

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
May 17, 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: Nubs Ashbeck, Jacqueline Gremler, Chad Krueger, Ron Liberty, Kendra Osness, Paul Proulx, Brett Woller and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board member absent: Linda Yingling. Others Present: Shannon M. Murray, Superintendent; Karen Baker, Director of SPED/Pupil Services; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Ryan Martinovici, Director of Head Start/PRSYL/4K; Trisha Detert, High School Principal; Megan Kautzer, Middle School Associate Principal; Heather Soberg, Elementary Principal; Heather Kahr, Elementary Associate Principal; Student Representatives Isaiah Rell and Brooke Rudie; ten 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: Mrs. Heather Kahr for her outstanding work in building positive relationships with students and effectively reducing negative behaviors at Kate Goodrich. The Comprehensive School Mental Health Team: Trisha Detert, Trisha Kubichek, Allie Libby, Debbie Moellendorf, Von Saunders, Trina Knospe and Laura Forster was recognized. Our departing student board representative, Isaiah Rell; and returning board representative, Brooke Rudie, were recognized for their year of service.

Max Black, the new student school board representative for 2023-2024 was introduced to the Board.

Student BOE Representatives, Isaiah Rell and Brooke Rudie, updated the Board on high school activities including: the Otto Bacher Track Meet, girls team got first place; National Honor Society induction; Senior Celebration is returning this year; school year coming to an end; band awards; meeting for multiple clubs at the end of the year to thank everyone for volunteering; and Advanced Placement tests.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: District State and Benchmark Assessment Process; PRSYL Data; Food Service; NAC to MAC Homemade through Beyond Crayons & Computer Grant; Business Services; Buildings & Grounds/ Transportation Update; and, the Superintendent's Report.

Board committee appointments for 2023-2024 were [presented](#) to the Board by President Blake.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Osness to approve the appointments made by the Superintendent for committee membership of the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION by Woller, second by Proulx to table this topic indefinitely (consideration of Board member's request to review policies and guidelines for Board members to be allowed to attend and participate in meetings virtually). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to approve the second reading and approval of the 2023-2024 Teacher and Support Staff Handbooks. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2023-2024 application for State Head Start Supplemental Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the revised Head Start evidence-based COVID-19 Mitigation Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the dishwasher replacement at the Merrill High School [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to approve the summer maintenance projects for 2023-2024 as funding is available. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Proulx to approve the 2023-2024 course descriptions for Prairie River Middle School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Proulx to approve the 2023-2024 MADA Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the 305 new students open enrolling to MAPS, and also approve the 564 open enrolled students continuing at MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Krueger to approve the 43 new students indicating open enrollment out of MAPS and also approve the 142 open enrolled students continuing to open enroll out of MAPS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Gremler, second by Ashbeck to approve the Human Growth and Development updates for grades K-12. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the 7 Mindsets SEL Curriculum/licensing quote in the amount of \$27,000.00 from grant dollars for implementation in the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to approve the contracted service for Securly's Internet-Safety Filter Solution that will be paid out of the tech budget each year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2023-24 fiscal year addendum of the Taher Food Service contract [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Osness to approve the Bone & Joint Training Service contract [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty to eliminate the support staff positions held by Khadija Mirza and Lakisha Pollard, effective May 26, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to take off the standing agenda item and no longer do the regular review of policies. Committees will only review policies on an as needed basis. The Policy Committee should conduct a regular review of policies when not reviewing the Neola updates at quarterly meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Proulx to change the September 20, 2023, Regular Board Meeting date to September 27, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Krueger to approve the donation of funds from the Friends of the Forest valued at approximately \$40,000 for a shelter to be constructed by the pond at the Merrill School Forest. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Liberty, second by Osness to approve the donation of funds from the Merrill Aqua Jay Swim Team valued at \$9,025 for a 6-lane scoreboard to provide a scoreboard in remote areas during meets; as well as, for outdoor events. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Krueger, second by Liberty to approve the donation of funds from the Merrill Foundation valued at \$3,000 for the Merrill High School Senior Celebration. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Liberty to approve the donation of funds from the Habitat for Humanity valued at \$5,000 for The Nest at the Merrill High School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Osness, second by Proulx to approve the donation of funds from the Habitat for Humanity valued at \$5,000 for The Nest at the Prairie River Middle School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Liberty 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 Liberty, second by Osness to approve consent agenda items a through c, which includes minutes of the April 19, 2023, April 24, 2023, and May 4, 2023, meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,232,670.70; and, donations totaling \$2,755. Motion carried with Ashbeck abstaining from the April 19, 2023 and April 24, 2023 minutes; and, Woller abstaining from the April 19, 2023 minutes.

There were no additional items for future meetings.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 8:15 AM @ Bluejay 730 Radio Station

Future Meetings

- Special Board Meeting - Bray Miron Workshop: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 14 2023

@ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room

- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ 12:45 p.m. virtually
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Gremler to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.

Kendra Osness
Board Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder