

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 16, 2016 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Jen Seliger at 5:30 PM in the Central Office Board Room.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Kevin Blake, Eric Geiss, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, John Smith, Maria Volpe, Linda Yingling and Jen Seliger. Board members absent: None. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Cindy Heinz, Director of Human Resources; Gerald Beyer, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education & Pupil Services; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology Integration; Dale Bergman, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor; Joan Krohn, Director of 4K/Early Childhood/Head Start; Rick Bonnell, Activities Director; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Mark Seaman, Middle School Associate Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Eric Becker, Elementary Principal; Doug Coddington, Elementary Principal; Dawn Nonn, Elementary Teaching Principal; Student Board Representatives Trevor Stadler and Rachel Rell; approximately 31 members of the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Seliger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were recognized by the Board of Education during recognition: Dale Bergman for being selected at the 2016-2017 Rural Support Staff Person of the Year by the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance; Tammy Ament for using her knowledge of technology to broaden communication with families and communities through our MAPS website and Maple Grove's Facebook page; Misty Vogel, parent and president of the Maple Grove Governance Board, for getting everyone the tools they need to process the new charter school application process; and, for spearheading a very successful chili supper fundraiser which brought in a record number of people; Timothy Osborne and the partners involved in the Bluejay Build Team Project. This partnership between Merrill High School and the Merrill Area Housing Authority brings the school's Architectural CAD and Building Construction classes together with the City of Merrill to provide meaningful, real-world learning experiences for students while providing affordable housing for the residents of Merrill. Through the partnership, the Merrill Area Housing Authority and various sponsors-- including Stratford Homes, RTL Electric, Invision and others-- provide the materials, services and funds for MHS students to build a home that, once complete, will be relocated onto a vacant city lot for the use of Housing Authority clients. It is the hope of all involved that this partnership can become an annual activity for the ongoing benefit of the students on MHS and the residents of Merrill; the Girls Volleyball Team; Coaches Kristi Krug, Deb Brunett and Janet Wardall; and, Assistant Coaches Marty Hein, Don Pyka and Casey Steffen for making it to the State Tournament; and, Melanie Hagemeister for spending significant time and effort planning the Veteran's Day program at Kate Goodrich; as well as, recruiting community members to be involved.

There were no public comments.

Trevor Stadler and Rachel Rell, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: girls volleyball went to State; National Honor Society induction, there were 14 new members; an assembly last Friday, with Merrill graduate Steven Jopek speaking; parent teacher conferences; 'Link Up' for Link Crew, was a 'thankful' link up; winter sports start tomorrow with the girls first basketball game; Thanksgiving break coming up; Peppermint is December 10; and, the choir and Messiah concert is December

4. The featured new teacher of the month was Ms. Yirkovsky, a "get to know you" interview was shared with the Board.

There were administrative reports shared with the Board including: fall MAP and PALS data; school report cards; curriculum mapping; how we are using Merrill School Improvement (MSI) Days; PRSYL monthly data; human resources report; school-based services update; monthly budget update; technology; and, the superintendent's report, which included monthly activities, Wisconsin Superintendent Leadership Symposium, Paper Tigers event and Studer Leadership.

There were a committee updates shared with the Board from the Facilities Committee, Finance-Human Resources Committee and Jay Stadium.

There was an update and review of clubs and organizations that are supported by the school district and procedures of student activity funds.

The draft Maple Grove Charter School contract was presented and reviewed by the Board.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Ratliff to approve MAPS Community 4K contracts for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Volpe to allow the construction of a 10' x 12' storage shed near the baseball field, to be donated to MAPS and be used by the baseball program at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the possible designation of Maple Grove's woodlot as a school forest and potential timber sale.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to adopt the resolution to create a catch up provision for low revenue limit per member districts. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve the creation of a Long-Range Strategic and Financial Planning Committee consisting of members of the Community Conversation Design Team and the Finance Committee. This committee will be charged by the Board with developing strategies for implementing the outcomes of the Community Conversation event. The Committee will present these strategies in a report to the full Board for consideration. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to approve purchasing the commercial time from Channel 7 News which will air during the week of December 12-18, 2016 when Merrill is featured as the "Your Town" feature. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the community conversation outcomes standing agenda item.

