

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
December 16, 2020 – Minutes**

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 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; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology Integration; Jill Seaman, Director of Head Start/4K/Early Childhood; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Mark Seaman, Middle School Associate Principal; Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Student Representatives and Amelia Skoviera, approximately 56 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder. Others present remotely: Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Laura Krause-Zastrow, Director of Food Service; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Teaching Principal; Alex Mashak, Elementary Associate Principal; and, approximately 40 people from the staff and public.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During the Public Comment, the following individuals spoke: Tom Andreska regarding District decisions; Kasie Holt regarding administrative reductions; Lisa Hass regarding Trisha Detert; Penny Zajackowski regarding Mrs. Detert's potential layoff; Marcy Cordova regarding the elimination of the Director of Technology Integration; and, Ryan Martinovici to recognize the Secret Santa donation and the impact of it.

During recognition, the following were recognized: VFW's Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Winners: Patriot's Pen (an essay competition for 6-8 grade students. This year's theme was "What is Patriotism to Me?") - Maria Malinowski, 5th Place; Robin Schmidt, 6th Place; and, Blake Wendt, 10th Place. Voice of Democracy (an audio essay competition winners for 9-12 grade students (this year's theme was "Is this the Country the Founders Envisioned?") - Jackson DeJong, 2nd Place; Caleb Norton, 3rd Place; Kaitlyn Krug, 4th Place; Nicole Zoellner, 5th Place; Matthew Palazzo, 6th Place; and, Claire Duley, 7th Place. Swim State Qualifiers and school records broken for the Merrill Girls Swim Team: Amber Winter (200 IM, 8th at State and new school record; and, 100 Breast, 3rd at State and new school record); Erin Kanitz (500 Free, 6th at State); Team of Erin Kanitz, Laney Zuelsdorff, Emma Pajtash and Amber Winter (200 Free Relay, 16th at State). Karen Buntrock because she is a phenomenal veteran teacher. Her ability to remain calm during change and stress is to be admired. Karen is always willing to try new strategies and ideas. After many years as a 5th grade teacher, she took on the challenge of co-teaching in a 4th/5th grade multi-age setting. Karen is an exemplar teacher that truly knows how to form lasting, trusting relationships with students. Spend any amount of time in her classroom and you will feel like you are at home with her caring, nurturing demeanor. Also being recognized is Ninette Candler. Passionate is the first word you would use to describe Ninette. Her passion for teaching reading and raising our most struggling readers to proficiency is unmatched. After many years as a reading teacher, Ninette was asked to share her expertise with others and co-teach in a 4th/5th grade multi-age setting with three other teachers. Whether

before school, after, or during the summer she regularly uses her free time to make sure that all students' needs are being met. While she is a firm teacher with high expectations, students who get the opportunity to work with her often form lasting relationships and work hard to rise to the challenge. Thomas Grund from Kate Goodrich Elementary School for going above and beyond.

Amelia Skoviera, Student Board of Education Representative, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: DECA ugly sweater contest; Christmas dress up days; scavenger hunt; new schedule; and, winter sports.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Continuous Improvement Plan; PRSYL monthly data; Procedural Compliance Self-Assessment; 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.

The Board reviewed the proposed WASB Resolutions for the 2021 Delegate Assembly.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ratliff to approve the [BVA](#) and [MGCS](#) enrollment limits for the 2021-2022 school year as indicated in the topic summary sheets. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to accept the proposal from School Perceptions to begin work on planning for the renewal of the current operating referendum. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to adopt the [budget forecast scenario](#) presented as the district's base forecast for the 2022 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to adopt the revised strategic planning calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Volpe to adopt the revised format for the monthly board financial report and to eliminate the quarterly report of expenditures greater than \$5,000, the quarterly report of out-of-state travel report, and the Board Decision Financial Impact Summary, including the suspension of the report that goes out with the monthly payments. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to approve the elimination of the Director of Technology Integration position, effective July 1, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the update to the building configuration timeline.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda, hearing none, he called for a motion. MOTION by Smith, second by Osness to approve the consent agenda items a through e, which includes the second readings and approval of Policy 6114 Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds; and, Policy 6325 Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds; waiving the first reading and approving Policy 8315 Information Management as a second reading; the minutes of the November 18, 2020 and December 9, 2020 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,422,565.13; the personnel report [as presented](#); and, donations totaling \$1,490.00. Motion carried unanimously.

“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, December 17, 2020 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, January 11, 2021 @ 6 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 @ 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; (e) deliberating or negotiation of the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; (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 the validity of an individual teacher contract and take potential action regarding the status of the teacher; for preliminary consideration of non-renewal of employment for renewal/non-renewal of two administrators; and, to discuss administrators' and supervisors' evaluations and consider administrative contract extensions. MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

6:44 p.m. - 10 minute break to get organized.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Volpe to adjourn closed session and reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Yingling to approve the following Termination of Heather Klimek's teacher contract due to licensure denial; the transfer of Heather Klimek from a teaching position to an aide position for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year; and the allowance for Heather Klimek to retain wages approximated at her aide pay rate through December 18, 2020 and pay her hourly moving forward. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder