

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 19, 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, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Linda Yingling and Jen Seliger. Board members absent: Maria Volpe and Nubs Ashbeck. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Cindy Heinz, Director of Human Resources; Gerald Beyer, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; 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; Eric Becker, Elementary Principal; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Elementary Teaching Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Dale Bergman, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor; 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.

There were no public comments.

The following were recognized by the Board of Education during recognition: Jefferson 5th graders, Isabelle Heiser-Poppe, Ashlyn Shorey, Gracie Such and Gretchen Such. These girls took the initiative to start an activity club for kindergarten and first grade students. They sought out permission from Mr. Becker and teachers to give up their recess to provide fun activities for the younger students. Independently, they designed the activities and created the student lists and rotational system so that all students who signed up could participate. All materials were provided by the girls and they came prepared with well thought out activities and experiences. The only help they received from adults was permission. The kindergarten and first grade students who participated LOVED the clubs these girls provided. The contribution to the school climate was extremely positive. The girls' independence, initiative, and service to others is to be commended. Jake Schalow was recognized for being selected to be an assistant coach for the North Boys' Basketball All-Star Team. Maxine Tlusty, Alicia Kucirek, Laurie Jacoby, Vicky Rice, Melissa Meyer, Tricia Lazare and Kendra Osness were recognized for their help in making the "Let Them Be Little" family formal dance a successful event. The event raised just over \$2,000 for Kate Goodrich Elementary School and created an awesome event for the community. And, Trevor Stadler was recognized for his years of service as a student representative on the Board.

Trevor Stadler and Rachel Rell, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School including the Spanish trip to Costa Rica; 3rd quarter ended March 24; guest speaker Monte Stiles; Spring Break; Choir; this weekend is Prom, with the Grand March at 6:30 p.m. at the high school auditorium; next week is the musical Once Upon a Mattress, April 27-29 beginning at 7 p.m. each night; next Friday there is no school, seniors class trip to Milwaukee; May 12 is OnStage during the day, with the night performance on May 14; and, graduation is May 26.

There were administrative reports shared with the Board including climate and culture in the buildings; Pine River School for Young Learners monthly data; food service participation report; human resources update; quarterly out-of-state purchases; quarterly summary of purchases between \$5,000-9,999; monthly budget update; technology update; and, the superintendent's report.

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

MOTION by Geiss, second by Proulx to approve the July 1, 2017 health insurance renewal with Security Health Plan, including a 4-tier drug card, for a 1.3% increase, and to absorb the cost of such increase which results in no premium increase for employees. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Ratliff to approve changing the provider of Life, Voluntary Life, Long Term Disability and Short Term Disability plans to The Standard, effective July 1, 2017; and, changing the provider of Accident and Critical Illness plans to Guardian, effective July 1, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Proulx to approve adding voluntary vision insurance to the employee benefits package and utilize Delta Dental for the carrier, effective July 1, 2017. Motion carried with Blake abstaining from the motion.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Geiss to approve the 2017-2018 CESA 9 contracted services agreement with a projected cost of \$494,055. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Smith to deny the Leave of Absence request of Karla Tennant for the 2017-2018 school year and to deny the Leave of Absence request of Chelsea Schenck for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Blake to approve the listed summer maintenance projects for 2017-2018 as funding allows. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Proulx to approve the \$2,000/Option D that we discussed at the Finance meeting (as the Merrill Area Public Schools Hiring Strategy for experienced teachers). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to approve the 2017-2018 Teacher and Support Staff Handbooks as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Smith to approve the resolution designating public depository and authorizing withdrawal. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Ratliff to approve the new lease with Kid's Kingdom Daycare as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Proulx to dispense with the 2017-2018 calendar with the August start date; make the suggested revisions to the 2017-2018 calendar with the September 1, 2017 start date; and, approve adding on 5 minutes of instruction to the Prairie River Middle School school day, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Geiss to approve the adoption of the proposed salary structure for MAPS School Psychologists. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Smith to approve the CDW Sophos AntiVirus quote, providing antivirus protection on District technology for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ratliff to approve increasing the graduation requirements from 21.5 to 23.5 credits, effective with the class of 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Blake, second by Geiss to agree to advertisement of the "total cutting area of 40.3 acres" at the Nels P. Evjue Memorial School Forest as set forth in the documents provided by the DNR. At a future meeting, the Board will finalize the sale with the revenue from this sale being used to the benefit of the School Forest program. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Blake to approve the 90-day trial period for Akita Box facility management software. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Proulx to approve the 2017 Pupil Nondiscrimination Self-Evaluation Report to meet requirements of S. 118.13, Wis. Stats. & PI9, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Sample gave the Board an update on the Community Conversation outcomes.

