

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
February 17, 2021 – 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, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling, Maria Volpe and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Jeremy Ratliff and Jon Smith. 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; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Jill Seaman, Director of Head Start/4K/EarlyChildhood; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Megan Kautzer, High School Associate Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Student Representatives Levi Black and Amelia Skoviera, approximately 26 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder. Others present remotely: Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; and, approximately 4 people from the staff and public.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

During recognition, the following were recognized: Dale Bergman, who was elected to the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association (WSSCA). The WSSCA was founded in 1968 as an association of professionals dedicated to improving security, safety and health in Wisconsin schools. WSSCA is a non-profit and non-government organization that includes administrators, supervisors, teachers, building and grounds personnel, health and nursing personnel, safety coordinators, security coordinators, school resource officers, school districts as well as private/public businesses. They provide resources and training that empowers members to create safe and secure schools in Wisconsin and beyond. Dale was elected by membership votes. Greg Ament and the Knights of Columbus Council 1133, in appreciation for the 2020 Tootsie Roll Sale Drive donation in the amount of \$1340.53 to the Merrill High School Special Education Program. This donation enables students with intellectual disabilities to participate in various experiences to enrich their daily living skills as well as their ability to grow and develop into young adults. Also recognized was Kate Knott for her 25 years of dedication and service to the Girls Basketball Program as Head Manager. As players and coaches have come and gone there has been one constant. That is Kate. Kate loves what she does and shows up almost every day ready to work. It isn't just her physical work that she does that makes her an important person for our team. It is her humor, her smile, her energy, her pregame speeches, and her dedication that inspires all of us to better ourselves!

Jon Smith here at 5:36 p.m.

Amelia Skoviera and Levi Black, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: virtual learning days - overall students and teachers have adapted well; the Choir is currently working on *A Dinner and A Show*, being combined into one seamless video and uploaded to their Facebook page; ACT practice test was taken by Juniors last Thursday, the real ACT will be March 9th; winter sports went very well -

senior Audrey Ladewig, who is part of the Storm Hockey Team is competing in State Semi-finals; Boys Basketball won their first playoff game and will play Medford this Friday; spring sports around the corner; FFA Week is February 23-26, with each day being a different dress up day and activities; we are in the peak of scholarship season; and, students are registering for courses for next year.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Mid-Year Achievement Gap Reduction report; Student Monitor reports - winter data; PRSYL monthly data; Project SEARCH 2021-2022; monthly budget update; food participation update; Human Resources report; Technology Update; the Superintendent's Report; and, Board Education Opportunity - Determining Custodial Manpower Assignment Procedure.

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

MOTION by Liberty, second by Volpe to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as drafted. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Yingling to approve the 2021-2022 Federal Head Start Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Osness to approve the Head Start 2020-2021 Community Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Woller to approve the additional hours for the Family Support Specialist position to become full-time at MAPS Head Start. Motion carried unanimously.

Karen Baker, Glenda Oginski, Eddie Then, Ron Liberty and Kevin Blake gave a recap of the sessions they attended at the State Education Convention.

The Board looked at renewing transportation contracts with our current vendors.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the Prairie River Middle School Course descriptions for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the DPI's data use agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Liberty to approve the Apple MacBook quote and corresponding buy-back quote valued at a minimum of \$69,300. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the preliminary budget documentation, assumptions, forecast and options.

Per Bylaw 0131.1, the Board was informed of technical changes made to Neola's Volume 30, Number 1 update.

The Board discussed 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 Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the consent

agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$1,0808,617.16; the personnel report [as presented](#); and, donations totaling \$1,580.53. AMENDMENT by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to change the claims, vouchers and receipts total to \$3,187,417.15. Amendment carried. Motion to approve the consent agenda items a through d, which includes minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,187,417.15; the personnel report [as presented](#); and, donations totaling \$1,580.53 carried unanimously.

“Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof” was shared with the Board. Jon Smith asked to add “New Board Member Orientation” and “Superintendent DAPES Review of the program itself” - both bypassing the committee level and sent to the Board level.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Special Board Meeting: Thursday, February 25, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium
- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, March 1, 2021 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Policy Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, March 8, 2021 @ 6 p.m. at MGCS
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @5:30 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 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; and, (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 issuance of notice of nonrenewal of contract to Keshia Mashak upon the expiration of her contract due to elimination of her position for the 2021-22 school year; and, to consider and act upon parental requests for student opt out of state assessments, including the potential for a closed session(s) to review the specifics applicable to the affected student(s) if the discussion of such in open session would be likely to have an adverse effect upon the reputation of such student(s) pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats. Any such closed session(s) shall be immediately followed by reconvening in open session for further consideration and, ultimately, action upon the parental requests. MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

7:01 p.m. - 7 minute break to get organized.

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

MOTION by Liberty, second by Smith to motion to give notice in writing of the final notice of the non-renewal to Keshia Mashak of the Board's refusal to renew her employment contract due to the elimination of her position for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve the parental request for Student A to opt out of state assessments. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder