director of Pupil Services Katie Eichmann provided an overview of Miracle Splash donation, the items being donated and the additional support it will provide for individuals with disabilities. The James E. Dutton Foundation Grant will specifically support the enhancement of trails at the Rahr Memorial School Forest with educational signs. The grant will be forwarded to the MPSD Foundation for disbursement of funds. Board member Hansen asked if we have a list of donors that may be considered as a Special Interest Group. It was acknowledged that we do not have a current list of Special Interest Group donors, however the Superintendent has the authority to make the decision to accept or decline such donations.

The 2022-2023 AGR (Achievement Gap Reduction) End of Year Report was presented to the Board by Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall. The Achievement GAP Report (AGR) is a required report that is done twice per year. Ms. McCall stated that we currently have two schools included in this report, Franklin Elementary and Jefferson Elementary. Ms. McCall shared a summary of what AGR funds can be used for and the progress and proficiency data for Jefferson Elementary. Principal Matt Heller shared a similar summary for Franklin Elementary. Both Administrators addressed the celebration for areas of growth and the areas where we need to improve. The district will also look at these funds for next year to make some targeted decisions, primarily classroom size reduction for Kindergarten, grade 1, and possibly grade 2. We will also look at the possibility of one-one tutoring at the Kindergarten levels. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann introduced Mike Schwarz, Manager of Buildings, Grounds and provided a Buildings and Grounds Update. Ms. Erdmann shared they continue to work on the timeline for the numerous summer projects. One of the big projects underway is tuckpointing at LHS and a repair to a section of the roof. Mr. Schwarz stated that the project list is great and we have run into a few delays with contractors and a lack of employees to complete these projects. Mr. Schwarz also provided an update for the Jefferson playground project. Ms. Erdmann shared they are working on District Facility use fees, along with some comparables similar to other districts. This is being provided as an effort to keep the Board informed and also to help provide reimbursement for some of the wear and tear on our facilities. (Board member Soeldner arrived in person at 6:45 p.m.)

Superintendent Feil shared a Strategic Plan Update including information surrounding ranking of school districts in the state and where MPSD stands in those rankings. This will help provide a base reference for the start of the school year. The KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) were discussed and Assistant Superintendent Jame McCall shared some of the historical data and the importance of having clear baseline data so we know where we need to begin. Superintendent Feil provided two dashboard examples from other districts and encouraged the Board to review this information and share what is liked and what we would want to do differently for our dashboard. We continue to work on retrieving our baseline data for the KPI's so we are ready for the start of the school year. The Board discussed the information that was shared and will use this as a starting point for the August meeting.

The first item of New Business consisted of five proposals for out-of-state travel. A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Biff Hansen, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve all of the out-of-state travels as presented; the LHS Cross Country Fall Competition in Gurnee, IL in September 2023, the Music Department Travel to the MET in New York, NY in October 2023, the Music (Band/Choir/Orchestra) Travel to Chicago, IL in March 2024, the French Live Trip, Spring Break 2025, and the Music (Band/Choir/Orchestra) Trip to Hawaii, June 2026.

Lee Thennes provided a summary and the process for the recommendation of the three Text Book Proposals for Family & Consumer Science, AP English Language Composition, and Stats proposals. A motion was made by Kerry Trask, seconded by Chris Able and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the textbook proposals. These textbooks will be available for review for 30 days and will then be brought back to the Board for adoption.

The next item of new business was Student Fees. Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann provided an overview of the fee schedules for Elementary, Middle and High Schools. Student fees need to be approved annually and can be waived for those students who qualify. The only increase to the student fee schedule was the instrument rental fee. Ms. Erdmann stated our district's student fees are comparable to other area districts. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Stacey Soeldner, and unanimously carried (7-0), to approve the 2023-2024 MPSD Student Fees as presented.

Remarks from the Board President included a reminder about the WASB conference in July. Ms. Soeldner also mentioned that it was brought to her attention the importance of following policy, specifically regarding public input. We will be more mindful of the time limit of each speaker and input that contains personal attacks. The Board discussed having this topic as an agenda item so the Board review and discuss the policy and bylaws relevant to this topic.

Future meeting dates include the next Board meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2023 at 6 p.m. and will include Public Input. There will be no second Tuesday Board Meeting, (July 11, 2023). The August 8, 2023 Board meeting will have a shortened business agenda and will begin at 5 p.m. This meeting will include a strategic planning and review session.

A motion was made by Matthew Phipps, seconded by Stacey Soeldner, and passed (4-3) by a roll call vote, with Board members Able, Hansen and Trask voting no to move into closed session. The Board moved into closed session at 7:28 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following matter: 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 Contract. The Board extended a brief recess before convening into closed session to allow the public present to exit the Board Room.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:41 p.m. On motion from Matthew Phipps, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the Board voted (5-2), with Board members Hansen and Able opposing, to extend the Superintendent's contract through June 30, 2025.

On motion from Chris Able, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) to adjourn the June 27, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner