

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
September 13, 2022

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. Collin Braunel, Mr. Matthew Phipps, Ms. Stacey Soeldner, Mr. Matthew Spaulding, Mr. Kery Trask, Mr. Tony Vlastelica, and Ms. Kathy Willis. Also present were Interim Superintendent James Feil, Directors, and Board Secretary 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 seven (7) requests from the public to speak. The Board heard input regarding the lack of teacher and staff input regarding the Success for All Program and lack of proper staffing, concern with the MPSD proficiency reading levels and the number of changes being addressed within the district, and a suggestion to change the configuration of the Board Room for better sound and viewing purposes to keep the public better informed, concern with the grading system and improvement, thanking the Board for the good work they are doing, appreciation for the addressing the behavior issues, issuing key fobs to Board members is not a safety concern, and financial concern surrounding building upgrades in the district. Public input concluded at 6:34 p.m.

The Consent Agenda was next presented. At the request of Board member Collin Braunel the minutes from the 8-16-22 Curriculum Committee and the 8-18-22 Buildings & Grounds Committee were removed from the consent agenda. On motion from Board member Matthew Phipps, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously approved (7-0), items included on the Consent Agenda; minutes from the August 9, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, the August 17, 2022 Finance & Budget Committee Meeting, the August 17, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting, the August 24, 2022, Special Board Meeting and Closed Session, the August 31, 2022 Joint Finance & Budget and Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting, the September 7, 2022 Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting, and the September 7, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting as presented. Clarification was provided and discussion took place on the 8-16-22 Curriculum Committee Meeting minutes. On motion from Colling Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the minutes were unanimously (7-0) approved as presented. Clarification was also provided surrounding the 8-18-22 Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting. On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Collin Braunel, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the minutes as presented.

Director of Business Services, Angela Erdmann presented the payment of vouchers for the month ending August 30, 2022. A motion was made by Collin Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, and carried (6-1), to approve Bill List 8-1-22 through 8-31-22 with Kerry Trask opposing. The Bill List presented reflects district operating expenses and district payroll for a total operating expense of \$5,406,078.82. Ms. Erdmann provided clarification to questions on the Bill List posed by Board member Tony Vlastelica. The district Financial Report for the month of August 2022 was also

provided and accepted as presented. Ms. Erdmann also noted that due to the transition to Skyward, there will not be a full financial report in February or March of 2023. The transition to Skyward will take approximately 2-3 months and Director Erdmann will provide updates on the transition.

The Personnel Report and an Addendum to the Personnel Report were shared with the Board. The Personnel Report consisted of four (4) resignations, one (1) retirement, the hiring of three (3) professional staff personnel, four (4) support staff, two (2) level movements effective for the 2022-23 school year, and numerous extra-curricular stipends. The Addendum consisted of hiring two (2) professional staff personnel and three (3) support staff positions. On motion from Collin Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report and Addendum as presented.

On motion by Collin Braunel, seconded by Matthew Spaulding, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the designation of Lee Thennes, Principal at Lincoln High School as the District's Youth Options Coordinator. Mr. Thennes provided a summary of what this role entails and stated that this program is now known as the Early College Credit Program (ECCP).

Interim Superintendent James Feil provided an Administrative Restructuring Update and Recommendation to Pilot an Evidence-Based Comprehensive Whole School Reform Model. Mr. Feil shared that MPSD has a phenomenal staff, however, when we look at the last 5 years we see some concern with academic achievement. We do acknowledge that MPSD is a low-funded district and also know that COVID didn't do anyone any favors. Still, we also need to recognize that the curriculum is part of the issue, in particular, the Lucy Calkins reading curriculum. Mr. Feil noted that reading proficiency is critical to continued learning and future success, and shared the district's past 5 years' achievement data, and the ELA data from the past year. A lengthy discussion took place surrounding the information SFA information and a whole school reform model. The Board agreed that we need to get buy-in from our teachers and our parents and this needs to be a collaborative process that works for all students in the future. Board President Soeldner provided clarification stating we are not voting on SFA this evening, what we are doing is looking at models that will move our district in a positive direction. Ms. Soeldner made a motion to allow Mr. Feil to continue looking at SFA, along with other programs to be presented to the committee and Board so we can find what our best option is, Collin Braunel seconded the motion. After significant discussion Board member Stacey Soeldner rescinded her motion. Board member Kerry Trask made a motion to initiate a collaborative process to investigate and recommend a proven model of whole school reform for up to three pilot schools to be decided by November 22, 2022, Matthew Phipps seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Interim Superintendent James Feil shared a district activity update including LHS Senior Mason Gates breaking the current Cross Country record last week, the upcoming Homecoming and the Homecoming week of events. We have a lot to celebrate in the district and encouraged the Board members and community to get involved with the positive events going on in our schools.

Brett Norrell with Healthcare Solutions provided a Strategic Plan update including data received from the staff survey that was sent out. Mr. Norrell stated that approximately 24% of staff

completed the survey and is showing some common trends. Some of the trending concerns were social and emotional development, school safety and security, discipline, academic opportunities, and aligning jobs with pay. Mr. Norell is working with Interim Superintendent Feil to get a community survey out and also to meet one-on-one with Board members to share the information in more detail. Board member Matthew Phipps made a motion to share the information presented tonight on our District website, Collin Braunel seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried (7-0). Mr. Norrell will continue to provide updates and will plan listening sessions with teachers and staff which will provide clarification and allow for additional feedback.

On motions brought forward from the 8-16-22 Curriculum Committee Meeting and the 8-24-22 Special Board Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the second read of Policy 2240-Controversial Issues in the Classroom.

On motions also brought forward from the 9-7-22 Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting, the Board was presented with the first read of Policy 9150-School Visitors. The Board had the opportunity to engage in discussion of Policy 9150-School Visitors regarding animals being allowed on school premises. Board member Collin Braunel made a motion to amend the wording in paragraph 2 of the policy to change the language "subject to the discretion of the principal", Matthew Spaulding seconded the motion. After further review of referenced Policy 8390, the Board agreed that the motion is adequately addressed in District Policy 8390. Board member Braunel withdrew his motion. Board member Braunel also addressed the fourth paragraph of policy 9150 regarding registered sex offenders as stated in paragraph 4. After significant Board discussion, the Board will consult with our legal counsel to ensure we are within our legal parameters to make a change in wording in paragraph 4 of Policy 9150-School Visitors. The Board also discussed items 4 and 5 on page 2 of Policy 9150, referencing reasonable consent of the teacher and disruption of the classroom's learning setting. The Board unanimously approved (7-0) the first read of Policy 9150-School Visitors with the recommendation of consulting with legal counsel before making any wording change to the policy. The Board also discussed and agreed to explore implementing a policy or procedure regarding proper fob use and control by staff and anyone who is issued a fob in our district. Buildings and Grounds Director Chris Dupre will follow up to see if we already have something in place within our handbook.

Remarks from the Board President included Ms. Soeldner recognizing the passing of Jackson Elementary Principal Duane Simmons and shared our thoughts are with Duane's family and his Jackson Elementary School family. Ms. Soeldner also shared that the Executive Committee discussed the Board having a better connection with our schools. Each Board member will be designated a school with the intent to share the activities and positive things happening at our schools.

Future Meeting Dates include the Curriculum Committee meeting scheduled for September 20th at 5:30 p.m., Finance & Budget Committee on September 21st at 5:30 p.m., Buildings & Grounds Committee on September 22nd at 4:30 p.m., and the Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee on October 24th. The Personnel Committee will be scheduling a meeting in the coming weeks, and a Special Board of Education meeting will be on September 27th at 6:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, and unanimously carried (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner