

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 21, 2021 – 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, 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; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education & Pupil Services; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Shannon Murray, High 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: Eddie Then, Director of Human Resources; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Jill Seaman, Director of 4K/Head Start/Early Childhood; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Teaching Principal; and, approximately 7 people from the staff and public.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

During recognition, the following were recognized: Nathan Woller, who is a Senior that is a 3-year letter winner for Merrill Basketball. Nate battled through ankle issues all season, he didn't use it as an excuse and didn't complain, instead he found a way to be out there with his guys every single game besides one. Nate is a true leader on and off the court, and his play has earned him many awards this season. He earned 1st Team All Wisconsin Valley Conference honors, he was named a Big Schools Channel 7 All Star, and now we recognize him for another great honor being named as a D2 All State Honorable Mention player! Nate's stats are very impressive as he averaged 17 ppg, 3.5 assists per game, and 6 Rebounds per game. Coach Troy Pieper says, "His work ethic is second to none, he loves the game of basketball and is very deserving of all the awards he has received this year." Courtney Krueger for being nominated as a Channel 7 All Star. Courtney is a dedicated, hard working individual who wants the best for her team. She separates herself from other athletes by outworking them in all aspects of the game. This year, Courtney was honored with the Wisconsin Valley Conference 1st Team Unanimous decision for the second year in a row. This year she was also honored with the Channel 7 All Star selection. She averaged the following stats: Team leading 17.4 points per game; 5.3 rebounds per game; and, 2.6 assists per game. Coach Adam Smith says, "Coaching Courtney was an honor."

Jeremy Ratliff was recognized as an outgoing board member and for his service to our school district. Chad Krueger was welcomed as our newest board member.

Amelia Skoviera and Levi Black, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: Spring Musical; Raise Your Voice Awareness Walk; Youth Optimist, picnic in lieu of the inside luncheon; caps and gowns available for students to borrow; Prom May 22, tickets available until May 19; and, graduation.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Core Knowledge Language Arts ELA Resource update; PRSYL monthly data; suicide prevention information; Merrill High School Raise Your Voice Club presentation; monthly budget update; food participation update; Human Resources report; Technology update; Buildings & Grounds/Transportation update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve both the Teacher Handbook and Support Staff Handbook [as presented](#), removing the governor's mask mandate portion.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to take a recess to fix the technical issues. Motion carried unanimously.

6:17 p.m. - 12 minute recess.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve both the Teacher Handbook and Support Staff Handbook [as presented](#), removing the governor's mask mandate portion. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to approve the staffing counts [as presented](#), which include the following key adjustments: elimination of the School Forest Aide; and addition of the following positions: 1 PRMS Library Aide; and, 2 Social Workers (one for each elementary school). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to turn off all technology so there are no further interruptions to the board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

At 6:41 p.m., the virtual option was discontinued.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to approve the part-time teacher contract with revisions [as presented](#) for the 2021-2022 school year moving forward. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the conversion from accrued vacation time for secretarial and technology staff to real time as described in the 2021-2022 handbook [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the renewal with The Standard for Long-term Disability and Short-term Disability Insurance with a 2-year rate guarantee [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to approve the administration to create and hire the positions and potential curriculum materials [as presented](#) by priority as funds under ESSER II and III allow. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve Policies 3213/4231 Student Supervision as reviewed and approved as a first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Smith to approve Policy 2522 Library Media Center, choosing library media centers versus instructional material centers throughout, as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Per Bylaw 0131.1, the Board was informed of technical changes made to Bylaw 0144.5 Communicating with the Board.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to remove the standing agenda item as it relates to building consolidation and replace with facility/transportation updates. Motion carried unanimously.

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 e, which includes minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting; second readings and approval of Bylaw 0144.5 Board Member Behavior and Code of Conduct; Bylaw 0145 Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment; and, Policy 8660 Transportation by Private Vehicle; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,986,893.05; the personnel report [as presented](#); and, donations totaling \$1,200.00. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Radio Schedule: Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Special Board Meeting - Organizational Meeting: Monday, April 26, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, May 3, 2021 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, May 6, 2021 @ 12:45 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, May 10, 2021 @ 6 p.m. at MGCS
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 19, 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. The purpose of the closed session is for 1) Review the list of teaching staff who will be receiving a contract for the 2020-2021 school year and their respective eligibility for movement on the salary schedule for 2021-2022; 2) Discuss the intermittent unpaid leave of two professional staff members; 3) Review administrators' salary schedule placements and/or potential merit pay; 4) To discuss the Superintendent's formative evaluation feedback per the evaluation process through the District Administrator Performance Evaluation System (DAPES); and, 5) 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 Volpe, second by Woller to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

7:05 p.m. - 9 minute break to get organized.

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

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller, to approve the 2021-2022 teacher contracts for returning certified staff as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Yingling to approve the 2021-2022 administrator pay changes and merit pay as presented with contingencies. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Ashbeck to approve the reduction work schedule and intermittent leave of absence for Bonnie Tuttle and Adam Smith through the end of the 2020-2021 school year under the applicable rules of the Teacher Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder