

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
May 20, 2020 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:30 PM by Google Hangout virtual meeting.

Board members present by remote: Nubs Ashbeck, Ron Liberty, Paul Proulx, Jon Smith, Maria Volpe, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Jeremy Ratliff (excused). Others Present by remote: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Edward Then, Director of Human Resources; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology; John Hagemeister, Bridges Virtual Academy Administrator; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Mark Seaman, Middle School Associate Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; Alex Mashak, Associate Elementary Principal; Jill Seaman, Director of Early Education/4K/Head Start; Levi Black, High School Student Board Representative; 2 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comment, Trisha Detert commented on administrative contracts.

During recognition, departing student board representative Bella Troyer and returning student board representative, Levi Black, were recognized for their service for the 2019-2020 school year.

New student representative, Amelia Skoviera, was announced and introduced to the Board.

Levi Black, Student Board of Education Representative, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including how virtual learning is going for him as a student; today was the last day for seniors, with school ending on Friday; Friday there will be a parade for seniors. Mr. Murray added that tomorrow night will be the senior awards ceremony, done virtually.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Every Student Succeeds Act Identification; PRSYL monthly data; Extension of Public School Open Enrollment Application; Human Resources report; monthly budget update; technology update; and, the Superintendent's report.

Committee appointments by President Blake were shared with the Board.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Liberty to approve the appointments made by the Superintendent for committee membership of the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee reports were shared with the Board from the Finance/HR, Facilities and Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committees.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Yingling to table this item (2020-2021 Staffing Plan). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to approve the 2020-2021 student handbooks/agendas for elementary, middle and high school. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2020-2021 MADA calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the 8th grade trip to Washington DC and New York City for June of 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2020-2021 Support Staff and Teacher Handbooks as presented with no increases to supplementary pay rates. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the language changes to both the Teacher and Support Staff Compensation Plans, [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the summer maintenance projects for 2020-2021 as funding allows. AMENDMENT by Smith to add, "less Prairie River Middle School projects." There was discussion by the Board. There was no second motion made to Smith's amendment. MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to withdraw his original motion, table this item and send it to a Committee of the Whole or a Special Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Yingling to approve the quote from Simplex to update the fire panel at Merrill High School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the donation from the Wrestling Booster Club and the installation of a Judo floor at MHS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve the part-time position, Family Support Specialist, to be supported by the Quality Improvement Supplemental Grant Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to approve the creation of a new 11-month secretary position for BVA. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the hiring of new teaching staff for BVA based on an increase of 20 new students above the base of 700 students, if it is determined there is a need. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to postpone salary increases for all staff until the financial impact of a potential state spending freeze has been finalized. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the proposed summer school options as indicated ([here](#)). Motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion about administrator contracts for the next contract cycle starting FY 2021. This will be discussed at the next Finance/HR Committee meeting.

Dr. Sample discussed and gave an update on the master facilities plan with the Board.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda, hearing none, he called for a motion. MOTION by Smith, second by Proulx to approve the consent agenda items a through d, which includes the minutes of the April 15, 2020, April 27, 2020 and May 6, 2020 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,359,170.51; the personnel report, which includes the internal hires of Heather Kahr to Elementary Instructional Coach; Kim Franzen-Hoff to Middle School Instructional Coach; and, Matt Schultz to District Instructional Coach, all effective August 17, 2020; the external hirings of Karen Salzwedel, High School Special Education Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; Garrett Stine, High School AP Government/Civics Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; Patricia Conley, High School Reading Intervention/Coach, effective August 10, 2020; Michelle Miles, Kate Goodrich Title I Reading Specialist/Interventionist, effective August 10, 2020; Lauren Bullis, High School Physical Education Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; Veronica Krueger, District School Psychologist, effective August 10, 2020; and, Talena Bliven, Washington Teacher, effective August 17, 2020; the following internal transfers: Ryan Plautz, from PRSYL/BVA Physical Education Teacher to Kate Goodrich Physical Education Teacher; and, Melissa Gehrke, from Kate Goodrich Title I Reading to District-wide Title I; the retirement of Darlene Hanig, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; and, the resignations of Bethany Prazuch, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; and, Logan Figueroa, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; including the hires of personnel for Summer School, as indicated on the personnel report (Olivia Dachel; Kasie Holt; Amy Raddatz; Matthew Ellenbecker; Guy Pawlicki; Becky Rindt; Elli Wilk; Josh Olson; Scott Arneson; Joselyn Janz; Kerry Scholz; Elizabeth Swan; Carey Mullenberg; Shanna Thorson; Susan Palecek; Danielle Bloch; Jered Severt; Christy Nowinsky; McKenzie Reimann; Heather Rick; Lisa Handlin; Tiffany Bucheger; Christie Gustum; Jill Hahn; Susan Priebe; Mindy Hahn; Lindsey Breheim; Ashley Plisch; Katilyn Lau; Amy Hahn; Gina Hanson; Eric Ball; Michael Chula; Christopher Hahn; Steve Weix; Daniel Ollhoff; Jacob Schalow; Joeline Weix; Steve Schenck; and, Brian Suchocki); and, donations totaling \$538.00. Motion carried with Proulx abstaining from the May 6, 2020 minutes.

"Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof" was briefly discussed.

The Board decision financial impact summary was shared with the Board.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. at Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Bridges Virtual Academy Governance Board Meeting: June 11, 2020 @ 12:45 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*

MOTION by Yingling, second by Liberty to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder