

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
Manitowoc Board of Education  
September 28, 2021

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dave Nickels at 12:00 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Collin Braunel, Ms. Lisa Johnston, Mr. Dave Nickels, and Ms. Stacey Soeldner. Also present were Superintendent Mark Holzman, Board Secretary Laurie Braun, and Directors. It was acknowledged that Board Member Ms. Meredith Sauer would be arriving a few minutes late. Board members Mr. Kerry Trask and Ms. Kathy Willis were absent from the meeting.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members logged into BoardBook and the virtual meeting connection was confirmed.

A motion was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (4-0), to approve the minutes from September 14, 2021, Board Meeting. Collin Braunel requested for the record to reflect how members voted in the minutes. The Board granted the request.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Meredith Sauer, did not yet arrive at the meeting, Board President Nickels asked to move to the Report of the Superintendent starting with the Personnel Report. The Curriculum Committee report will be given later in the meeting.

Director of Human Resources Joyce Greenwood-Aerts presented the Personnel Report. The report consisted of three (3) resignations, hiring two (2) professional staff, eight (8) support staff, one (1) level movement, and extra-curricular stipends. On motion from Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Collin Braunel, the Personnel Report was unanimously approved (4-0). An Addendum to the Personnel Report was also presented. On motion from Lisa Johnston, seconded by Stacey Soeldner, the addendum was approved as presented (3-1) with Collin Braunel opposing.

On motion by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Lisa Johnston, the Board unanimously approved (4-0) the designation of Lee Thennes, Principal at Lincoln High School as the District's Youth Options Coordinator.

Board Member Meredith Sauer arrived at 12:06 p.m.

Madison Principal and Summer School Coordinator Stacey Opahle shared a 2021 Summer School presentation. Ms. Opahle explained the goal for the District's Summer School Program is to provide additional safe learning opportunities for students during the summer. 2021 Summer School opportunities consisted of K-12 Virtual Enrichment Programs, a new Jumpstart to 4K Program, Elementary School Academies, a new Middle School Bridge Program and Welcome Week, the High School Transition/Welcome week, and numerous Athletic opportunities throughout the summer. Ms. Opahle shared total student enrollment for Summer School was 1,620 students, with many of these individuals participating in multiple programs and learning opportunities. Ms. Opahle also reported that high school students had the opportunity to participate in a credit recovery program both online and in person. Family feedback surrounding programs provided was also shared with very positive results and some suggestions for areas to possibly enhance or make improvements to. It was noted that many families enjoyed the virtual options available to students. Staff feedback expressed summer school is a great opportunity to

build relationships with kids and a way to do things differently than the normal classroom setting. In the future, we want to offer more in-person opportunities with the flexibility of continuing virtual options as well. The District will continue to communicate with families regarding online registration and support for those needing assistance. We will continue to make improvements and look for more opportunities for summer school. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

The 2021-2022 Covid-19 Protocols was the next agenda item of discussion. Superintendent Holzman shared a community health update with our county health professionals reporting the burden rate continues to increase in our community, and the number of positive cases with our students and staff has also increased over the past couple of weeks. Currently, our burden rate is in the very high category and our school district has 24 students and 4 staff testing positive as of Friday, September 25, 2021. At this time Board member Braunel displayed a variety of masks that he purchased and provided a specification summary of each mask and how effective or non-effective each mask may be regarding Covid. Stacey Soeldner made a motion to make the wearing of masks optional for special education students, Collin Braunel seconded the motion. Discussion took place and Mr. Holzman shared that any student who has the waiver completed is not required to wear a mask, with many of these waivers coming from those students who have IEP's. Mr. Holzman reiterated this waiver has been an option and available to families/students since last year. Students who have submitted the approved waiver are allowed to come to school without wearing a mask. Dave Nickels moved to postpone the motion, Lisa Johnston seconded it. Discussion took place with Dave Nickels requesting more information be provided surrounding the masking of special education students. The request to postpone the motion was unanimously approved (5-0) by the Board and the motion will be discussed at the next Board meeting. Dave Nickels next asked for clarification surrounding quarantining, specifically regarding Covid. Superintendent explained Administration is working with teachers, discussing how can we provide the best learning instruction for students who are out of the classroom for a length of time. It was noted, this greatly depends on the grade level of the child and what topic or class is being taught. Significant discussion took place surrounding the expectations and feasibility for teachers to simultaneously teach in-person and virtually. Superintendent Holzman acknowledged the current system is not perfect and we will continue to evolve and look for ways to improve and do this better while recognizing some of the limitations.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Meredith Sauer provided a summary of the September 16, 2021 meeting. Ms. Sauer shared the Committee evaluated the update to Policy 5310-Health Services. After significant research and legal counsel, it was noted this policy is a federal requirement and the updated policy will be brought forward to the full Board later in the agenda. The committee also reviewed the Academic Standards, as requested at the 9-14-21 Board meeting. The committee unanimously agreed to approve these standards that are in alignment with DPI and will be addressed by the full Board later in the meeting. A comprehensive conversation of Math data was discussed and the 2020-21 Parent and Student Engagement Survey was reviewed.

Discussion took place surrounding some of the language within the policy, it was clarified the wording within the policy is Federal regulated and cannot be modified as directed by legal counsel. On motions brought forward from the 9-16-21 Curriculum Committee Meeting, the Board approved the first read of Policy 5310-Health Services (3-2) with Stacey Soeldner and Collin Braunel opposing.

On motions brought forward from the 9-16-21 Curriculum Meeting, the Board unanimously approved (5-0) the Academic Standards as presented.

Future scheduled meeting dates include the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting on October 1, 2021, Curriculum Committee will be meeting October 6, 2021 for a Learning Walk at Madison Elementary, Finance and Budget is in the process of rescheduling the September 22, 2021 meeting, the Ad-hoc Covid-19 Advisory Committee will be meeting October 4, 2021, Personnel will be scheduling a meeting before the next Board meeting, and the next Regular Board meeting is scheduled October 12, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stacey Soeldner, seconded by Lisa Johnston, and unanimously carried (5-0), the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Braun, Secretary

  
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Dave Nickels, Board President