

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
August 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board Vice-President Collin Braunel at 6:03 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner (attending virtually), Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Tony Vlastelica (attending virtually), and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Interim Superintendent James Feil, Directors, and Board Secretary Laurie Braun. Board member Kerry Trask arrived at 6:13 p.m.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and access to BoardBook was confirmed.

Public Input began at 6:04 p.m. The Board received eight (8) requests to speak and one request for a letter to be read in the absence of a letter to the number submitted. Individuals were allowed 5 minutes each to speak and to respectively keep input relevant to the agenda topics of discussion. Public Input included concern for Board Member etiquette and social media posts, Board response, concern for controversial issues, lack of support for the LGBTQ students and their safety in the classroom, gender pronouns, budget shortfall with referendum consideration to support the future success of MPSD, concerns with unfettered access to school buildings for Board members, comments thanking the Board for doing a good job, making budget presentations easier to understand, MPSD staff concerns with fob access for Board members and following district policies, lack of support for our MPSD educators from the current Board, and in conclusion, a letter read from a public member who could not be present regarding the gender dysphoria and transexual discussion in the classroom. Public input concluded at 6:34 p.m.

On motion from Board member Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Kerry Trask, the Board unanimously approved (7-0), items included on the Consent Agenda; minutes from the July 26, 2022, Special Board of Education meeting and the minutes from the August 3, 2022 Finance & Budget Committee meeting.

Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for the month ending July 31, 2022. A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Matthew Phipps, and carried (6-1), to approve Bill List 7-1-22 through 7-31-22 with Kerry Trask opposing. The Bill List presented reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$3,998,908.43. Due to the audit, there is no monthly financial report for the month of July. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments regarding the Bill List for the month of July.

The Personnel Report and an Addendum to the Personnel Report were presented by the Director of Human Resources, Joyce Greenwood-Aerts. The Personnel Report consisted of eight (8) resignations, the hiring of five (5) professional staff personnel, and two (2) support staff. On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Matthew Phipps, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report as presented. The Addendum consisted of three (3) resignations, hiring two (2) professional staff, and one (1) support staff position. On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded

by Kathy Willis, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report Addendum as presented. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts provided clarification on the Personnel Report to the resignation date as 6-9-22, stating this was the last day worked by the individual. Ms. Greenwood-Aerts also stated that although we have seen resignations at this point in time, it is much higher than in years past. Currently, there are 12 vacant teaching positions, which does not include paraprofessional or support staff vacancies. Ms. Greenwood-Aerts also reiterated that there is a teacher shortage and the turnover we are experiencing is not specific to our District but is being experienced by many districts throughout the state.

Director of Pupil Services Joanne Metzen presented the 2021-2022 Seclusion and Restraint Report, along with a detailed summary. Ms. Metzen shared that we have staff members trained in every building for non-violent crisis techniques. Staff are prohibited from using a seclusion or a restraint technique unless someone is in clear, present, and imminent risk to the physical safety of students or others. Ms. Metzen also explained these incidents are taken very seriously and involve a principal and/or emergency team members. The necessary and required forms are completed and parents are notified. The total number of incidents of Seclusion and Restraint for the 2021-2022 School Year was 126 which is significantly less than in past typical years.

Interim Superintendent James Feil shared a District Activity Update including yesterday all Administrators participated in a welcome back Luncheon and comradery. Mr. Feil has met with all building principals and associate principals and met with the mentoring group for our new incoming staff. Next week starts New Educator Week and today our district office is serving as a polling location for the Fall Partisan Primary Election for District 5 in the City of Manitowoc. We also welcomed Mary Lofy-Blahnik as our new HR Director and thanked Joyce Greenwood-Aerts for her dedication to the MPSD HR Department and District for the past six years. Lastly, some of our staff participated in mentor training and Administrators worked with Cathy Clarksen from CESA 6.

Brett Norrell with Healthcare Solutions provided a summary and outline for our Strategic Plan and the next steps. Mr. Norell and Interim Superintendent Feil met to discuss what the process will look like with a goal to launch in January 2023. A survey will be launched to the Board to gather feedback. A survey will then be shared with MPSD leadership, educators and staff to gather their feedback which will be compiled and shared with the Board in late September. The next step is to survey the community to get their feedback, and then in October, we would provide a general draft framework of the plan developed from all of the information received from the surveys. In November we would hold sessions to get feedback on the framework of the strategic plan from the Board, Superintendent and Directors, Principals and Teachers, and other Staff. A draft plan for final feedback would be presented to the Board in December with the final Strategic Plan presented at the January 10, 2023 Board meeting. A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (7-0) to adopt the timeline and scope of the Strategic Plan as presented.

On motions brought forward from the 8-3-22 Finance and Budget Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the 2021-2022 Budget Adjustments. Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann provided an overview and explanation of the adjustments involved.

On motions also brought forward from the 8-3-22 Finance and Budget Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the computer purchase provided through the ESSER Funding. Ms. Erdmann reported that as with all Federal funding, we are required to spend the money according to the requirements, fill out necessary forms and applications and submit to the state for reimbursement.

Remarks from the Board President included Ms. Soeldner thanking the public for coming and those who provided public input and hoped that the Strategic Plan update that was shared this evening answered some of the questions the Board has received from the public. She encouraged teachers to please reach out to their Principal, Board member, or another staff member regarding any student, staff, or other safety concerns. In closing, Ms. Soeldner also apologized for the live streaming issue at the last meeting. The issue we have been experiencing are not intentional and know that we continue to work at making improvements regarding the live streaming of our meetings.

Future Meeting Dates include the Curriculum Committee meeting scheduled for August 16th at 5:00 pm, the Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee meeting this Thursday, August 11th, and the Finance & Budget Committee will meet at 4:00 pm on August 17th. The next Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23rd at 6:00 pm. The Buildings and Grounds Committee, Personnel and the Executive Committee will also be discussing a future meeting date.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Kerry Trask, and unanimously carried (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner