

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
August 11, 2020

A virtual regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 7:05 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Richard Nitsch, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Ms. Catherine Shallue, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman and Board Secretary Laurie Braun.

Member absent: Ms. Elizabeth Williams

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 Catherine Shallue and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2020 Special Board Meeting.

Board President Dave Nickels acknowledged any communications received by the Board.

Personnel Committee Chairperson Lisa Johnston reported on the July 29, 2020 Personnel Committee meeting. Ms. Johnston shared discussion for additional custodial and nursing staff for the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID19. The Committee also revisited the School Forest Overnight Payment that was sent back to committee from the June 23, 2020 Board Meeting. The proposed payments were revised to reflect a 20% increase. Employee facial coverings protocols were also discussed. Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts communicated the protocols are subject to change upon recommendations from the CDC and local and state health departments. New Teacher Week will take place the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>, however any meetings and professional development will be held virtually. On motion from Meredith Sauer, seconded by Richard Nitsch, the minutes from the July 29, 2020 Personnel Committee were unanimously (6-0) approved.

In the absence of Director of Business Services Shawn Alfred, the payment of vouchers was presented by Superintendent Mark Holzman. A motion was made by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve Bill List 7-1-20 through 7-31-20. This Bill List reflects district operating expenses and district payroll, for a total operating expense of \$5,163,928.94. No financial report was provided for July pending the completion of the audit.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of one (1) retirement, one (1) resignation, hiring four (4) professional staff, three (3) support staff and two (2) level movements. As requested by the Board, clarification was provided for how the additional positions will be funded, through the CARES Act dollars, as well as the status of filling the vacant staff positions and an explanation on the level movements.

On a motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (6-0) the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented.

Superintendent Holzman presented the annual recognition of the MPSD's Board counsel; Davis Kuelthau Attorneys at Law, and Buelow Vetter Buikema Olson & Vliet, LLC. Mr. Holzman briefly explained the rationale for said services and the possible scenarios the district would need to utilize counsel.

The Superintendent and Director's Report was acknowledged. Board members had the opportunity to review and ask questions. A question was asked regarding the childcare proposal at the McKinley Building. Discussion also took place in reference to our collaboration with the County Health Department and the matrix or indicators we would use if the need to close a school should arise. Also discussed in length was the plan to connect with our special education students with IEP's. Director of Pupil Services, Joanne Metzen confirmed individualized plans are in place to accommodate these students to help assist them both virtually and in a blended model. Accountability for student attendance with virtual learning model was also discussed. Superintendent Holzman confirmed we have plans in place to hold students accountable for attendance and engaging in virtual learning.

A Return to School update was provided by Superintendent Holzman. Mr. Holzman shared that last Friday was the deadline for families to choose which learning model they would prefer for their student(s). We have received replies from approximately 4000 of the 5000 families, with about 20% of those students requesting 100% virtual learning. Those who have not yet replied were sent another notification to submit their choice and if not returned by the end of the day today, August 11, 2020, their student would be placed in the blended model. We continue to work with staff who wish to teach solely in the virtual model and those who choose to teach in the blended model, and then organize students and families to fit these parameters. Superintendent Holzman also articulated that a FAQ sheet grouped by elementary, middle school and high school will be shared with families to help with some of the return to school questions they may have. Staff will also receive a FAQ sheet to assist with any questions they may have for the start of the school year. Buildings and Grounds continues to work on installing hand sanitizer stations, cleaning of buildings and obtaining the necessary PPE supplies for the start of the school year. We continue to work with Brandt Buses regarding student transportation accommodations who are in the blended model of a.m. and p.m. instruction. The District also continues to collaborate with our local and state Health Departments to monitor the status of our district's health criteria to make sure we are on track with our back to school plan.

The standing agenda items, Academic Achievement Gaps and Equity was again discussed. Board member Dave Nickels addressed a possible concern of how do we reach students in this category in a virtual model. Superintendent Holzman explained that we need to do our due diligence and reach out to these students and families to help get them engaged.

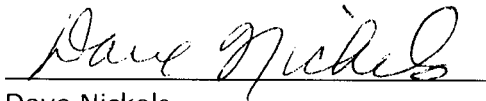
On motions brought forward from the July 29, 2020 Personnel Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (6-0), the Proposed Staff Additions Due to COVID19. The Board also unanimously approved (6-0) the Proposed Payment for School Forest Overnights that was brought forward from the July 29, 2020 Personnel Committee Meeting.

Board member Kathy Willis brought up the status of bringing public input back to board meetings during this virtual time. It was suggested to reach out to the District IT Department, other school districts or WASB to possibly get some suggestions how we could incorporate this back into our board meetings.

Future meeting dates discussed included the Curriculum Committee has a meeting scheduled August 20, 2020 and Finance and Budget Committee has scheduled a meeting for August 25, 2020.

On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Richard Nitsch, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels  
Board President