

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
September 27, 2022

The special 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 and access to the internet and BoardBook was confirmed.

The Personnel Report was presented to the Board by Director of Human Resources Mary Lofy Blahnik. The Personnel Report consisted of two (2) resignations, the hiring of two (2) professional staff personnel, three (3) support staff, and numerous extra-curricular stipends. On motion from Kathy Willis, seconded by Kerry Trask, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the Personnel Report as presented. Jason Bull provided clarification on the role of the Tech Ambassador positions. Mr. Bull explained the tech ambassadors are the go-to person in their designated buildings, providing technology support for the adults/colleagues in that building.

Superintendent Feil shared a District Activity Update reminding the Board it is Homecoming week with the game taking place this Saturday. Mr. Feil also acknowledged he participated in a safety meeting last week and is impressed with the safety plan and protocols our district has in place.

On motions brought forward from the 9-7-22 Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting and the 9-13-22 Regular Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0) the second read of Policy 9150-School Visitors. Board President Soeldner reached out to WASB for legal counsel regarding the language discussed in Policy 9150 at the 9-13-22 Board Meeting. Ms. Soeldner shared the information received from WASB with the Board and noted that our policy is within the parameters of and in agreement with the information received from WASB.

Brett Norrell with Healthcare Solutions provided an update on the Strategic Plan. Mr. Norell reported the community survey has been shared and is available for the public to complete through October 7th. As of today, we have received 174 responses. Mr. Norell provided an overview of the questions asked and the responses given from the public and compared those to the responses previously received from District Administrators and Staff. The surveys are starting to show common areas of what the district is doing well and areas that need improvement. Mr. Norell did report that there is a lot of positivity surrounding the teachers and staff in the district and showed concern for retaining and attracting quality staff. Mr. Norell will share additional survey details from all of the data and draft of the pillars at the next Board meeting, October 11th. Directors, Administrators and Staff listening sessions will be scheduled in November, possibly sooner, with the goal for a draft plan to be available in December. The survey is available on our district website in English and Spanish, and the Hmong population can call for assistance if needed to complete the

survey. The survey has been communicated through our district website, local newspaper, and radio stations, and the Interim Superintendent has also been sharing the information with groups that he has been meeting with. The Board also asked if the survey could be communicated through our MPSD social media outlets.

On motions brought forward from the 9-20-22 Curriculum Committee Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (7-0), out-of-state travel opportunities for the Ships Baseball Florida Request in March 2023, and the LHS Music Staff Travel, in October 2022. Clarification was provided on how the Florida trip will be funded. Fundraising efforts are underway and it was also noted that the group is advocating for all players to have the opportunity to go regardless of their financial situation.

On motions brought forward from the 9-20-22 Curriculum Committee, the board unanimously approved (7-0), the 2022-2023 Disproportionality Plan. Director of Pupil Services, Katie Eichman noted that this is a DPI requirement and the plan presented will incorporate supports and strategies for teachers while measuring the impact on student achievement. Ms. Eichmann also shared that we are heading in the right direction with disproportionality numbers in our district and a progress update will be shared with the Board in the future.

The Board discussed the Facilities Plan vendor, brought forward from the 9-21-22 Finance & Budget Committee, recommending Nexus Solutions as the vendor. The Board asked for clarification surrounding the plan's specifications and the number of projects involved. Director of Buildings and Grounds, Chris Dupre' stated that the recommendation is to survey all of the Buildings within our district. The Board will ultimately make the decision of what projects get done and when. Nexus will assist the district with finding the contractors to use or if it is a project that can be done in-house. It was also noted that local contractors will have the opportunity to bid on any of the projects the Board decides to move forward with. The Board continued the discussion surrounding the parameters of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the contract presented. The Nexus Solutions Representative explained the Board certainly has the right to negotiate the contract and/or have district legal counsel review the contract to suggest what is in the best interest of the district. Board member Braunel made a motion to table the approval of the contract presented, Kerry Trask seconded the motion. Discussion surrounding the motion continued acknowledging time is of the essence, however, we need to be comfortable with the contract language and also financially responsible as a District. The motion to table the contract approval unanimously passed (7-0).

Also brought forward from the 9-21-22 Finance & Budget Committee, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Long-Term Capital Improvements Plan as presented. The plan will be submitted to DPI.

On motions brought forward from the 9-22-22 Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting, the School Forest Boardwalk Project was unanimously approved (7-0) by the Board. The Board commented on the wonderful opportunity this will be for our staff and students, and the enhancement this project will bring to the School Forest.

Remarks from the Board President included Ms. Soeldner echoing the activities of this Homecoming week, encouraging the community to get involved and attend some of the wonderful events our staff and students have organized and are participating in.

Future Meeting Dates include an Executive Committee on October 5th, the Personnel Committee on October 10th, Curriculum Committee on October 18th, the Finance and Budget Committee on October 19th, and the Ad-Hoc Student Behavior Advisory Committee will meet October 24th. Board members also shared the Jackson Elementary PTO will be hosting its first, hopefully annual, Fun Run on October 13th. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Duane Simmons Memorial fund. Jefferson Elementary is hosting a Math Night on October 11th and Teacher's Night at McDonald's on October 20th.

A motion was made by Kathy Willis, seconded by Collin Braunel, and unanimously carried (7-0) by a Roll Call Vote to move into closed session. The Board moved into closed session at 7:58 p.m. for the purpose of considering the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility as authorized by section 19.85(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes.

The Board was extended a brief recess before convening into closed session to allow the public present to exit the Board Room.

The Board did not reconvene in open session and adjourned from closed session at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Secretary



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner