

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
January 25, 2017 – Minutes**

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

Board members present: Kevin Blake, Eric Geiss, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Maria Volpe, Linda Yingling and Jen Seliger. Board members absent: Nubs Ashbeck and Paul Proulx. 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 Pupil Services/Special Education; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology Integration; John Hagemeister, BVA Administrator; Dale Bergman, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor; Joan Krohn, Director of 4K/Early Childhood/Head Start; Shannon Murray, High School Principal, Ryan Martinovici, Middle School 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 23 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: Scott Mackin for presenting at the 2017 Reading Recovery National Conference. Emily Bonack and the Merrill High School Book Club for sponsoring a book drive at MHS; collecting children's books from our students who had outgrown them. The books, in addition to many others that were purchased by Book Club members, were then bundled into groups of four, wrapped, and brought to the elementary schools and PRMS to be distributed to children who could benefit from such a gift. In all, more than 50 young children received these books, and the gift of reading, this year! Sherri Schulz and Johnny Yang for working cooperatively to distribute coats and other winter clothing to over 75 children and families at Kate who needed those items. We wish to thank them publicly for their extra effort in going above and beyond their school responsibilities to make a difference in our school and community. During this effort, we received donations from individuals, Channel 9 News "Coats for a Cause," and St. Vincent De Paul of Merrill. In addition to winter gear distributed directly to families who requested assistance, some items were given away at a PTO event in December. There are a few pieces of clothing still available at Kate Goodrich Elementary. All of the items were given away at no cost to the recipients. Thank you to everyone who helped meet this need in our community. Adam Bodenheimer for scoring 100% on the JAMF CCT certification exam. The District utilizes this program to manage all of our 1:1 technology. Keshia Mashak for securing an \$11,864.00 TEACH grant for technology integration professional development. The Merrill Area Public School system was granted 8 water bottle filling stations, courtesy of a grant from the Ascension/Good Samaritan Health Center, totaling \$8200. Their organization will pay up to \$1025 per unit, covering the entire cost of the unit. MAPS is responsible for ordering, installation and the maintenance of the units. The grant is part of a nutritional program the Good Sam's is working on through the coalition. Gerald Beyer and Trisha Detert applied for the grant. Beyond Crayons & Computers Grant recipients that were involved in applying for and receiving the grants: Dawn Nonn, Steve Weix, Khala Welnetz, Laurie Jacoby, Joan Tabor, Kristine Koerner-Bowe, Pete McConnell, Lynn Kurth, Christy Rasmussen, Glenda Yonke, Trina Pawlicki, Terri Eckes, Krista Gylund, Paula Norman, Lowie Schultz, Stacy Kleinschmidt, Robin Hanson and Kim Cruz-Urbe. We thank and celebrate all of the staff that took the time to apply for this grant for the betterment of our students!

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 the snow days and delays; a movie incentive being offered to students; grades were due and finalized today; semester 1 is over; this weekend is the sled races at Lions Hill, helped by the Octagon Club; February 1 is Winterfest and that night is scholarship information night.

Laurie Jacoby and Stacey Molitor presented learning literacy through read, play and learn at Pine River School for Young Learners.

There were administrative reports shared with the Board including: parent involvement; PRSYL monthly data; food service participation update; human resources report; monthly budget update; quarterly summary of purchases between \$5,000-\$9,999; quarterly out-of-state travel report; technology; employee engagement survey results; and, the superintendent's report, which included monthly activities, high school threat summary and early release/late start/school cancellation update.

Smith left the meeting from 6:20-6:27 p.m.

There were committee updates shared with the Board from the Facilities Committee, Calendar Advisory Committee, Strategic & Financial Long-Range Planning Committee, Finance-Human Resources Committee and Jay Stadium.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to approve the formation of a referendum planning process which includes a working committee of all Board members, representatives from Administration and staff, and community members. The referendum planning committee would be charged with developing a plan for proposing a referendum question or questions to the community. The plan would include the amount and type of referendum, the proposed date of the referendum and communication strategies for informing the voters of the District's rationale for proposing the referendum. Only Board members would have voting rights on any proposed action items developed by the committee. All other stakeholders represented on this committee would be present for providing input and participating in dialogue with the board regarding a proposed referendum. Motion carried unanimously.

Rick Bonnell provided an update on the MAPS/Wausau East Hockey Co-op.

Gerald Beyer presented a state report card update.

Ratliff left the meeting from 7:08-7:11 p.m.

Ratliff left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Yingling to approve the 2017-2022 Maple Grove Charter School contract. Motion carried unanimously (Ratliff was not present for vote).

Ratliff returned at 7:32 p.m.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Volpe to approve the 2017-2018 school calendars as presented; if Legislation passes allowing districts to decide if they want to start the school year prior to Labor Day, the district will adopt the draft #2 calendar making the first day of school August 28, 2017. If Legislation does not pass, the district will adopt the draft #1 calendar, making the first day of school September 1, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Geiss left the meeting from 7:41-7:44 p.m.

