

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Long Range Financial/Referendum Planning Meeting
February 28, 2017 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Jen Seliger at 5:36 PM in the Merrill High School Library.

Board members present: Kevin Blake, Eric Geiss, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Maria Volpe, Linda Yingling and Jen Seliger. Board members absent: Nubs Ashbeck, 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; Dale Bergman, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor; Joan Krohn, Director of 4K/Early Childhood/Head Start; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Brad Potter, High School Associate Principal; 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; Laurie Jacoby; Renea Frederick; Trevor Stadler; Jay Tlusty; Bryan Plautz; Mike Ravn; Bob Opsahl; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

Brian Dasher gave a financial overview of the District.

Mike Grunenwald arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck arrived at 6:02 p.m.

There was discussion on finances of the district in regards to declining enrollment, Bridges Virtual Academy, special education, open-enrollment, salaries and benefits, transportation aid and services, Achievement Gap Reduction, Head Start, MADA and Act 10.

Jeremy Ratliff left the meeting from 6:40-6:42 p.m.

6:56 p.m. – 13 minute break.

Brian Dasher discussed the referendum planning process and timeline with the group.

Renea Frederick left the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

It was the consensus of the group to interview for consultants that will survey the community and whether or not a referendum is feasible. This group, as a whole, was in full support of a referendum.

The next meeting will be scheduled in a month.

MOTION by Eric Geiss, second by Jon Smith to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Kevin Blake
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder