

MANITOWOC PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2023

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Stacey Soeldner at 6:01 p.m. Members present were: 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. Board member Chris Able was absent.

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

Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann shared a budget update including the low revenue ceiling was increased to \$11,000 and the approved additional \$325 per pupil. Ms. Erdmann also stated along with the passing of the Operational Referendum this past April, the Board will need to review its options and make a decision on the final 2023-2024 budget. Director Erdmann also shared the estimated property valuation came in at 14.6%, much higher than anticipated. This means the projected mill rates were significantly less when considering equalized value assumptions used in the referendum. It was also noted that our district continues to have declining enrollment and the out of district voucher cost has increased from 2.5 to 3.1 million dollars, \$500,000 more than projected, all of which play a big factor in our budget. With that being said, the projected tax rate of \$7.20 is now equivalent to \$6.26 due to the circumstances presented. Ms. Erdmann will present the Preliminary Budget at the September 12, 2023 Board Meeting. Michel Clark from Baird will also be in attendance at this meeting. The Board asked Ms. Erdmann if she could provide three options for the Board to consider, that clearly shows the impact on the tax payer and the school district so the Board can make a relatable and informed decision in October when the budget is adopted.

A Capital Improvements 5-Year Plan along with an update to the CESA 10 Facility Study was presented. Manager of Buildings & Grounds, Mike Schwarz shared a document that highlighted the top ten projects that have been completed or are just about complete in the District. Mr. Schwarz added that projects projected in years four and five will most likely change after CESA 10 completes the facility study which will really drive our plan. A presentation of completed projects this summer included the Jefferson Playground and boiler replacement, heating coil replacement at Washington, tree removal district-wide, the office remodel at Madison, SFA classroom renovations, tuckpointing at LHS, roof repair at the LHS Auditorium, Business Office, Student Learning Office updates, and exterior and interior painting at the District Office. Upcoming projects include elevator maintenance at LHS and Washington, and LED Lighting. When CESA 10 completes the Facility Study (estimated completion is March 2024), the information will be shared with Directors and the Board, along with any recommendations. Board President Soeldner commented that we need to make sure that the decisions we are making are sustainable and the driving force behind those decisions is academic achievement.

Instructional Policy Review was next discussed. Director Lee Thennes provided an overview of the process for policy revisions and introduced four policies with suggested revisions. Policy 5111-Eligibility of Resident/NonResident Students, Policy 5113-Open enrollment Program, Policy 5113.01 Part-Time Open Enrollment, and Policy 5200.01-Full-time Student. Each of these policies suggested revisions were reviewed and the Board had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Discussion of Policy 5113-Open Enrollment Program (Inter-District) surrounding the Transportation portion (reference letter E. option 2) not permitting a neighboring district to bus resident students from within its boundaries for

attendance at the nonresident neighboring district. The Board asked if Director Thennes could provide a revision to this to include the Board delegating the District Administrator the authority to determine if a neighboring district can bus resident students within our boundaries to attend a neighboring district who is not a resident. Director Thennes will provide a revision for this section of the policy and share with the Board. More policies will be introduced to the Board at the next meeting and the four introduced today will be brought forward for the first read. Mr. Thennes encouraged the Board to reach out if they have any questions surrounding the suggested policy revisions.

Board President Soeldner opened discussion regarding the Governance Committee Structure. Ms. Soeldner stated we will not proceed with a Committee of the whole but rather do some of the former committee work at the special meeting in a working session. Ms. Soeldner shared that Board members can request for an item to be included on the agenda if there is a need but we would like to keep our work focused around the five pillars of our strategic plan. Board member Hansen expressed his support of the committee model to work through things so we don't have lengthy meetings like we have. Board member Trask stated that in the past the committees were driven by the administrators bringing agenda items to the meeting which didn't really facilitate a great deal of additional information and the committee members would generally follow the recommendation of the director or administrator. Mr. Trask suggested having designated people or a "Board Liaison" for each of the strategic plan's five pillars to get a greater understanding of a specific topic and share that information with the full Board. Discussion commenced surrounding the suggestion from Board member Trask. Board President Soeldner stated that we need to have a collective agenda that is driving the focus of our strategic plan. Ms. Soeldner asked if the Board would be willing to try her suggestion and we could add the Board Liaison piece for discussion. Board member Vlastelica made a suggestion that any agenda item be tied to one of our strategic plan pillars. Superintendent Feil appreciated this suggestion as it will help prioritize our work. Board President will formalize more of what was discussed today and how this might drive those topics coming from the strategic plan.

On motion from Matthew Spaulding, seconded by Tony Vlastelica, the Board unanimously voted (6-0) to adjourn the September 5, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Braun, Board Executive Assistant



Board President, Stacey E. Soeldner