Shannon Murray gave an update to the Board in regards to AP classes, college credit classes and the costs to provide such opportunities to students.

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

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ratliff to approve consent agenda items a through e, which included: minutes of the March 9, March 15, March 28 and March 29, 2017 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,108,287.78; the personnel report, which includes: the resignations of Jeff Hetfeld, effective June 9, 2017; Trina Lutzke, effective June 9, 2017; Jennifer Weber, effective June 9, 2017; and, Cherie Overton, effective June 9, 2017; the retirement of LaRee Johnson, effective June 9, 2017; the transfers of Elli Wilk from Kate Goodrich Elementary Music Teacher to Merrill High School Band Director, effective March 10, 2017; and, Kathleen Becker from part-time special education aide at PRSYL to full-time special education aide at PRSYL; recognition of the following donations made to the Great Speaker Forum for 2016-2017: Prairie River Middle School Student Council, \$1,000.00; Church Mutual Insurance Company, \$500.00; Merrill Administrators' Association, \$200.00; Kiwanis Club of Greater Merrill, \$100.00; Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 584, \$100.00; Weinbrenner Shoe Co., \$100.00; Reindl Printing, Inc., \$100.00; Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 584 - Ladies Auxiliary, \$100.00; Merrill Teachers' Association, \$100.00; Lincoln Community Bank, \$100.00; Jay Tlusty, \$100.00; Donald Evans, \$100.00; Tomahawk Community Bank, \$50.00; Park City Realty, \$50.00; Social Topics Club, \$35.00; Riverside Athletic Club, \$25.00; OakPark Dental, \$25.00; Waid Funeral Home, \$25.00; Gleason Area Lions Club, Inc., \$25.00; Alan Malm, \$25.00; and, Schmitt Manecke Donner Auxiliary Post #1638, \$25.00, the following other donations: two 6"x5' stove pipes and one 6" stove pipe elbow from Ace Hardware - Merrill Store valued at \$32.97 for replacing pipes on the maple syrup cooker at Maple Grove Elementary School; 45 frozen custard vanilla sundaes from Culver's of Merrill valued at \$100.00 for Compass Learning incentives at Prairie River Middle School (PRMS); tour costs from the Friends of Maple Grove valued at \$30.00 for Maple Grove School to tour the Brickyard School; a jet lathe and cutting tools from Gary & Stacey Hanson/Brews Brothers Pub valued at \$700 for the PRMS Tech Ed Department and turning freedom pens for the Never Forgotten Honor Flight Program; a jet lathe and two turning tools from David & Sara Wendorf & Family, Wendorf Construction and Wendorf Bus Service valued at \$700.00 for the PRMS Tech Ed Department and turning freedom pens for the Never Forgotten Honor Flight Program; glass bottles from Maple Hollow valued at \$18.90 for maple syrup canning at Maple Grove School; funds from Greg Hinz valued at \$150.00 for the

PRMS Never Forgotten Honor Flight Pen Project; funds from Don & Judy Evans valued at \$250.00 for the Jay Stadium Renovation Project; funds from Robert Smith valued at \$150.00 for the PRMS Never Forgotten Honor Flight Pen Project; and, funds from AGRA Industries valued at \$2,000.00 for creating a nature trail at Jefferson Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously with Geiss abstaining from the March 9 and March 28, 2017 minutes; Blake abstaining from the March 15, 2017 minutes; and, Proulx abstaining from the March 29, 2017 minutes.

For items for future meetings, Smith asked that we have a running list of requests that are being worked on included in our board packets. Proulx asked that we have a discussion about the ALICE training at a future meeting.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 8:15 a.m. at WJMT Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Organizational Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday - May 3, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Policy Committee Meeting: Thursday - May 4, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, May 9, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday – May 17, 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)(b) considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person, or considering the grant or denial of tenure for a university faculty member, and the taking of formal action on any such matter; provided that the faculty member or other public employee or person licensed is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action being taken and of any meeting at which final action may be taken; (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 the closed session is to approve the March 28, 2017, closed set of minutes that discussed specific positions and staff members in regards to preliminary consideration of non-renewal for the purpose of reduction in teaching staff; discuss specific positions and staff members in regards to final consideration and notice of non-renewal for the purpose of reduction in teaching staff; discuss the terms of an individual teacher's 2017-2018 contract; and, 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. MOTION by Geiss, second by Proulx to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

7:30 p.m. – 9 minute break.

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

MOTION by Proulx, second by Blake to approve the parental request for Student A to opt out of state assessments. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ratliff to approve the March 28, 2017 Special Board Meeting closed set of minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.



Kevin Blake
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder

