

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
October 28, 2020 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:31 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, Jeremy Ratliff (remotely), Maria Volpe and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Ron Liberty. 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; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Teaching Principal; Student Representatives Levi Black and Amelia Skoviera, 7 people from the staff and public; and, Lori Ugolini, Recorder. Others present remotely: approximately 57 people from the staff and public.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comment, Kristen Novitch commented on the staff challenges regarding in-person and virtual teaching expectations during Covid 19.

During recognition, the following were recognized: Nicki Taves for writing a grant to the Meemic Foundation for the metal drum for use in the classroom. Sheila Duesing, who is a paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary School that has taken on the difficult task of monitoring students for illness symptoms, including those associated with COVID-19. She forms great relationships with all students, offers ideas for school growth, and steps up whenever it is needed. Christy Nowinsky, who is a school guidance counselor at both Jefferson and Washington Elementary Schools. Christy continued to reach out to students and families throughout the summer to check in on their social emotional needs. She is always willing to help any family find the resources to support their families. She supports students' mental health through 1:1 check-ins and whole group lessons. She helps regularly with student supervision and is always stepping up to support different projects around the school to continue to build our school climate and culture. And, Christine Eder, Stevie Klockziem and Trina Lutzke for submitting and securing a \$500 grant for Maple Grove from Aftermath's Pay It Forward Education Grant in honor of Dr. Dawn Nonn.

Levi Black and Amelia Skoviera, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: Many students are sad the fall sports are coming to an end but are thankful they could play. Elizabeth Schmidt is going to state for cross country. Seniors have started to work on scholarships. Marching Band did very well this year. First quarter is ending this Friday. AP sign-up deadline is October 30th. Testing is May 4-12, 2021. Halloween dress-up on October 30.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Student Monitor reports; Summer School report; annual and cumulative separation data; PRSYL monthly data, enrollment numbers USDA/CACFP meals for students; Third Friday Enrollment; COVID-19 data reporting; review of County Truancy Plan; monthly budget update; quarterly out-of-state travel report; quarterly summary of purchases between \$5,000-\$9,999; food participation update; Human Resources report; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to approve the revised 2020-2021 Budget Revisions [as presented](#) and to set the property tax levy at \$11,427,119. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Ashbeck to approve the Head Start Annual Report [as presented](#) to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a Head Start Training provided to the Board of Education.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the revisions to both the Teacher and Support Staff handbooks for 2020-2021, [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Ratliff to approve the extension of the MAPS requirement that all students and staff wear a face covering per the guidelines established by the Governor's orders through January 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to approve a review of this requirement (statewide face covering mandate) in January, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to grant the request of Maple Grove Governance Board to provide an additional \$27,335.38 in revenue allocation for 2020-2021 to compensate for the difference in salaries between the teachers who were transferred in 2018-2019. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Osness to adopt the preliminary budget development calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Smith to grant salary increases for regular employed staff retroactive to July 1, 2020. Motion carried with Osness abstaining because her husband is a custodian.

The Board received information on the full-time virtual learning option at the middle school and high school.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Woller to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Merrill Area Public Schools and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northcentral Wisconsin for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Topic Summary on COVID-Related Attendance and Consideration for District-Wide Relief was provided by Dr. Sample. MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to add four teacher workdays for planning, on Mondays, to the existing 2020-2021 school calendar at the discretion of the administrator. 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 Osness to approve the consent

agenda items a through e, which includes the second reading and approval of Policy #TBD Remote Work Policy; minutes of the September 23, 2020 and October 15, 2020 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$10,141,783.74; the personnel report [as presented](#); and, donations totaling \$1,693.33. Motion carried with Ratliff, Volpe and Yingling abstaining from the October 15, 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, October 29, 2020 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, November 2, 2020 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, November 9, 2020 @ 6 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 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; and, 118.125 for the purpose of considering student Early College Credit and Start Now applications that may involve discussions of confidential student records, and to discuss other matters involving student records and personal histories that, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial adverse effect on the reputations of the persons discussed. The purpose of the closed session is for the consideration of (and possible action regarding) applications for participation in the Early College Credit and Start College Now programs; and, to discuss collection of liquidated damages for two former staff members. MOTION by Smith, second by Yingling to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Maria Volpe left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

MOTION by Osness, second by Ashbeck to approve the 7 Early College Credit courses and the 11 Start College Now courses as presented in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Yingling to clarify our intentions from the September meeting to include the release of Kassandra Felts from her teaching contract and pursue liquidated damages from her 2020-2021 teacher contract. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Yingling to pursue liquidated damages from Jacob Schalow's 2020-2021 teacher contract. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Osness to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Lori Ugolini
Recorder