Volpe left the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Smith to adopt the strategies outlined in the topic summary sheet for developing the 2017-2018 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Geiss to approve the 8th grade trip to Washington DC and New York City trip for 2017 and upcoming 2018 trip. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to not deny students with disabilities based on space, for the 2017-2018 open enrollment period. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Blake to approve the Bridges Virtual Academy selection process and procedure for selecting applicants if there are more applicants than seats available. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Geiss to remain a member of the Wisconsin Educators Risk Management Cooperative for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Murray presented the idea of creating a food pantry at Merrill High School to the Board.

Smith left from 8:29-8:31 p.m.

MOTION by Smith, second by Geiss to approve the CMS4Schools as the vendor for the MAPS' website. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Geiss to approve the MAPS administrative team to attend the Apple briefing held in Chicago on March 29-30, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to purchase the Skyward Fee Management module. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Blake, second by Yingling to approve the attached list as a 10-year capital improvement plan as funding allows. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Blake to approve the construction of a commercial kitchen within the MHS FACE room in accordance with the costs presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Blake, second by Geiss to approve registration of Maple Grove as a School Forest with the Wisconsin DNR. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Sample notified the Board of technical corrections made throughout the policy manual to change the District Compliance Office from Dr. John Sample to Karen Baker.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Ratliff to approve June 8, 2017 as a make-up day for the January 17, 2017 cancelled school day. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Sample updated the Board on the Community Conversation outcomes.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Blake to approve the donation of funds valued at \$12,201.63 from the Kate Goodrich PTO for the Parent Coordinator position at Kate Goodrich Elementary School; as well as, classroom field trips. Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Geiss to approve consent agenda items a through e, which included: minutes of the December 21, 2016 meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,578,233.94; the personnel report, which included the retirements of Craig Hoffman, effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year; Dorathy Williams, effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year; and, Joan Krohn, effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year; and the resignations of Virgil Baumgart, effective January 20, 2017; and, Amy Owen, effective February 3, 2017; the following donations: donation of funds from the Merrill High School Class of 1976 (mistakenly reported as Mike & Tammy Saal last month) valued at \$300.00 for the Jay Stadium renovation project; transportation costs from the Friends of Maple Grove valued at \$285.11 for busing Maple Grove School students to the School Forest and high school for Christmas program practice; the time and talents of the Vocal Jayz members from John Sample, Gerald Beyer and Brian Dasher valued at \$75.00 for showing appreciation to Lincoln Wood, River Valley Bank and Church Mutual; a gift card from anonymous donors valued at \$100.00 for helping a staff member during a time of need; a check from the Church Mutual Foundation valued at \$1,000.00 for sponsorship of the Merrill Adult Diploma Academy graduation ceremony; cash from Secret Santa valued at \$1,000.00 for helping students and families in need at the Merrill High School; formal dresses from Lynn Redinger valued at \$600.00 for a fundraiser for the PRMS Washington DC/NY 8th grade field trip; bass guitar repairs from Jon & Michelle Smith valued at \$378.80 for having all three electric basses in the Merrill High School Bands in working condition; funds from Jonathan & Michelle Smith valued at \$1,000.00 for developing the two learning parks at Jefferson Elementary School for student use; binders from Ruder Ware Law Firm valued at \$300.00 for use in the schools; Scholastic books from the Jefferson PTO valued at \$250.00 for reading enjoyment at Jefferson Elementary School; funds from Secret Santa valued at \$1,000.00 for making dreams come true at Washington Elementary School; a set of used golf clubs from David Heckmann valued at \$50.00 for providing clubs to a student on the MHS Golf Team; funds from Les Smith valued at \$250.00 for the Jay Stadium renovation project; funds from an anonymous donor valued at \$1,000.00 for the Jay Stadium renovation project; a bench from the Family of Robert J.B. & Dorothy Klug Family valued at \$1,000.00 for the Jay Stadium; a bench from the Classmates and Friends of Dave Hoff valued at \$1,000.00 for the Jay Stadium; and, funds from Secret Santa valued at \$1,000.00 for benefitting students in literacy at Kate Goodrich Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously with Yingling abstaining from the December 21, 2017 minutes and Smith abstaining from his two donations.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 8:15 a.m. at WJMT Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Policy Committee Meeting: Thursday - January 26, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- School Forest Advisory Committee Meeting: Tuesday - January 31, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m. at the School Forest
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday - February 1, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday - February 1, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- PRSYL Policy Council Meeting: Tuesday - February 14, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL

- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday – February 15, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

President Seliger 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; (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; and, (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss the following: Administrators' and supervisors' evaluations; as well as, the Superintendent's performance evaluation; to discuss the possible salary increase of the Human Resources Director; and, to consider waiving requiring a former teacher, who resigned prior to the first contracted day of work, to refund wages that were disbursed prior to the first workday. MOTION by Geiss, second by Blake to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

9:14 p.m. – 5 minute break.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 p.m.



Kevin Blake
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder

