

Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 15, 2023 – Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:30 PM in the Central Office Board Room.

Board members present: Jacqueline Gremler, Chad Krueger, Kendra Osness, Paul Proulx, and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Ron Liberty, Maria Volpe, Brett Woller and Linda Yingling. Others Present: Shannon M. Murray, Superintendent; Dr. Kelley Strike, Director of Business Services; Karen Baker, Director of SPED/Pupil Services; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Ryan Martinovici, Director of Head Start/PRSYL/4K; Trisha Detert, High School Principal; Megan Kautzer, MHS Associate Principal; Heather Soberg, Elementary Principal; Student Representatives Isaiah Rell and Brooke Rudie; six people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments

During Recognition, the following were recognized: Ryder Depies for his 2nd place finish at State Wrestling. We would also like to recognize the high school wrestling coach team: Brian Suchocki, Carey Mullenberg, Isaac Buntrock, Tanner Depies, and Ben Natzke.

Student BOE Representatives, Isaiah Rell and Brooke Rudie, updated the Board on high school activities including: spring sports practices began; students from MHS are leaving for Greece and Italy this Friday; MHS holding a Career Fair April 6; wrapped up ACT testing for Juniors last week; Sophomores and Freshmen are preparing for the Pre ACT on April 17;and, Prom is April 1 with the Grand March at 6 p.m. and the dance from 6:30-10 p.m., the theme this year is neon.

There was a Board education opportunity presentation by Dale Bergman regarding transportation routing.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Human Growth and Development; PRSYL Monthly Data; Food Service update; addressing Achievement Gap/Co-Teacher and Co-Planning update; Business Services Update; Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Proulx, second by Krueger to approve the 2023-2024 Federal Head Start Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Osness to approve the Head Start Cost Allocation Plan for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Gremler to approve the Head Start 2023-2024 T/TA plan. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Krueger to approve the purchase of an additional camera server. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Osness to approve the donations of an 8' Tidd Tech Snow Roller (valued at \$2,529) and a 6' Tidd Tech Snow Groomer/Tracksetter (valued at \$10,962) from the Friends of the Evjue/Merrill School Forest. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approval of the WIAA Boys Hockey Cooperative Team Renewal for 2023-2024; as well as, the WIAA Girls Hockey Cooperative Team Renewal for 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Proulx to approve the purchase of chromebooks in the amount of \$1,082,947.50 to be purchased with ESSER funds for grades 3-12. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Osness to approve the purchase of iPads in the amount of \$224,372.50 to be purchased with ESSER funds for grades K-2. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approve the CESA 9 2023-2024 shared service contract as presented with a projected cost of \$252,943. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Proulx to approve the grant/donation from an anonymous donor through the Community Foundation of NorthCentral Wisconsin for mental health navigation services at MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Proulx to approve the agreement with the Lincoln County UW Extension office for Mental Health Navigation services for one year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the compensation plan adjustments for a 2% increase for any staff that exceed the last step of the plan, adjust contract days to 210 for all Elementary and Middle School Principals and Associate Principals, and removal of professional advancement language for Support Staff. Motion carried.

Neola's Volume 32, Number 1 Technical Corrections were presented to the Board.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Osness to approve the attached [personnel report](#), contingent upon the satisfaction of the appropriate liquidated damages for resignations, if applicable. Motion carried unanimously.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Krueger to approve consent agenda items a through c, which includes minutes of the February 15, 2023, and March 6, 2023, meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,028,321.13; and, donations totaling \$5,570. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the February 15, 2023 minutes.

There were no items added for future meetings.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

Future Meetings

- School Forest Advisory Meeting: Monday, March 27, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m. at the School Forest
- Special Board Meeting - Workshop: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Special Board Meeting: Thursday, March 30, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Head Start Policy Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 @ 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 Section 19.85(1) (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; 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 the consideration of (and possible action regarding) applications for participation in the Early College Credit and Start College Now programs; 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 Proulx, second by Krueger to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Osness to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approve Student A and Student B to opt out of state assessments. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Osness to approve the 2 Early College Credit courses and the 2 Start College Now courses as presented in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Osness to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Kendra Osness
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder