

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
June 9, 2020

A virtual regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 7:01 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Dave Nickels, Mr. Richard Nitsch, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Ms. Elizabeth Williams, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Members absent, Ms. Catherine Shallue

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members logged into BoardBook and verification of virtual connection to the meeting was confirmed.

A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Elizabeth Williams, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2020 Special Board Meeting.

Board members acknowledged communications received; thank you cards from student scholarship recipients. Superintendent Holzman also shared a letter of communication regarding the Fleetwood Drive property that is owned by MPSD. After lengthy discussion the Board agreed to have this as an agenda item at the next Board meeting for continued discussion.

The payment of vouchers was presented by Director of Business Services, Shawn Alfred. A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Meredith Sauer, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve Bill List 5-1-20 through 5-31-20. This Bill List reflects district operating expenses and district payroll, for a total operating expense of \$5,656,461.07. Mr. Alfred also provided the financial report for the month ending May 31, 2020 and shared a brief summary that included the final Equalization Aide payment will be received in June and the balance of contract payment for teachers will also be distributed June 30th. Mr. Alfred also noted that June is the end of our fiscal year. The financial report was accepted as presented.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of one (1) retirement, three (3) resignations, and hiring twelve (12) professional staff personnel, two (2) support staff personnel and four (4) staff lane movements. On a motion by Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Richard Nitsch, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented. Board member Lisa Johnston questioned the status of the exit interviews. Ms. Greenwood-Aerts shared exit interviews were sent out approximately 3 weeks ago and continue to be sent as any resignations are submitted. The response rate is around 30%. Ms. Greenwood-Aerts also shared employees who reached 25 Years of Service and those that retired in the 2019-2020 school year were recognized this past week. Due to COVID related restrictions, the banquet was not allowed this year but Directors and Administrators congratulated those individuals and delivered their plaques and notes of appreciation. The 2019-2020 acknowledged 17 staff members reached the 25 Years of Service with MPSD and 26 staff members retired. Congratulations to those dedicated MPSD staff!

Superintendent Holzman acknowledged the Superintendent and Director's Report. Board members had the opportunity to review and ask questions. The Board had further discussion of the Equity and Social Responsibility topic in the report. Superintendent Holzman reiterated MPSD was identified as having a disproportionate number of EBD students that identify as Black. We need to look at this district-wide and what our roles and responsibilities are teaching culturally responsive behaviors and culturally sensitive learning, and how to bridge those gaps. As a district, it is important that we look at our policies and practices through the lens of equity. More information will be shared in future weeks.

Mr. Holzman addressed the MEA Teacher contracts topic and some of the language that was added by the recommendation of the School District's attorney. Since then, the District has again met with the MEA group and the discussed the rationale as to the reason for the change. Superintendent Holzman provided the opportunity for Board members to ask any questions, none were brought forward.

Superintendent Holzman provided a Return to School Update and what staff returning to our district buildings may look like. The fact that there are no required guidelines to direct us, compels us to utilize the recommendations from the CDC and our local and state Health Departments. We are working on protocols to get our 12-month employees back to their respective buildings. The next element is opening our buildings and grounds to students that have an interest in participating in co-curricular activities. We are creating protocols that would safely allow this to happen using the guidelines we currently have. The next category is what will it look like for school in fall? The current statistics will dictate how we will do this. If there is still a high level of community spread, the start to the fall school year may be a virtual one. However, we know that virtual learning is not the same as in the classroom face-to-face learning with staff and students. Protocols will be in place if we are able to return to school with face-to-face learning, and only if it is safe for our students and staff to do so.

A District Activity Update was shared with the Board by Superintendent Holzman. Mr. Holzman reported that student materials have been delivered to their residence with the assistance of our district aides and Brandt Buses. Lincoln High School has coordinated times for district property drop-off and yearbook pickup this week. We have also got a jump start on building cleaning and are diligently working on getting the PPE materials we need to make returning to our buildings safe.

The Use of District Facilities, Policy 7510 was discussed and shared with the Board. Our district needs to evaluate how we can allow outside organizations to use our district buildings and facilities. In the past, our facilities have been open to outside organizations for a variety of uses, boy/girl scouts, sporting events, etc. The ability to monitor outside organizations to use our facilities and follow the current guidelines that will be in place will be a huge challenge. The Board agreed to evaluate the policy and possibly modify it to allow use based on the guidelines that are in place and allowable to outside agencies when deemed appropriate and safe. The Board agreed to have this topic brought back to the next Board meeting for further discussion.

Superintendent Holzman also provided a CARES Act Update where he indicated the MPSD is ranked 17th in the state among all of the school districts in Wisconsin and will be receiving an estimated \$830,000 with approximately \$75,000 earmarked for parochial schools. This funding is to help schools with additional expenses caused by the COVID pandemic such as, PPE supplies, additional medical or technological support and other costs directly related to the crisis.

Future meeting dates discussed included the Personnel Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020 and the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting scheduled Friday, June 12, 2020. Curriculum Committee will be meeting Tuesday, June 16, 2020 and the Finance and Budget Committee is scheduling a meeting within the next week.

On motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels
Board President