

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
April 19, 2023 – Minutes**

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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, Ron Liberty, Maria Volpe, Kendra Osness, Paul Proulx, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board member absent: Brett Woller. 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; Ryan Martinovici, Director of Head Start/PRSYL/4K; Heather Soberg, Elementary Principal; Student Representatives Isaiah Rell and Brooke Rudie; six people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

There was a moment of silence for Aiden Grefe and Dakota Brown.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

During Recognition, the following were recognized: George Wilde for the exceptional efforts he has made in going above and beyond in his role as a school custodian.

Maria Volpe was recognized for her years of service to our district.

It was noted that Nubs Ashbeck will be the newest board member, who will take office on April 24, 2023.

Student BOE Representatives, Isaiah Rell and Brooke Rudie, updated the Board on high school activities including: the sadness and tragedy of the loss of Aiden Grefe and Dakota Brown, thanking those that made themselves available for support; decision made to reschedule the Pre-ACT; May 1 is the National Honor Society Induction; Prom king Robert Hoff and queen Brooke Rudie were crowned; Fiddler on a Roof is this week; Skills USA competition in Madison in May; and, Maddie Crossman broke the school and her own personal record for track.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Systems Implementation Review; PRSYL Monthly Data; Food Service update; Narcan Availability at MAPS; Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

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

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the 2023-2024 Head Start Federal COLA Supplement and Quality Improvement Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve the modifications of the 2023-24 MAPS school calendar to best meet the needs of the students, staff and community. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Osness to approve the schedules, course offerings and registration materials for MAPS Summer School Enrichment 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness second by Volpe to approve the 2023-2024 Elementary Student Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the 8th grade Washington DC, New York City Trip for June of 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the Securly replacement content filter in the amount of \$51,480.00 for internet filtering service through the 2025-2026 school year with costs coming out of the 2022-2023 IT Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the purchase of a printer for the graphics department from Up and Running Solutions. MOTION AMENDED by Krueger, second by Volpe to add, "with the fiscal impact of \$18,995, \$9,995 after trade in and discount - to be taken out of Carl Perkins, the Tech Ed Budget and Bluejay Design Activities Account. Amendment carried unanimously. Motion to approve the purchase of a printer for the graphics department from Up and Running Solutions with the fiscal impact of \$18,995, \$9,995 after trade in and discount - to be taken out of Carl Perkins, the Tech Ed Budget and Bluejay Design Activities Account carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Gremler to approve the Raise Your Voice advisor pay, 3 positions at \$1,000 each, for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

The first reading of the staff handbooks for 2023-2024 was presented to the Board.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Liberty to approve the renewal contract with The Standard for Long-term Disability and Short-term Disability Insurance for the upcoming year contract with a 2nd year rate cap [as presented](#). Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve the renewal of both Delta Dental's vision plan and the Guardian's various offerings as voluntary benefits for FY24 [as presented](#). Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Proulx to approve the renewal of the dental insurance with no change to deduction rates and vision insurance at 0% increase with Delta Dental for FY24. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the renewal of the health insurance with Aspirus Health Plan with a 1.9% increase [as presented](#) for FY24. Motion carried with Osness abstaining from the vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the Athletic Coaches Compensation Plan for 2023-2024 [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Krueger to approve the new/revised Youth Apprenticeship positions as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Krueger approve New Policy 5250 Programs or Curriculum Modifications, waiving the first reading, and approving as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Technical Corrections to Policy 9800 High School Diplomas to Veterans were presented to the Board.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Osness to approve the donation of funds from the Aspirus Merrill Hospital valued at \$6,500 for SEL committee review of curriculum, participate and conduct trainings, review appropriate lessons for each grade level to personalize lessons for students, and communicate with building level staff about implementation of the curriculum. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe 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 Volpe, second by Osness to approve consent agenda items a through d, which includes second readings and approval of revisions to: Bylaw 0100 Definitions; Bylaw 0175 Association Memberships; Policy 2210 Curriculum Development; Policies 3215/4215 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine by Professional/ Support Staff; Policy 5200 Attendance; Policy 5330 Administration of Medication/Emergency Care; Policy 5340 Student Accidents/Illness/ Concussion & Sudden Cardiac Arrest; Policy 5410 Promotion, Placement and Retention; Policy 5512 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine by Students; Policy 5517 Student Anti-Harassment; Policy 5771 Search and Seizure; Policy 7434 Use of Tobacco and Nicotine on School Premises; Policy 7440 Facilities Security; Policy 8405 Environmental Health and Safety Program; Policy 8420.01 Epidemics and Pandemics; Policy 8600 Transportation; and, Policy 8800 Religious Activities and Observances; minutes of the March 15, 2023, March 29, 2023, March 30, 2023, and April 12, 2023 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,872,561.65; and, donations totaling \$9,089. Motion carried with Liberty abstaining from the March 15, 2023, March 29, 2023, and March 30, 2023 minutes; Krueger abstaining from the April 12, 2023 minutes; Yingling abstaining from the March 15, 2023 and April 12, 2023 minutes; Volpe abstaining from the March 15, 2023 minutes; and, Gremler abstaining from the April 12, 2023 minutes.

For Items for Future Meetings, Yingling asked to look at a virtual option for Board members to attend board meetings in case of emergency or something medical. Krueger thought the item with coordinating events to not overlap the City's and County's events could come off the list. Volpe asked to start looking at getting Jr. Achievement back in our schools and Krueger asked that it be added to a CTP agenda to keep it fresh.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

#### Future Meetings

- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Special Board Meeting - Organizational Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023 @ 12:45 p.m. virtually

- Special Board Meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Head Start Policy Council: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- School Forest Advisory Committee Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m. at the School Forest
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

President Blake announced that there was no need for a closed session.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Krueger to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Kendra Osness  
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder