

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
November 18, 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, Ron Liberty, Kendra Osness, Jon Smith, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling, Jeremy Ratliff (remotely), Maria Volpe (remotely) and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: None. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; 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; John Hagemeister, BVA Administrator; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Teaching Principal; Student Representatives Levi Black and Amelia Skoviera, approximately 20 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder. Others present remotely: Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; and, approximately 9 people from the staff and public.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments made.

During recognition, the following were recognized: Elizabeth Schmidt placed 12th at the Division 1 State Cross Country. She ran with a time of 18.50. Way to go, Elizabeth! Kelly Page accomplished a milestone this season by reaching 1000 career assists on October 20th against the Hortonville Polar Bears. She is a 3-year starter on Varsity and her accomplishment comes from setting the ball to a hitter who gets an attack kill. Kelly is also our strongest hitter so for her to reach this goal is extraordinary. Rachel Travis, on October 17th against the Wausau West Warriors, reached a career milestone of 1000 digs. This was a goal of hers that didn't seem achievable with the uncertainty of being able to finish out our already diminished season. The Merrill Volleyball Coaching Staff is extremely proud of these two athletes who have worked very hard in and out of season to be the best players and leaders on the 2020 squad. Sheila Champion is always very supportive of students and staff. She steps in to help brainstorm ideas to support all students. She is a role model for push-in services and exemplary teaching practices, and actively builds relationships with all students. Just this fall, she asked to go along on a classroom school forest trip because she has a number of students she works with in that class and she wanted to build a relationship outside of the services she provides. Thank you Sheila for your dedication to our students! Kim Hall is a role model teacher. Parents have noted her great communication to keep them in the loop on the successes and struggles their children may be having. Kim embraces new ideas and mentors new teachers effectively to help them grow. Her student learning is engaging and achievement soars. Kim Hall is a teacher students look back on in their education and know that she had an impact! Steve Holz for stepping into the Maple Grove custodial position the last few weeks. He has done a great job keeping the school clean and germ free. Maple Grove has had zero positive cases and we thank the custodial staff, as much as our families, for this. We hope he enjoyed his visit at the elementary level and thank him again for a great job. Wendy Arndt, Bre Semling, Jena Brandenburg and Melissa Schroeder, who have become the unofficial "MHS Covid Response Team," providing

coverage and supervision solutions that help Merrill High School stay open each and every day through the pandemic.

Levi Black and Amelia Skoviera, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: winter sports are around the corner; many students are extremely grateful that the high school is still open; seniors are getting responses to college and many have plans for after college, either joining the workforce, college or the military; Thanksgiving break is starting next week; having Mondays off has been beneficial for both students and teachers; and, Merrill High School has seen all teachers but one return from quarantine.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: School-wide Implementation Review; PRSYL monthly data; Project SEARCH 2020-2021; monthly budget update; food participation update; Human Resources report; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to approve the MAPS 4K disbursement increase for 2020-2021 from \$2200 to \$2268. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the revised administrator contracts for the 2021-2023 contract cycle. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the BVA Systems Support Specialist position and adjust the BVA Secondary Program Coordinator to an administrative position (full-time, 220 day contract) by eliminating the BVA Digital Librarian position. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the MAPS 4K contracts for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Osness to approve the fuel purchases for transportation to be purchased from Cenex/River Country Coop and/or Pine Ridge Mobil. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to approve the quote from Systems Technology to provide an updated paging system and synchronized clock system for Merrill High School. Motion carried unanimously.

The Lincoln County Health Department MOU related to contact tracing was shared with the Board.

MOTION by Osness, second by Ratliff to approve the donation of funds from Park City Credit Union valued at \$2,500.00 for hot spots for students during virtual learning. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Volpe to approve the assignments of the grades as depicted in the topic summary sheet assigning Grades K-2 to Kate Goodrich Elementary School, Grades

3-4 to Washington Elementary School and Grades 5-8 to PRMS, beginning at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda, hearing none, he called for a motion. MOTION by Osness, second by Woller to approve the consent agenda items a through d, which includes the minutes of the October 28, 2020 and November 4, 2020 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$4,181,426.58; the personnel report [as presented](#); and, donations totaling \$600.00. Motion carried with Liberty abstaining from the October 28, 2020 minutes; and, Volpe abstaining from a portion of the October 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, November 19, 2020 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

#### Future Meetings

- Special Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, December 14, 2020 @ 6 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium

President Blake called for a MOTION to adjourn into executive (c(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 consider an employee’s request for full or partial remote work during a Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave. MOTION by Liberty, second by Yingling to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried on a roll call vote (Ayes - Smith, Volpe, Woller, Yingling, Ashbeck, Liberty, Osness and Blake. There was no response from Ratliff; however, he was having technical difficulties and did take part in the closed session and also came back into open virtually.)

6:41 p.m. - 9 minute break to get organized.

MOTION by Woller, second by Yingling to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Osness to approve the remote work and FMLA leave arrangement for Heather Klimek through December 11, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Yingling to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder