

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Merrill Area Common Public School District was called to order at the Merrill High School Auditorium at 5:31 PM on September 20, 2021 by Kevin Blake, President of the Board of Education. President Blake introduced the members of the Board: Board Clerk Ron Liberty, Board Treasurer Brett Woller, Nubs Ashbeck, Chad Krueger, Kendra Osness and Maria Volpe; Superintendent John Sample; and, Director of Business Services Edward Then. Board members not present were Jon Smith and Linda Yingling. There were approximately 14 members of the staff present.

Board President Blake gave a brief opening statement. President Blake also stated that parliamentary procedure will be followed at this meeting, referenced the green handout for the Notice of Publication, the blue handout for the ground rules and voter qualifications, and the yellow handout for the powers of the annual meeting.

President Blake requested nominations for a chairperson of the meeting.

MOTION BY Ron Liberty to nominate Kevin Blake as chairperson.

President Blake called for additional nominations for a total of three times. Hearing no other nominations, the motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Kevin Blake as chairperson carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairperson Blake called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. **MOTION BY** Maria Volpe, second by Brett Woller to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairperson Blake called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes of the last annual meeting as they appear on the pink handout. **MOTION BY** Maria Volpe, second by Nubs Ashbeck to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the September 21, 2020 Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing minutes as they appear on the pink handout. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Brett Woller, Board Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report which indicated the following for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021: "The treasurer's report is available in the annual meeting booklet and contains both unaudited values for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 as well as projected fund balance changes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. This is located on the last page of the booklet. The highlights of the report are as follows: Increase in Fund 10 fund balance by approximately \$430,000 to be compliant with the Board's policy #6235; Transfer to Fund 46 of \$1,800,000 for future capital projects and mill rate management; The food service fund, Fund 50, showed growth of approximately \$307,000 due to all students eating for free and the federal reimbursement levels being higher than what MAPS normally receives through

reduced price lunches and paid meals; A small surplus in Fund 80 of approximately \$24,000; Lastly, certain funds such as Fund 27 and Fund 29 will not carry a fund balance based on WUFAR and GASB accounting guidelines. We appreciate anyone taking the time to review the annual meeting booklet and be informed. Thank you."

Chairperson Blake requested a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting and convene the Budget Hearing. **MOTION BY** Maria Volpe, second by Kendra Osness to adjourn the Annual Meeting and convene the Budget Hearing. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairperson Blake stated that the electors have the right to be heard on the proposed budget. The electors do not approve the budget. The electors do vote on the local tax levy needed to implement the budget. However, in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 120.12 (3), the school board, on or before November 1, determines the amount necessary to operate and maintain the district schools and, on or before November 10, certifies the final tax levy.

Edward Then gave a brief presentation for the budget hearing. There were no questions by audience members.

MOTION BY Ron Liberty, second by Maria Volpe to reconvene the Annual Meeting. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

MOTION BY Maria Volpe, second by Kendra Osness to adopt Resolution A: The 2021-2022 tax levy for the Merrill Area Common Public School District is voted and approved in the amount of \$10,426,454, where \$9,713,851 is Fund 10; \$546,603 is Fund 38; and, \$166,000 is Fund 80. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

MOTION BY John Sample, second by Trisha Detert to adopt Resolution B for compensation and authorized reimbursement of expenses of school board members: 1) the board president and the board clerk will be paid \$150.00 for each school board meeting attended, and will be paid an additional \$50.00 when attending a school board meeting lasting longer than five hours (including travel time); 2) all other board members will be paid \$100.00 per meeting for each school board meeting attended, and will be paid an additional \$50.00 when attending a school board meeting lasting longer than five hours (including travel time); 3) all board members will, in addition to the foregoing, be reimbursed when traveling by automobile in the performance of board duties at the I.R.S. rate per mile in effect at the time such travel occurs; 4) all board members will, in addition to the foregoing, be reimbursed when traveling in the performance of board duties for actual costs of meals, not to exceed \$25.00 per diem, subject to school board approval; and 5) all board members will, in addition to the foregoing, be reimbursed when traveling in the performance of board duties for actual costs of overnight accommodations, subject to school board approval. Motion carried on a voice vote with Board members abstaining for the vote.

MOTION BY Maria Volpe, second by Nubs Ashbeck to adopt Resolution C: Authorizing School Lunch Program designating that the Merrill Area Public School Board shall furnish school lunches to the pupils of the Merrill Area Common Public School District and appropriate funds for the specific purpose. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Superintendent John Sample presented the State of the District to the audience, including such topics as COVID-19; maintaining fiscal responsibility; and, positive culture and climate.

MOTION BY Kendra Osness, second by Chad Krueger to set the next Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing for October 24, 2022. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairperson Blake announced that he would entertain any other matters, provided by law, relating to the management of school district affairs. Hearing none, Blake asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY Nubs Ashbeck, second by Maria Volpe to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote. (TIME: 6:05 p.m.)



Ron Liberty
Clerk, Board of Education

Tammy Woller
Recorder