

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
August 26, 2020 – Minutes**

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The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:30 PM in the Merrill High School Auditorium and also by Google Hangout virtual meeting.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Jon Smith, Brett Woller, Jeremy Ratliff (remotely), Ron Liberty (remotely), Maria Volpe and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Linda Yingling. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Eddie Then, Director of Human Resources; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education & Pupil Services; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Teaching Principal; Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; 2 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder. Others present remotely: Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Megan Kautzer, High School Associate Principal; Jill Seaman, Director of Head Start/4K/Early Childhood; and, 4 people from the staff and public.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no public comment.

During recognition, Travis Wichlacz was recognized for his efforts to configure and set up Board of Education meetings to support on-site and virtual attendees. His knowledge about the technical side of AV media equipment and his willingness to learn and go above and beyond is appreciated.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: District Scorecard Data; Parent Satisfaction Survey Results Report; Employee Engagement Survey Results Report; District Services Survey Report; District Communication - Professional Development Update; Human Resources report; monthly budget update; and, the technology update.

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

The 2011 Wisconsin Act 125 Seclusion and Restraint Reporting was shared with the Board.

MOTION by Smith, second by Ratliff to adopt the Governor's mask mandate as part of the reopening plan, enacted up until the end of the first quarter, October 30th, regardless of the legislative actions in Madison. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to honor teachers their lane change from the Bachelor's to the Master's column of the pay structure after earning the Master's degree. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to continue our philosophy during the spring closure into the 2020-2021 school year and continue to pay the salaries of employees and contractors. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the Lincoln County Health Department School Health Services Agreement for the 2020-2021 school year for Grades 4K-12 in the amount of \$100,440. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2020-2021 budget presented for presentation at the annual meeting in September. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve Policy 2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Education was made aware of technical corrections made to policies per Neola's Volume 29, Number 2 update.

Dr. Sample gave a brief 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 Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the consent agenda items a through e, which includes the second reading and approval of Policy 8420.01 Epidemics and Pandemics; Policy 6147 Debt Management; Policy 7440.03 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems; Bylaw 0162 Quorum; Bylaw 0164.2 Special Meetings; Bylaw 0167.3 Public Participation/Comment at Board Meetings; Bylaw 0172 Legal Counsel; Policies 1130/3230/4230 Conflict of Interest; Policy 1220 Employment of District Administrator; Policy 2260.02 English Language Proficiency; Policy 2460 Programs for Students with Disabilities; Policies 3215/4215 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine by Staff; Policies 3231/4231 Outside Activities; Policies 3362.01/4362.01 Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members; Policy 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students; Policy 5512 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine by Students; Policy 5630.01 Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint with Students; Policy 7230 Gifts, Grants and Bequests; Policy 7434 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine on School Premises; Policy 8390 Animals on District Property; and, Policy 8900 Fraud; delete Policy 6145 Borrowing; minutes of the July 15, 2020, July 22, 2020, July 28, 2020 and August 12, 2020 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,668,219.17; and, the personnel report as presented. Motion carried with Ratliff abstaining from the July 22 and July 28, 2020 minutes.

"Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof" was shared with the Board.

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

Radio Schedule: Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

#### Future Meetings

- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, August 31, 2020 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2020 @ 6 p.m. at Maple Grove School



- District Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing: Monday, September 21, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Merrill High School Auditorium
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Merrill High School Auditorium

President Blake 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. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss waiving the liquidated damages of three retiring professional staff members; and, to discuss the Superintendent's formative evaluation feedback per the evaluation process through the District Administrator Performance Evaluation System (DAPES). MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

6:00 p.m. - 10 minute break

Ratliff left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Woller to approve the resignation of Ida Kujala and waiver of liquidated damages. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Woller to approve the resignation of Jacob Schalow and enforce the liquidated damages in the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Woller to approve the resignation of Kathleen Nichols and to enforce the liquidated damages in the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.



Nubs Ashbeck  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder