

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 23, 2020 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:32 PM in the Merrill High School Auditorium and also by Google Hangout virtual meeting.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Kendra Osness, Jon Smith, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling (remotely), Jeremy Ratliff, Ron Liberty, Maria Volpe and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: None. 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; Jill Seaman, Head Start/4K/PRSYL Director; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Teaching Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Student Representatives Levi Black and Amelia Skoviera, 6 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder. Others present remotely: Megan Kautzer, High School Associate Principal; and, 1 person from the staff and public.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no public comment.

During recognition, Nicki Taves was recognized. Nicki has been selected by the Wisconsin Head Start Association (WHSA) Staff Affiliate and approved by Board of Directors to receive a 2020 Staff Affiliate Scholarship in recognition of her contributions to MAPS Head Start program. When the Association is able to safely host a gathering, Nicki will also be honored at the 33rd Annual WHSA Achieving Excellence Awards Luncheon. Also recognized and asked to introduce themselves were new staff members to the District, those present were Lauren Bullis and Karen Salzwedel.

Also recognized were board members for October 4-10 being Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week.

Levi Black and Amelia Skoviera, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: the Homecoming cancelled and there being potential dress up days later in the year; hybrid learning; students and staff wearing their masks diligently; juniors and seniors taking advantage of open campus to allow for more social distancing; and, fall sports are happening right now with little to no fans allowed at the events.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Professional Development update; COVID-19 student health process update; monthly budget update; Human Resources report; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Liberty to approve the MAPS Head Start Virtual Option for the 2020-2021 school year with review of the program to take place at the end of December 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the Head Start Point System for Student Applications. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the MAPS Head Start Bus Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Volpe to approve the MAPS Head Start Attendance Procedure. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the Lincoln County Nursing Contract with PRSYL for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ratliff to approve the additional 5.5 FTE Special Education Aide Positions at Jefferson Elementary, Kate Goodrich Elementary and Washington Elementary to be funded through Carry-Over SPED Flow Through dollars. This will be for the 2020-2021 School Year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to approve the revision and second reading of Board Policy 6235 Fund Balance to base the required fund balance percentage off of the net Fund 10 and Fund 27 expenditures. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve Redefining Ready at the high school. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the once-a-month, two-hour late-start day at Merrill High School during the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ratliff to approve the contracted services from Sierce-2-Sisu for Strength & Conditioning Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to restructure the district educational facilities into (2) grade level specific elementary schools at the Washington Elementary site and the Kate Goodrich site, which would house grades K-4 in a configuration to be approved at the November 18, 2020 BOE meeting, (1) middle school housing grades 5-8, and one high school housing grades 9-12, beginning with the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote (Ayes: Osness, Ratliff, Smith, Volpe, Woller, Yingling, Liberty and Blake. Nay - Ashbeck.).

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve New Policy #TBD Remote Work Policy as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Education was made aware of technical corrections made to Policies Reviewed in the Finance/HR Committee to change 'Board of Education' to 'Board' in Policies 1400, 2430.01, 3120.08 and 6670.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the donation of funds from the Merrill Wrestling Booster Club valued at \$10,900.00 for materials and labor to install a judo floor in the wrestling room at the Merrill High School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to approve the donation of \$4,204.00 from the Friends of the School Forest for a handicap accessible pier and 12 Leopold benches at the Nels P. Evjue School Forest. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve the donation of \$125,000.00 from the Bierman Family Foundation for a scoreboard at the high school. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Sample provided a brief update regarding the master facilities plan.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda, hearing none, he called for a motion. MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the consent agenda items a through e, which includes the second readings and approval of Policy 2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities; Policies 3216/4216 Staff Dress and Grooming; and, Policy 5460 Graduation Requirements; minutes of the August 26, 2020, September 9, 2020, September 16 meetings; receipt of the minutes of the September 21, 2020 Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,419,644.03; the personnel report as presented; and, donations totaling \$143,748.00. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the August 26, 2020, September 9, 2020 and September 16, 2020 minutes; Yingling abstaining from the August 26, 2020 minutes; Woller abstaining from the September 16, 2020 minutes; and, Ratliff abstaining from a portion of the August 26, 2020 minutes.

"Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof" was shared with the Board. Volpe stated that there will likely need to be another CTP Committee Meeting scheduled in October. Yingling asked to add Maple Grove; and, discuss whether athletic trainers are under contract for sporting events.

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

Radio Schedule: Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, October 12, 2020 @ 6 p.m. at Virtually
- Head Start Policy Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the MHS LGI Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. in the MHS 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 a leaving professional staff member; the placement of an existing administrative staff member on the administrative compensation plan; and, consider two employee's requests for full or partial remote work during a Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave. MOTION by Volpe, second by Yingling to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

6:46 p.m. - 6 minute break

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

MOTION by Smith, second by Osness to authorize administration to place Jamie Farkas on the administrative salary schedule as indicated by her job description, licensure, and years of service. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Ratliff to deny the request to waive the liquidated damages of Kassi Felts. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Osness to approve administration's terms of remote work for Adam Smith and Laura Forster. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Volpe to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.



Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder