

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
July 28, 2020

A virtual special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 12:06 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 Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2020 Special Board Meeting and the July 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Board President Dave Nickels acknowledged the thank you cards received from Scholarship recipients and the correspondence from parents regarding the fall school model. Board President Nickels reminded Board Members that if replying to any correspondence, you are doing so as an individual and not as a full Board.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Meredith Sauer reported on the July 21, 2020 meeting. Ms. Sauer reported that future agenda items will be identified as informational, for discussion or for decision making. A summary of data collected from parents and students through the School Perceptions survey was shared with the committee. The survey showed the work and dedication of MPSD staff through the distance learning this past spring. It also showed the gaps in the Distance Learning model. This data will be shared with building principals and will also be linked on the MPSD website. Ms. Sauer also reported on the revised 2020-2021 School Showcase slideshow template, along with the schedule of school presentations. The committee also agreed to meet regularly on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 6:00 p.m. starting August 20, 2020. On motion from Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the minutes from the July 21, 2020 Curriculum Committee meeting unanimously carried (6-0), as presented.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of one (1) retirement, two (2) resignations, hiring four (4) professional staff personnel, one (1) support staff, three (3) technology ambassador stipends and two (2) level movements. Board member Dave Nickels questioned how the stipend positions will be paid this school year. Director Greenwood-Aerts clarified that if the positions are limited or non-existent, depending on what school model we will be, the district has the ability to amend that stipend agreement. Board member Lisa Johnston question the status of the exit interviews.

Ms. Greenwood-Aerts shared the participation for completing the exit interviews is approximately 60%. On a motion by Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report as presented.

A Return to School Update was provided by Superintendent Holzman where he shared a presentation of our return to school plan, and the data and criteria used to develop this plan. The return to school collective commitments focused on people first, equity for all, focus on learning, data-driven decision and collaboration. Mr. Holzman also provided an overview of the staff and parent survey results, regional health data and where we are now. The recommended start to the school year will allow families to choose between full distance learning or a blended learning model consisting of face-to-face and distance learning. It was also noted that our ultimate goal is to return to 100% face-to-face learning. Moving forward, the district will review multiple health data sets on a weekly basis while consulting with county and state health officials to determine if and when we can safely move to a 100% face-to-face learning, or would need to revert to full distance learning. The return to school presentation also included the safety protocols that will be in place when returning to school. Staff screening protocols, student temperature checks before the start of school, wearing of masks by staff and students, social distancing protocols by reducing class sizes. Creating a healthy environment with enhanced cleaning and disinfecting practices, increasing building ventilation, physical plexi-glass barriers in public spaces, restricting visitor entries and continued communication by the district is also a significant part to the return to school. The district continues to have conversations with Brandt Buses regarding transportation. Board members engaged in extensive discussion regarding the recommended blended model and had the opportunity to ask questions. A motion was made by Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Richard Nitsch, to move forward with the blended model to start the 2020-2021 school year. Board member Meredith Sauer made a motion to amend the recommended blended model to include choosing 100% virtual if a student/family would choose, this motion was seconded by Kathy Willis and unanimously (6-0) approved. The original motion was amended to include the recommended model to start the 2020-2021 school year as a blended model, with the option for students and families to choose full virtual. The amended original motion unanimously passed (6-0). The Board thanked Superintendent Holzman, Directors and staff for their hard work and endless dedication to come up with the safest plan for the return to school in fall.

Board member Richard Nitsch left the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

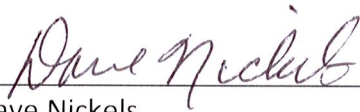
Board President addressed the Academic Achievement Gaps/Equity standing agenda item. Mr. Nickels stated this will be a standing agenda item for future meetings and proposed to develop an ad hoc Equity Advisory Committee. This committee would consist of two (2) Board members, to include the Board President, the Superintendent, one (1) student, one (1) teacher, one (1) parent of a student and one (1) community member at large. The committee's goal is how to improve and address equity in the district. A motion was made by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Kathy Willis and unanimously (5-0) carried to form an ad hoc Equity Advisory Committee.

Director Pam Lensmire presented the Academic Standards for 2020-2021. Ms. Lensmire explained this is an annual process for the Board to confirm the district follows the Wisconsin Academic Standards, along with the DPI guiding principles for teaching and learning based on research and best practices. The seven principles that MPSD uses to provide this framework are; Every student has the right to learn, Instruction must be rigorous and relevant, Purposeful assessment drive instruction and effective learning, Learning is a collaborative responsibility, Students bring strengths and experiences to learning, and Responsive environments engage learners. On motion from Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously accepted (5-0), the Academic Standards presented for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board discussed future meeting dates/referrals. The Personnel Committee has a meeting scheduled Wednesday, July 29, 2020, Curriculum Committee will be meeting August 20, 2020 and the Finance and Budget Committee will be scheduling a meeting within the next two weeks.

On motion by Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (5-0), the meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels
Board President