

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 15, 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: Nubs Ashbeck, Eric Geiss, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Linda Yingling and Jen Seliger. Board members absent: Kevin Blake and Maria Volpe. 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; Joan Krohn, Director of 4K/Early Childhood/Head Start; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Mark Seaman, Middle School Associate Principal; Eric Becker, Elementary Principal; Doug Coddington, Elementary Principal; Dawn Nonn, Elementary Teaching Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Dale Bergman, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor; 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.

During public comments, Denise Ziech commented on Dr. Seuss; insurance and subs; and, walk in/urgent care.

The following were recognized by the Board of Education during recognition: Jackson DeJong and Daniel Ricci, who qualified for the State MATHCOUNTS Competition. They competed in Sheboygan on March 4. Paula Norman (for Washington Elementary School) and Dr. Dawn Nonn (for Maple Grove Elementary) for each securing a \$500 scholarship from The Meemic Foundation for the Future of Education for their respective schools. The following Merrill High School summer muralists: Shailee Myers, Joseph Ladewig, Katie Nelson and Serena Helman.

Trevor Stadler and Rachel Rell, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School including the food pantry drive; ACT testing for juniors was February 28th; Bowl for Kids Sake was March 4th; the Art Show was March 4th; spring sports are starting, with winter sports being finished; the Spanish students leave for their Costa Rica trip on Friday at 11:45 p.m. and are back on March 26; 3rd quarter ends March 24th, with students getting off the following Monday; the musical Once Upon a Mattress is coming up in April; Spring Break; and, the Prom is April 22nd.

There were administrative reports shared with the Board including innovative programs; (Maria Volpe arrived at 5:40 p.m.) Pine River School for Young Learners monthly data; food service participation report; human resources update; school-based mental services; monthly budget update; technology update; and, the superintendent's report which included monthly activities, TB Scott Library – Building Merrill Together Program Series, Merrill High School Art Show and Annual Area Boards of Education Legislative Meeting.

There were committee updates shared with the Board from the Health Insurance Committee, Policy Committee, Finance-Human Resources Committee and Facilities Committee.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to approve the master schedule change at Merrill High School beginning with the 2017-2018 school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve the schedules, course offerings and registration materials for MAPS Summer School Enrichment 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Yingling to approve the girls' hockey co-op with Wausau East. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Smith to acknowledge receipt of the MAPS AGR 1st semester report on student progress. Motion carried unanimously.

Karen Baker presented a therapy dog program that will begin at the middle school.

Karen Baker presented the Youth Risk Behavior Survey information to the Board.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Volpe to approve the proposal from School Perceptions (for pre-referendum survey services). Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Dasher presented 2017-2018 health insurance cost reduction strategies to the Board.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ratliff to approve the utilization of the District website for the purpose of recognition for donations and/or sponsorship. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Sample discussed Community Conversation outcomes with the Board.

The Board discussed WPRI's email regarding federal school funding.

Volpe left the meeting 8:28 p.m.

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 Volpe to approve consent agenda items a through e, which included: minutes of the February 15 and February 28, 2017 meetings; second readings of: Policy 3120.06 Selecting Student Teachers/Administrative Interns; Policy 7540 Technology; Policy 7540.01V2 Technology Privacy; Policy 7540.02 Web Content, Services and Apps; Policy 7540.03 Student Education Technology Acceptable Use and Safety; Policy 7540.04 Staff Education Technology Acceptable Use and Safety; and, Policy 8390 Animals on District Property; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,500,020.71; the personnel report which included the hiring of Catherine Dornbrack, PRMS Special Education Aide, effective date to be determined; resignations of David Owen, effective June 9, 2017; and, Victoria Bodgdonovich, effective June 9, 2017; and, the following donations: funds from Jeffrey & Cynthia Artus valued at \$25.00 for the Jay Stadium Renovation Project in memory of Rob Rothmeyer; time for a cranberries book from the Marathon County Farm Bureau valued at \$17.99 for helping the Maple Grove 4th grade class learn about cranberries in agriculture; (Volpe returned at 8:34 p.m.) transportation costs from the Friends of Maple Grove valued at \$221.35 for providing transportation costs to the School Forest and Cosmo for Maple Grove School; popcorn and water from the Friends of Maple Grove valued at \$204.00 for Maple Grove School students to have snacks at the Cosmo; transportation costs from the Friends of Maple Grove valued at \$254.00 for transporting Maple Grove students to the School Forest; a coffee pot, coffee and creamer from Trina Lutzke valued at \$75.00 for events at Maple Grove School; an eye exam from Dr. Ron Piffel valued at \$280.00 for a Pine River School for Young Learner student's health to support learning; and, funds from Lawrence & Mary Duginski valued at \$600.00 for the Merrill FFA to be used to give students that might not otherwise be able to afford FFA jackets, cost of

leadership workshops or FFA membership dues a chance to fully participate - in memory of Mike Duginski. Motion carried unanimously with Proulx abstaining from the February 15 and February 28 minutes.

For items for future meetings, Smith asked that administration bring forward a structured assessment of the sports program so we can get a business model in place for each one, including all costs, what the financial impact is to the district, noting that this could be on a future agenda in two to three months. Geiss asked for an update on where we are standing for the approval process for those sports that don't need financial support or to be in the WIAA, only recognition.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 8:15 a.m. at WJMT Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- School Forest Advisory Committee Meeting: Monday, March 27, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m. at the School Forest
- Long Range Finance/Referendum Planning Meeting: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. in the MHS Library
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday - April 5, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday - April 5, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Head Start Policy Council Meeting: Tuesday - April 18, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday – April 19, 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; (e) deliberating or negotiation of 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; 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 the closed session was for the consideration of (and possible action regarding) applications for participation in the Youth Options Program; to consider and act upon parental requests for student opt out of state assessments, including the potential for a closed session(s) to review the specifics applicable to the affected student(s) if the discussion of such in open session would be likely to have an adverse effect upon the reputation of such student(s) pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats. Any such closed session(s) shall be immediately followed by reconvening in open session for further consideration and, ultimately, action upon the parental requests; discussion related to negotiating the terms of the lease with Kid's Kingdom Daycare; and, to discuss an administrative contract request for additional credit reimbursements. MOTION by Geiss, second by Proulx to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

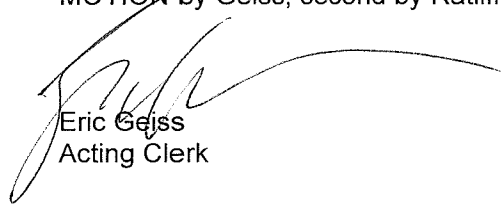
8:41 p.m. – 8 minute break.

MOTION by Smith, second by Geiss to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Proulx to approve Youth Options for 13 students requesting 52 courses, 31 of which were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Volpe to approve the parental requests for Students A, B, C and D to opt out of state assessments. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to adjourn at 9:13 p.m.



Eric Geiss
Acting Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder