

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
August 10, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President Dave Nickels. Members present were: Mr. Collin Braunel, Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Kerry Trask and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun.

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

A motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Meredith Sauer, and unanimously carried (7-0), to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Board President Dave Nickels acknowledged communications received by the board which included thank you cards and letters from Lincoln High School Scholarship recipients.

The Board received fourteen (14) Requests to Provide Public Input. Four of those requests were from individuals who were unable to attend; Mr. Jon Levendusky, Ms. Rebecca Abler, Ms. Donna Firman and Ms. Jenna Poff. Mr. Nickels will share these with all of the Board members. Those who were in attendance and did speak were Ms. Sulynn Moore speaking about CRT/Equity and not in support of Derute Training. Mr. Gene Weyer spoke of concerns surrounding equity, education standards and Derute Training. Ms. Marilyn Weyer spoke of CRT concerns, Derute Consultants, test scores and behavior problems. Mr. Dave Soeldner shared the possible ways to settle the misunderstanding of CRT and the negative appearance of our affiliation with Derute Consultants. Ms. Patty Marquardt shared her support of Superintendent Holzman and the District during this difficult year and not being in support of the disruptive Concerned Citizens group during board meetings. Mr. Ryan Hansen spoke of being in favor of universal mask wearing in our schools with the increase cases of COVID-19 (Delta variant). Mr. Tim James spoke on behalf of the families with children who have health issues and have an increased vulnerability to COVID-19; what is our safety plan for the return of school. Mr. Tim Reis spoke regarding his disapproval of a mask mandate and mandatory vaccinations for students. Mr. Aaron Bailey shared his support of the school district and encouraged the District to not let the fear tactics influence the Board members and Administrators. Ms. Sonia Vasquez spoke of her experience attending Lincoln High School, the importance for students to learn about all history, ethnicities and backgrounds.

Finance and Budget Committee Chairperson provided a brief summary of the June 14, 2021 meeting. The meeting's focus was to provide an overview of school finance. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments. On motion from Meredith Sauer, seconded by Kathy Willis, the minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting were unanimously (7-0) approved.

Personnel Committee Chairperson Kerry Trask shared a summary of the July 12, 2021 Closed Session Meeting and the August 2, 2021 meeting. Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments from both meetings. On motion from Stacey Soeldner,

seconded by Meredith Sauer, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the minutes from the July 12, 2021 Closed Session Meeting. On motion by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the board unanimously approved (7-0) the minutes from the August 2, 2021.

Buildings and Grounds Chairperson Lisa Johnston reported on the August 6, 2021 meeting. Ms. Johnston shared the committee met at Franklin and viewed the water damage to the basement at Franklin Elementary. The committee also discussed the out of state Cenergistic Training Director Chris Dupre and Energy Specialist, Richard Peterson will be attending. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. On motion by Kerry Trask, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the minutes from the August 6, 2021 Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for month ending July 31, 2021. A motion was made by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve Bill List 7-1-21 through 7-31-21. The presented Bill List reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$5,534,646.48. The decrease in payroll is reflects the fewer number of teaching staff included in this month's payroll.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of three (3) resignations, hiring five (5) professional staff; four (4) replacement and one (1) new position, and three (3) support staff positions. An Addendum to the Personnel Report was also presented including two (2) resignations, hiring three (3) professional staff and five (5) support staff. Discussion followed regarding the addendum and the timeliness of getting the information to the Board. Ms. Greenwood-Aerts explained, this is not what we do routinely, but only when warranted. HR continues to fill teaching and other staff positions before the start of the school year. As explained in the Board Workshop, the WASB Attorney mentioned this is not an uncommon practice, particularly at this time of year. Ms. Soeldner asked if this could be addressed at a future committee meeting. On motion by Kathy Willis, seconded by Stacey Soeldner, the Personnel Report was unanimously approved (7-0). On motion by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Stacey Soeldner, the addendum to the Personnel Report was approved (6-1) with Collin Braunel opposing.

Annually the Board recognizes the Board's legal counsel. Superintendent Holzman and the Board recognized Bob Burns with Davis Kuelthau Attorneys at Law, and Mary Gerbig with Buelow Vetter Buikema Olson Vliet, LLC for our Special Education support needs.

Director of Pupil Services Joanne Metzen provided the Seclusion and Restrain Report for the 2020-2021 School Year. Ms. Metzen shared the numbers are down due to the pandemic and distance learning. Ms. Metzen also shared staff completes the required Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training and practices the protocols required by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The total number of incidents of Seclusion and Restraint for the 2021-2022 school year was 23.

2021-2022 Covid-19 Protocols was the next agenda item for discussion. Superintendent Holzman stated we will continue to use hand sanitizer, provide feedback to families and staff on any positive cases, and work with our district nursing staff to follow the mitigations strategies

we have in place. Mr. Holzman articulated that we will continue to have conversations with our local Health Department and monitor the health status of our community and be prepared to pivot at any time based on the needs of our community and our health. Board members acknowledge that it is unlikely for the community to agree whether to wearing a mask or not wearing a mask it the correct thing to do. A decision regarding mask requirement will not be made at this time, however the District will continue to monitor the health in our community and discuss this at the next Board meeting. The District's priority is to keep kids safe in our schools and learning in our classrooms.

The Superintendent and Director's Report was acknowledged and Board members had the opportunity to review, provide comments and ask questions. The Board member Soeldner thanked the Directors for the detail provided in the report.

A District Activity Update was shared by Superintendent Holzman sharing Teacher Leaders will be attending professional development this Wednesday and Thursday at the UWGB Manitowoc Campus. August 16-20th begins New Teacher week, welcoming new teachers to the district with their mentors for training. Fall extra-curricular activities are underway with over 400 students participating in activities before the start of school. We will welcome all staff back August 24th, with a staff welcome back rally at Rubick Field. We continue to register kids for school daily, seeing more virtual enrollment at the high school level than the elementary level. August 30th is the first day of school and we are very excited to welcome kids back in our buildings!

New Business items brought forward from the Personnel Committee, Superintendent Evaluation Process and Procedure (July 12, 2021). Meredith Sauer made a motion to support the document as presented, Stacey Soeldner seconded it. Discussion took place with Dave Nickels making a motion to amend the original motion reflecting revising some of the language in the document presented; "will", "testimony" and sections addressing closed session. Meredith seconded the amended motion, with unanimous Board approval (7-0).

The Additional School Counselor Position brought forward from the August 2, 2021 Personnel Committee Meeting was unanimously approved (7-0).

Future Meeting Dates were discussed. Finance and Budget, September 1, 2021. Curriculum Committee August 16, 2021, and the next Board Meeting is scheduled August 24, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

On motion by Meredith Sauer, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels, Board President