

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
November 5, 2013

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Linda Gratz at 5:15 p.m. Members present were Mr. Lee Braunel, Ms. Catherine Shallue, Mr. Dave Longmeyer, Mr. Dave Nickels, Mr. Keith Shaw, and Ms. Linda Gratz. Also present were Superintendent Marcia Flaherty and Board secretary Rebecca McLafferty. Member(s) absent: Ms. Karen Rohrer

Superintendent Marcia Flaherty began the meeting by reintroducing consultant Tom Joynt to Board members. Board members enjoyed a meal and discussion before Board President Linda Gratz began the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Superintendent Flaherty said that she would like the Board to continue working toward defining a vision and mission for the school district. Rather than discarding the mission statement, Marcia wondered if Board members would like to talk about the five main components, or make revisions. She asked what was most important to board members, and what they might want to see changed. It was the consensus of the Board members that they were satisfied with the mission statement, other than perhaps tweaking a few words. It was stressed that the Board must work together to achieve the mission statement, and that the mission statement should be kept visible to Board members to ensure that their actions contribute toward it.

Keith Shaw voiced concern over the phrase “provide rigorous learning”. With large classes, he feels that rigor is often overlooked. Considerable conversation revolved around rigorous learning.

Tom Joynt appreciated the conversation and stated that the mission statement is a important to families searching for a quality school district. Conversation revolved around wording wherein “resources” does not mean specifically financial resources. In Green Bay, he used the phrase, “to maximize available resources”, which includes teachers, facilities, and all resources, and added that resources are like a moving target, constantly changing.

Superintendent Flaherty added that when we are talking about buildings and capacity, we are talking people power. She asked how we build capacity within our existing limitations. People are experiencing that to the fullest, and that often means additions to job descriptions.

Keith Shaw addressed the issue of a “safe and orderly environment”, stating that with changing demographics and additional students entering the district due to (for example) the country dropping the juvenile detention center, he is concerned about student safety. Discussion addressed alternative education for disruptive students. Keith stated that it is available, but is short term. Linda Gratz added that the same concerns exist in the lower grades.

Tom Joynt stated that rigorous learning means different things for different students. Every child won't learn the same amount, but you have to maximize the capability of each student. Superintendent Flaherty reinforced that district goals should support of the mission statement. There being no other comments about the mission statement, Marcia will get input on the mission statement from administrators and staff and revisit the matter at a later date.

Superintendent Flaherty said that Guiding Principals was to be part of the agenda, but that topic will be skipped for now. It will be monitored over time.

Tom Joynt talked about prioritization. He asked what people do about prioritization. Sometimes they do nothing, with their hands tied.

Tom designed a graph based on author Steven Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People". Tom gave an overview of the graph and referred to his handout for considerable discussion. Tom gave examples of prioritization and distributed an additional handout illustrating prioritized tasks.

Superintendent Flaherty recapped the importance of prioritizing, and thanked Tom Joynt for attending the workshop.

On motion by Catherine Shallue, seconded by Lee Braunel, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca McLafferty, Secretary

Linda Gratz
Board President