

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Manitowoc Board of Education
September 24, 2013

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Board President Linda Gratz at 12:03 p.m. Members present were Ms. Karen Rohrer, Mr. Lee Braunel, Mr. Dave Longmeyer, Mr. Dave Nickels, Mr. Keith Shaw, and Ms. Linda Gratz. Also present were Superintendent Marcia Flaherty and Board secretary Rebecca McLafferty. Board member(s) absent: Ms. Catherine Shallue

Superintendent Flaherty and Director of Human Resources Andrea Holschbach gave a presentation on the Open Meetings Law. Highlights included board powers and duties, (quorum) numbers and purpose of meetings, notice requirements, accessibility requirements, citizen participation, closed session exemptions, and legal requirements.

Discussion focused on public meetings and walking quorums. After considerable discussion, President Gratz indicated that she would research this topic further.

Director of Elementary and Secondary Education Deborah Shimanek reported that the Wisconsin DPI's District Report Card for the Manitowoc Public Schools for 2012-13 rated 65.4 points overall. Priority areas were: student achievement – 61.1 out of 100, compared to state average of 66.1; student growth 56.3 out of 100, compared to state average of 60.6; closing gaps – 60.2 out of 100, compared to state average of 66.8; on-track and postsecondary readiness of 84.1 out of 100, compared to 84.9 state average, with no deductions for test participation, absenteeism or dropout rates. It was noted that some students (for example, in IB classes) that possess high reading or math skills may not possess as much room for improvement, and tests could show negative progress with less than desired growth. Also, special education students who remain district students until the age of 21, count against the district graduation rate, as do returning GED students.

Board members expressed interest in a statewide comparison of district special education numbers. They cited that comparative numbers could assist with an analysis of test results.

When reviewing progress over a 5-year period, Shimanek noted that math scores are climbing, but reading scores need work. Reading goals will be discussed at the October Board meeting.

Shimanek discussed ways in which the district is assessing its achievement “growth gap”, by using WiseDash, addressing math and reading weaknesses, and identifying trends for groups of students.

Board member Longmeyer expressed a desire to locate school districts across the state with similar ethnic and economic characteristics, to compare test scores and progression methods. Board members agreed that such information could be of great value.

On motion by Lee Braunel, seconded by Karen Rohrer, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca McLafferty, Secretary

Linda Gratz
Board President