

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Chris Able, Mr. Biff Hansen, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kerry Trask, and Mr. Tony Vlastelica. Also present were Superintendent James Feil, Directors, and Executive Assistant Laurie Braun.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Network connection and access to BoardBook were confirmed.

Public Input began at 6:01 p.m. The Board received three (3) public input requests with the first requestor sharing the importance of purchasing American made products personally but also for our schools. The second speaker shared concern with the district not participating with CEP and the impact this has on many families, and the third speaker spoke of concerns with inappropriate books and reading material in our schools and the importance of reevaluating some of these materials. Public input concluded at 6:16 p.m.

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board. At the request of Board President Soeldner, the Designation of Youth Options Coordinator will be removed from the Consent Agenda, and at the request of Board member Hansen asked to removed the Personnel Report from the consent agenda. Both will be discussed in further detail under the Superintendent's Report. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Biff Hansen and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve the minutes from 8-22-23 Special Board Meeting and the 9-5-23 Special Board Meeting, and the Payment of Vouchers Bill List 8-1-23 to 8-31-23.

The Personnel Report was discussed with Board Member Hansen asking for clarification surrounding the error with the teacher contract. Director of Human Resources Mike Nault shared the details surrounding the error and that he reached out to our district's legal counsel Jim Macy. Attorney Macy directed the district to issue the teacher a contract correction. Mr. Nault stated a new contract will be issued upon approval of the Board. The Board requested that a corrective action plan be put in place to prevent this from happening in the future. A motion was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica and unanimously carried to approve the Personnel Report as presented. The Designation of Youth Options Coordinator was discussed. Director Lee Thennes stated annually the Board designates and approves an individual to lead the Early College Programming. A motion was made by Chris Able, seconded by Biff Hansen and unanimously carried (7-0) to approve Micah Hoffman as the designated Youth Options Coordinator.

A District Activity Update was next provided by Superintendent Feil. Mr. Feil encouraged the Board and our community members to visit our school websites for a current list of events and athletic activities. Mr. Feil also shared the airing of an NBC26 interview that took place regarding a past employee's concern with SFA and SFA Facilitator Angela Schardt's perspective on SFA. Mr. Feil also stated that he participated in a radio spot on WOMT's Be My Guest where the free lunch program question came up. Mr. Feil stated that we continue to offer free lunches for those families who are eligible. Clarification was also provided for the process when a student lunch account becomes short on funds. Director Erdmann shared that an automated message is sent to families through Infinite Campus. Ms. Erdmann also encouraged families to fill out the free and reduced application. Many times families that are eligible for free and reduced lunch are also eligible for a waiver of other district fees as well. Board member

Soeldner reminded Board members to reach out to the Directors and Administrators if they have questions regarding a certain process and if a topic needs to be further discussed it can add it to the Board agenda.

The First Read of Policy Revisions were presented for Policy 5111-Eligibility of Resident/NonResident Students, Policy 5113-Open Enrollment Program(Inter-District), Policy 5113.01-Part-Time Enrollment, and Policy 5200.01-Full-Time Student. Each Board member had the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments for each policy. The Board unanimously agreed to amend Policy 5113-Open Enrollment Program (Inter-District) Letter E to read "The Board delegates to the District Administrator the authority to determine whether or not a neighboring district can bus resident students, from within our boundaries, for attendance at the non resident neighboring district." The first read of these policies were accepted and will be brought forward for a second read at the next Board meeting, September 26, 2023.

An introduction and summary was provided for suggested policy revisions by Director of Educational Programs Heidi Schroderus and Director of Pupil Services for Policy 2260.01-Services for Bilingual Students/English Learners, Policy 2261-Title I Services, Policy 2460-Programs for Students with Disabilities, and Policy 5630.01-Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint with Students. Board President Soeldner stated this policies will be brought forward for the first read at the next Board meeting.

Director of Business Services presented the draft of the 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget. Ms. Erdmann also introduced Mike Clark from Baird who also provided information for the preliminary budget. Ms. Erdmann shared we are a low revenue district and being so were moved up to \$11,000 per student, plus an \$325 per student moving forward. The district will experience a significant increase in the private school voucher expense, which will cost the district an additional \$500,000 more than anticipated in referendum projections. The third Friday count and the aid certification will also play a big role in determining our final budget and tax levy. Ms. Erdmann explained the total revenue and expenditures are 74 million as predicted in the initial draft budget. Ms. Erdmann provided a summary of the various accounts, and what these funds will provide for the district such as projects, curriculum, etc. It was also noted that we have paid off our debt balance and are considered a debt-free district. Both Ms. Erdmann and Mr. Clark pointed out that due to the unexpected increases from the state through the biennium budget, it has provided several challenges to finalize our school budget. Budget information will be finalized on October 15, 2023. At the request of the Board, Ms. Erdmann provided three scenarios; Scenario #1 included the estimated mill rate with estimates and information to date reflecting a mill rate of \$6.41. Scenario #2 includes the mill rate with an additional \$1 million added to our levy to reflect a mill rate of \$6.65, and Scenario #3 would utilize our full revenue limit authority and reflect a mill rate of \$7.31. Significant discussion took place surrounding the three scenarios presented and the possibilities of each and how it would affect the district and the tax payer. Board President Soeldner made a motion to accept and move Scenario #1 forward as the preliminary budget, Board member Able second the motion. The motion passed (5-2), with Board members Hansen and Spaulding voting no. Director Erdmann will have the preliminary budget notice published and the Board will vote to approve the preliminary budget at the October 10, 2023 meeting. The final budget will be presented for approval at the October 24th meeting.

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann presented a proposed update to our Miscellaneous Compensation Rates. These rates have not been evaluated in several years and cover a wide-range of compensation rates for various staff duties and projects, including School Forest related items. A motion to approve the Miscellaneous Compensation Rates as presented was made by Board member Able, seconded by Board member Trask and unanimously (7-0) carried.

Superintendent Feil shared a recommendation for the Board to grant permission for fundraising to begin for the Lincoln High School Tower Restoration. Mr. Feil provided some background information how this recommendation came to fruition. This will be a multi-year campaign by alumni and the MPSD Foundation to raise funds to restore and enhance the tower. A motion to approve was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica and unanimously carried (7-0).

Remarks from the Board President included the WASB Regional Meeting falls on the same date as our Special Board Meeting, October 24, 2023. This is when we will be approving the final Budget. Unfortunately our Board member will not be able to attend the Regional Meeting. Ms. Soeldner also mentioned the Fall Legislative Conference, Saturday, November 4th where they will be discussing new reading requirements and declining enrollment. Ms. Soeldner also mentioned the School News publication and the information shared on page 25 regarding governance, accountability, a governance checklist.

Future Meeting Dates include the Special Board Meeting scheduled September 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and the Regular Board Meeting October 10, 2023.

A motion was made by Biff Hansen, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and unanimously carried (7-0) by a roll call vote to move into closed session at 8:19 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following matter(s): the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of a public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes - Superintendent Evaluation, Progress Goals and Objectives.

The Board adjourned from closed session at 9:09 p.m.

On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Chris Able, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) to adjourn the September 12, 2023 Regular Board of Education Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner