

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
August 25, 2020

A virtual special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 12:01 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Dave Nickels, Ms. Meredith Sauer, Ms. Catherine Shallue, Ms. Elizabeth Williams 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 verification of virtual connection to the meeting was confirmed.

A motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (6-0), to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Board Member Richard Nitsch joined the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Meredith Sauer reported on the August 20, 2020 meeting. Ms. Sauer shared a Middle School update that included in-depth discussion regarding the blended and virtual models. Middle School electives were also discussed in length including the online electives that will allow those students to stay on track with some of the electives such as music. The committee also discussed the 10 Commitments, which help define the expectations of teachers and students, and the communication between teachers and parents. Ms. Sauer also shared the plan for "Focusing Forward" which explains how the district is making a commitment to help students close any gaps that may exist from distance learning that ended the 2019-2020 school year to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The professional development schedule and the assessment calendar were also reviewed and discussed by the committee. The Board unanimously approved (7-0) the minutes from the August 20, 2020 Curriculum Committee meeting as presented.

Director of Business Services Shawn Alfred presented the 2019-2020 unaudited financial statements. Mr Alfred shared that the 2019-2020 fiscal year end audit was conducted on August 11th and 12th, and the official audited financial statements will be available in late November/early December. Mr. Alfred provided an overview of the 2019-2020 balance sheet and fund summary statements, and commented that required adjusting audit entries will impact the numbers presented.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report consisting of five (5) resignations, hiring four (4) professional staff personnel, three (3) support staff, and one (1) level movements. Director Greenwood-Aerts also presented an Addendum to the Personnel Report for Board members to view. On a motion by Elizabeth Williams, seconded by Catherine Shallue, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented.

A Return to School Update was provided by Superintendent Holzman. Mr. Holzman shared an amendment to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar to add three (3) teacher development days to the current scheduled in-service days. These days provide time for teachers to collaborate and make adjustments to support our students. Parent/Teacher conferences for the high school and middle schools will still take place but not in a face-to-face setting as were done in the past. It is recommended that the half days of October 14th (LHS conference day) and October 22nd (middle school conference day) be full school days for both the middle schools and the high school. On motion from Richard Nitsch, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the modifications to the 2020-2021 School Calendar were unanimously approved (7-0) by the Board.

MPSD Athletic Director Dave Steavpack reported on the move of the FRCC Fall High School Sports to the Spring, following a vote of the superintendents and administrators of member schools. This decision was based on the concern and safety of student athletes, coaches, trainers and others affiliated with the teams due to COVID-19. These sports include football, boys soccer, cross country, girls golf, girls tennis, girls swim and dive and girls volleyball. Additional details on the FRCC plan will be release as developed.

Further return to school discussion took place regarding the procedure in place for teachers who request to teach 100% virtual. Director of Human Resources and Superintendent Holzman addressed questions from the board and reviewed the procedure under the current learning model that is in place. Mr. Holzman also informed the Board that the Department of Public Health and DPI decided not to release the anticipated matrix for school districts to use as guidelines. We continue to have conversations with our County Health Department to establish the measures we would use if the need to close a school or the district.

Board President Dave Nickels acknowledged there is no new information to share regarding the Ad Hoc Equity Advisory Committee and hopes that once school is in session we will be able to form this committee to address some of the equity concerns we have discussed at prior meetings.

Director of Pupil Services Joanne Metzen provided the Seclusion and Restraint Report for the 2019-2020 School Year. It was noted the information is based on 3 quarters of the school year due to the move to distance learning as a result of COVID-19. The total of incidents of seclusion and/or restraint was 186. The total number of students involved in seclusion incidents was 25 and the total number of students involved in restraint incidents was 26. The report also shows the total number of students with disabilities involved in seclusion and/or restraint was 47.

On motion from Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously accepted (7-0) the \$22,000 donation for LHS Athletics from Mr. & Mrs. Bill Buchholz.

On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (6-1), Dave Nickels opposing, to move the Superintendent's Contract discussion to a closed session setting at a future Board meeting date.

Board Secretary Laurie Braun reminded Board members of the upgrade to BoardBook starting September 1, 2020. Information will be shared with Board members as it is received.

On motion by Richard Nitsch, seconded by Kathy Willis, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Dave Nickels
Board President