President Seliger asked if anyone wanted to pull anything from the consent agenda, hearing none, she called for a motion.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve consent agenda items a through d, which included: minutes of the October 19 and October 24, 2016 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,366,843.62; the personnel report, which includes the hirings of Melissa Butler, Special Education Aide at Merrill High School, effective November 2, 2016; Kathleen Becker, Special Education Aide at Pine River School for Young Learners, effective date TBD;

and, Holly Shannon, 0.5 FTE BVA Middle School Science Teacher, effective date TBD; resignations of Laurie Sarasin, effective October 24, 2016; and, Tom Koblitz, effective November 14, 2016; and, the retirement of Richard Blake, effective January 19, 2017; the following donations: a check from Church Mutual Insurance Company valued at \$500.00 for the Kate Goodrich "Let them be little" community fundraiser dance; a check from an anonymous donor valued at \$100.00 for use at Washington Elementary School; a check from Waid Funeral Home valued at \$20.00 for a book for Washington Elementary School in memory of Vicky Erickson; funds from Sandra L. Seefeld valued at \$30.00 for the Washington Elementary School fundraiser in Shelby Yates' name and \$30.00 in Merin Yates' name; funds from Marlene Yates valued at \$20.00 for the Washington Elementary School fundraiser in Merin & Shelby Yates' names; funds from Melissa Yates valued at \$10.00 for the Washington Elementary School fundraiser in Merin & Shelby Yates' names; a check from the Scott & Kelly Olson Family valued at \$50.00 for use at Washington Elementary School; two plasma cars from Jim & Eileen Richardson valued at \$80.00 for exercise at Pine River School for Young Learners; cash from Turtle Lake Forestry, LLC valued at \$500.00 for supporting the After-the-Bell Program; funds from Jay & Kristin VanDerGeest valued at \$115.36 for the cost of one bus to NTC-Wausau Campus for the 7th Grade field trip to NTC's MindTrekks; winter coats from Ashley Bolling valued at \$12.00; books from Ann Jaroski valued at \$25.00 for reading at Pine River School for Young Learners; funds from the Optimist Club of Merrill valued at \$500.00 for supporting the Prairie River Middle School After-the-Bell Program; diapers from Roger Zerbe valued at \$150.00 for children's wellness at Pine River School for Young Learners; cash from Edward & Mary Nowicki valued at \$40.00 for supporting the Prairie River Middle School Band Program; car wash certificates and funds from Ziebell Door Company LLC valued at \$125.00 for the Kate Goodrich "Let them be little" community fundraiser dance; the following donations for the Jay Stadium Renovation Project: \$100.00 from Robert Hanson; and, \$40.00 from Lee and Denise Taylor; transportation costs from the Friends of Maple Grove valued at \$560.12 for Maple Grove to take trips to the Brickyard Schoolhouse, the School Forest and Wilke's Pumpkin Patch; hand tools from Harbor Freight Tools valued at \$150.00 for Jefferson Elementary School's STEM Program; a table for the Jay Stadium renovation project valued at \$1,000.00 from Bryan & Linda Plautz, Brad & Sue Geiss, and, Cindy & Jerry Geiss (was reported at the September 21, 2016 meeting as a donation from only Bryan & Linda); and, cash from Ben & Karie Jo DeBroux valued at \$40.00 for 6th grade field trips at Prairie River Middle School. Motion carried unanimously with Volpe abstaining from the October 24, 2016 minutes.

During items for future meetings, Jon Smith mentioned that Keshia Mashak received a \$12,000 grant, he would really like to showcase that and elevate the recognition of any grants received. For future meetings, grants received will be showcased in recognition.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 8:15 a.m. at WJMT Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Health Insurance Advisory Committee: Wednesday - November 30, 2016 @ 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday - December 7, 2016 @ 3:30 p.m. at Washington Elementary School
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday - December 7, 2016 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- PRSYL Policy Governance Board Meeting: Tuesday - December 13, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m. @ PRSYL
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday - December 21, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

President called for a motion to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Sections 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; and, (f) considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. The purpose of closed session was for consideration of waiving an employee's liquidated damages. MOTION by Geiss, second by Proulx to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

7:43 p.m. – 7 minute break.

Yingling left at 7:44 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Kevin Blake 12-21-2016
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder