

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
May 19, 2021 – 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.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Chad Krueger, Ron Liberty, Kendra Osness, Jon Smith, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Maria Volpe. 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; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Student Representative Amelia Skoviera, approximately 17 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comment, Stacy Kleinschmidt and Lisa Hass commented on staff salaries.

During recognition, the following were recognized: Our returning board representative, Amelia Skoviera, for her service. And, Megan Sherman who secured a \$10,000 Meemic Foundation for the Future of Education grant for Kate Goodrich Elementary School to use for technology.

New student school board representative, Isaiah Rell, was announced and introduced to the Board.

Amelia Skoviera, Student Board of Education Representative, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: spring sports; graduation; senior awards night; Prom; last day of school and finals next week; AP testing; and, Link Crew met with 8th graders.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Summer School update; PRSYL monthly data; suicide prevention information; Procedural Compliance Self-Assessment update; monthly budget update; food participation update; Human Resources report; Technology update; Buildings & Grounds/Transportation update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to approve the appointments made by the Superintendent for committee membership of the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to eliminate the Legislative Committee and Curriculum Advisory Committee and then respectively is the responsibility of the Human Resource Committee and the CTP Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the Aspirus Health Plan presented as option #1 with a \$2,000/\$4,000 deductible and both a broad and narrow network option with 12% and 8.5% contribution rates respectively for all staff for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Smith, second by Ashbeck to approve the renewal contract with the Guardian for voluntary benefits [as presented](#). Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Woller, second by Liberty to approve the support staff letters of assurance and/or assignment for the 2021-2022 fiscal year [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2021-2022 student handbooks/agendas for elementary, middle and high school. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Yingling to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC and New York City for June of 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Woller to approve the 377 new students open enrolling to MAPS, deny the 2 applications that do not meet open enrollment district criteria, and also approve the 694 open enrolled students continuing at MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the 85 new students indicating open enrollment out of MAPS, deny the 4 applications that do not meet open enrollment district criteria, and also approve the 106 open enrolled students continuing to open enroll out of MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to cease the facemask requirement for both indoor and outdoor as an optional use for MAPS students and staff effective immediately. AMENDMENT by Krueger, second by Liberty to change the date to the end of the school year, June 1st. Amendment failed on a roll call vote (Ayes - Krueger, Liberty and Ashbeck. Nays - Osness, Smith, Woller, Yingling and Blake.) Motion to cease the facemask requirement for both indoor and outdoor as an optional use for MAPS students and staff effective immediately carried.

MOTION by Woller, second by Ashbeck to approve the MAPS Head Start Duration Waiver. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to approve the summer maintenance projects for 2021-2022 as funding allows. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Yingling to approve the 3-year transportation contract [as presented](#) with Wendorf Bus Service, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Smith to approve the purchase of Core Knowledge Language Arts resources for grades K-5 in the amount of \$169,626.04 to be paid from the 2021-2022 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Ashbeck to approve the donation of funds from The Meemic Foundation valued at \$10,000 for technology at Kate Goodrich Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Liberty to combine Bylaw 0112 and Bylaw 0123 into one called Bylaw 0112 Purpose of the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Outgoing student board representative, Levi Black, was recognized by the Board.

MOTION by Osness, second by Ashbeck to approve funding in the amount of \$37,800.00 for moving expenses and a one time expenditure not to exceed \$180,000.00 for building remodels [as presented](#) to reconfigure areas for the new building configurations. Motion carried unanimously.

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 minutes of the April 21, 2021 and April 26, 2021 meetings; second readings and approval of Policies 3213/4213 Student Supervision; Policy 5335 Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs; and, Policy 5350 Student Suicide; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,398,043.40; the personnel report [as presented](#); and, donations totaling \$1,505.00. Motion carried with Yingling abstaining from the April 26, 2021 minutes; and, Krueger abstaining from the April 21, 2021 minutes.

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

Radio Schedule: Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

#### Future Meetings

- School Forest Advisory Meeting: Monday, May 24, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m at the School Forest
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, June 3, 2021 @ 12:45 p.m. by virtual meeting
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, June 14, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. at MGCS
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

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; (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 Superintendent's formative evaluation feedback per the evaluation process. MOTION by Woller, second by Ashbeck to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

6:49 p.m. - 21 minute break to get organized.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Osness to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Ronald Liberty  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder