

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 17, 2021 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:48 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, Maria Volpe and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Jeremy Ratliff. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; 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; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Student Representatives Levi Black and Amelia Skoviera, approximately 28 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder. Others present remotely: Dr. Dawn Nonn, Teaching 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: Officer Mark Heckendorf for his years of service as the Student Resource Officer (SRO) in the Merrill School District and his service to the Merrill Community as a whole. Anthony Gerlach and the Merrill PT for 25 years of dedicated service to the student-athletes of Merrill Area Public Schools. The Merrill High School custodial staff (Bill Boyd, Steve Holz, Kurt Kalbes, Kevin Krueger, Steve Saal, Jim Schooley, Dawn White and Eric Wilke) for their time, flexibility and efforts in facility set up and sanitization before, during and after our practices, rehearsals and events so that our students, coaches, directors and advisors can compete and participate safely in activities this school year. Ginger Kanitz for coordinating and facilitating the deployment of all hot spots to ensure students and staff were able to successfully learn virtually. She also successfully managed the craziness of student enrollment, making sure each student and staff member had a working iPad in a timely manner. Thank you to Ginger for your organization and hard work! Michael Lind for successfully navigating all of the new technology requests that have transpired due to COVID on top of his normal duties. Michael is an extremely high functioning individual who always provides service with a smile. He is always willing to help and function with the highest level of integrity. Thank you to Mike for his willingness to learn new things and lead by example. The Merrill Varsity Bowlers (Coach Scott Smith; Aaron Arndt, Gr. 12; Kyle Semling, Gr. 12; Piper Plautz, Gr. 12; Paige Plautz, Gr. 11; Dylan Smith, Gr. 9; and, Brandon Humphrey, Gr. 9) for finishing 3rd at the state tournament March 5-7! They bowled a 15-game qualifying round and knocked down 2,827 pins. Averaging almost 189 pins per game. Which put them as the 3rd highest scoring team there. They were only 65 pins away from being high scores for Division 2. We couldn't be prouder of how the kids handled themselves under the pressure. The theme of the weekend was if someone had a bad frame we would focus on making it up for them instead of getting down. They covered for each other all day. They never counted themselves out and would keep pushing to the final frame to get as many pins as they could. Piper Plautz ended in 33rd place out of 55 top girl bowlers in the state with a 3-game series of 538. Missing the qualifying cut by 48 pins. Dylan Smith finished in 51st out of 100 top boys bowlers in the state. He had a 3 game series of 565 and missed the cut by 38 pins. They bowled on difficult oil patterns all

weekend and showed they have what it takes to compete at a high level with the top kids from around the state.

Amelia Skoviera and Levi Black, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: Raise Your Voice; ACT Exams with the makeup day being next week; Winterfest; Graduation is planned for Friday, May 28; and, the Spring Musical.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: updated ELA Resource Vetting Process; PRSYL monthly data; COVID 19 vaccination clinics; monthly budget update; food participation update; Human Resources report; Technology Update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Woller to approve the schedules, course offerings and registration materials for MAPS Summer School Enrichment 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the CESA 9 2021-2022 contracted services agreement as presented with a projected cost of \$171,634. Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken regarding a "No Work" Day following the second MAPS/LCHD vaccination clinic day.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to approve the Physical Therapist services at MAPS to five days per week. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Smith to approve the switch quote. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Volpe to approve the UPS quote by RMM Solutions. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the router quote. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the draft 2021-2022 Staff Handbooks for a first reading.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to align to the proposed 2021-2022 Organizational Chart to approve the elimination of the position of Director of Human Resources beginning June 30, 2021; approve the elimination of the position of Director of Finance beginning June 30, 2021; and, subsequently approve the position of Accounting Coordinator beginning July 1, 2021; approve the HR Coordinator Position beginning July 1, 2021; and, approve the position of Director of Business Services beginning July 1, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Volpe to approve the 2021-22 Head Start Federal COLA Supplement. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to approve Policy 0144.5 Board Member Behavior and Code of Conduct as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Ashbeck to approve Policy 0145 Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Per Bylaw 0131.1, the Board was informed of technical changes made to Policies 8330.01, 8680 and 9151.

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 Woller, second by Liberty to approve the consent agenda items a through e, which includes minutes of the February 16, 2021, February 17, 2021 and February 25, 2021 meetings; second readings and approval of Policy 1211 Whistleblower Protection; Bylaw 0100 Definitions; Bylaw 0131.1 Bylaws and Policies; Bylaw 0144.4 Indemnification; Policy 2411 School Counseling and Academic and Career Planning; Policy 2416 Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information; Policy 3220 Staff Evaluation and Educator Effectiveness; Policy 5113 Open Enrollment Program (Inter-District); Policy 5511 Dress and Grooming; Policy 5517.01 Bullying; Policy 5540 The Schools and Governmental Agencies; Policy 5540.01 Investigations Involving Suspected Child Abuse; Policy 7230 Gifts, Grants, and Bequests; Policy 8405 Environmental Health and Safety Program; and, the deletion of Policy 2416.01 Parental/Police Access to Instructional Material Center Information; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,416,914.50; the personnel report [as presented](#); and, donations totaling \$898.93 carried with Ashbeck abstaining from the February 16, 2021 minutes.

“Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof” was shared with the Board.

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

Future Meetings

- School Forest Advisory Meeting: Monday, March 22, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m. at the School Forest
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, March 25, 2021 @ 12:45 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Board of Canvassers Meeting: Monday, April 12, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, April 12, 2021 @ 6 p.m. at MGCS
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 12:45 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 21, 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; (g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved; 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 1) The consideration of (and possible action regarding) applications for participation in the Early College Credit and Start College Now programs; 2) 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; 3) For discussion, consideration, and action, as appropriate, regarding specific teacher resignations and/or the issuance of preliminary notice of consideration of nonrenewal for the purpose of staff reduction to specific teachers; 4) Consideration of potential transfer of internal personnel to the newly created Director of Business Services position; and, 5) Section 19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stat., concerning strategy to be adopted by the Board with respect to litigation in which it is involved with Maple Grove Governance Board, and Section 19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stat., to conduct specified public business which for competitive or bargaining reasons requires a closed session, to wit, the division or sale of assets and the division of liabilities between Merrill Area Common Public School District and Athens School District, which may occur as a result of granting petitions for detachment of property in the Town of Hamburg, and to take action regarding the same. The Board will reconvene into open session and may take action upon the matters discussed during the closed session portion of the meeting. MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

6:58 p.m. - 10 minute break to get organized.

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

MOTION by Osness, second by Yingling, to approve the 38 Early College Credit courses and the 12 Start College Now courses as presented in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to accept the resignations of Kimberly Lemmon, Shawna Greunke, Talena Bliven, Scott Boesel, Lindsey Breheim and Amy Guthrie, with an amendment to the agreement to exclude all positions at Bridges Virtual Academy from the eligible areas of recall. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to transfer of Eddie Then to the newly created position of Director of Business Services, effective July 1, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Yingling to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder