

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
February 15, 2017 – Minutes**

---

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

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Kevin Blake, Eric Geiss, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Maria Volpe, Linda Yingling and Jen Seliger. Board members absent: Paul Proulx. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Cindy Heinz, Director of Human Resources; Gerald Beyer, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Karen Baker, Director of Pupil Services/Special Education; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology Integration; Joan Krohn, Director of 4K/Early Childhood/Head Start; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Brad Potter, High School Associate Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Mark Seaman, Middle School Associate Principal; Eric Becker, Elementary Principal; Doug Coddington, Elementary Principal; Dawn Nonn, Elementary Teaching Principal; Student Board Representatives Trevor Stadler and Rachel Rell; approximately 33 members of the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Seliger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was one public comment but was postponed to that agenda item.

The following were recognized by the Board of Education during recognition: Trinity Kanitz and Claire Schultz for setting new swim team records. Trinity set two new school records that were each over 10 years old as a freshman in the 200 IM and 500 Free; and, Claire set a middle school conference record in the 50 Free. All of our winners in the VFW Patriot's Pen essay contest! The winners in the local contest from PRMS include Courtney Schneider (1st place), Grace Koehler (2nd place), Nicole Zoellner (6th place), Sawyer Schmitz (8th place - 3rd place District), Samuel Johns (11th place), Aiden Krzanowski (14th place), and Lydia McIntyre (15th place - 2nd place District). MAPS and the community are very proud of your accomplishments! The 2016-2017 VFW Post 1638 & Auxiliary Voice of Democracy essay competition winners from the Merrill High School: Elizabeth Weix (3rd place), Emily Weix (4th place) and Trista Rathke (5th place). The top District Spelling Bee winners: Jack Hock - 1st place, David Golisch - 2nd place and Ben Freyer - third place. Elena Woller - alternate took fourth place. The top three spellers advanced to the Regional competition which was held at John Muir Middle School's auditorium on Tuesday, February 14th. Jack Hock then won the Regional Spelling Bee and will not go on to the State Spelling Bee competition March 25, 2017.

Trevor Stadler and Rachel Rell, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including the Winterfest, girls basketball won 4<sup>th</sup> see and will play a regional game next Friday at home; CWETA (Central Wisconsin Educational Theater Alliance) put on Shrek the musical in Wausau with four of our students Abe Akey, Mark Thompson, Will Leischer and Emily Schroeder; Devin Schultz and Noah Bolling were regional champs in their weight for wrestling; the Vocal Jayz did singing Valentines in the schools and out in the community; scholarship season is upon us and due Monday; this weekend is Solo Ensemble at the MHS; ACT is February 28 and March 1 for juniors; and, Bowl for Kids Sake is March 4 at Les & Jim's.

Debbie Moellendorf, Deb Brunett and Trinity Kanitz presented on the Lincoln County Drug Free Coalition and Social Norms committee.

There were administrative reports shared with the Board including MAP data; Pine River School for Young Learners monthly data; human resources update; monthly budget update; technology update; and, the superintendent's report which included monthly activities, VFW Awards Banquet, Merrill Tool and Water Jet visit; St. Francis Breakfast and the Studer Superintendent's meeting.

There were committee updates shared with the Board from the Health Insurance Committee, Policy Committee, Finance-Human Resources Committee and Facilities Committee.

President Seliger asked to move two agenda items to the top of Board of Education Business. There were no objections.

Brian Dasher presented the FY18 budget update to the Board.

At this point on the agenda there was public comment from Ben Reindl, Nick Baumann and Allie Kloth regarding the MHS scheduling system.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to table this (Master Schedule Changes at MHS) item. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Geiss to approve the 2017 Head Start Program Self-Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2017-2018 Federal Head Start Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to approve the Head Start Transportation Waiver for 2017-2018. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Blake to approve the Mad Scientists/Science Club at Prairie River Middle School. Motion carried unanimously.

The Second Friday in January Enrollment information was shared with the Board.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the construction of an outdoor equipment shelter in accordance with the costs presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Blake to approve the construction of an outdoor logging museum shelter in accordance with the costs presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to adopt the recommendation discussed at the committee level and increase the summer worker wages to \$10.00 and to maintain substitute custodian wage rates as they are working during the summer month as outlined on the paper. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Geiss to adopt the [attached resolution](#) for establishment of Fund 46 – Long-Range Capital Improvement Trust Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the TEACH Infrastructure Grant Agreement between the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration and the Merrill Area Public School District. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Murray informed the Board of increased hours for a Merrill Productions (MP3) employee.

It was the consensus of the Board to leave their expulsion philosophy unchanged.

Dr. Sample updated the Board on the Community Conversation outcomes.

Currently, the 2016-2017 school calendar has enough instructional minutes on it required by DPI without adding another day onto the end of the school calendar. Therefore, until further notice and as weather permits, June 8, 2017 remains our final day of instruction for the 2016-2017 school year. The rest of the school calendar remains unchanged at this point.

MOTION by Blake, second by Geiss to approve the donation of funds valued at \$5,000.00 from Sprinturf for purchasing a field maintenance vehicle. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Ashbeck to approve the donation of funds valued at \$37,500.00 from River Valley Bank for the Jay Stadium Renovation Project. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Blake, second by Ratliff to approve the donation of funds valued at \$1,255,000.00 from the Bierman Family Foundation, Inc. for the Jay Stadium Renovation Project. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Blake to approve the donation of funds valued at \$10,000.00 from Wisconsin Interstate Contracting for the Jay Stadium Renovation Project. Motion carried unanimously.

President Seliger asked if anyone wanted to pull anything from the consent agenda, hearing none, she called for a motion.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ratliff to approve consent agenda items a through e, which included: minutes of the January 25, 2017 and January 27, 2017 meetings; second readings of: Policy 5421.02 Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship; Policy 2521 Selection of Library Materials, Instructional Materials and Equipment; Policy 9130 Public Requests, Suggestions, or Complaints; Policy 5610 Student Suspensions, Pre-Expulsions and Expulsions; Policy 6424 Procurement Card Program; Policy 8310.01 Official Public Records Notice; Policy 8310 Public Records Fee Schedule; and, Policy 5511 Dress and Grooming; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,582,433.68; the personnel report, which includes the resignation of Rick Bonnell, effective June 30, 2017; the hirings of Emily Grams, Kate Goodrich Elementary School Special Education Teacher, effective date to be determined; and, Rick Bonnell, MHS Special Education Teacher, effective August 29, 2017; and, the retirements of David Arneson, effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year; and, Nancy Hrebik, effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year; the following donations for the Kate Goodrich PTO Let Them Be Little Dance raffle: a pair of Weinbrenner Maniac hunting boots from Weinbrenner Shoe Company valued at \$100.00; a monetary donation from Park City Credit Union valued at \$100.00; activity books, toothbrushes and toothpaste from Crest/Oral B/Procter & Gamble Distributing LLC valued at \$200.00; and, an Oral B electric toothbrush from Oak Park Dental valued at \$100.00. Motion carried unanimously with Ashbeck abstaining from the January 25 and 27, 2017 minutes; and, Yingling abstaining from the January 27, 2017 minutes.

For items for future meetings, Ashbeck asked that Board members review their email from Wisconsin Policy Research Institute (WPRI) regarding federal school funding and then put it on

next month's agenda to discuss it. Volpe asked that at a future meeting that we have someone from Wisconsin Association for School Boards (WASB) come in and talk about board governance.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 8:15 a.m. at WJMT Radio Station.

#### Future Meetings

- Health Insurance Advisory Committee Meeting: Wednesday - February 22, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Policy Committee Meeting: Thursday - February 23, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Long-Range Financial/Referendum Planning Committee Meeting: Tuesday - February 28, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m. in the MHS Library
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday - March 1, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday - March 1, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday – March 22, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

President Seliger called for a motion to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Sections 19.85 (1) (b) considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person, or considering the grant or denial of tenure for a university faculty member, and the taking of formal action on any such matter; provided that the faculty member or other public employee or person licensed is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action being taken and of any meeting at which final action may be taken; (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; and, (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss the Superintendent's performance evaluation; consideration of administrative contract renewals; further discussion and consideration of waiving requiring a former teacher, who resigned prior to the first contracted day of work, to refund wages that were disbursed prior to the first workday; and, to receive administration's recommendation regarding the continued employment/discharge of a District high school teacher, including the recommended timing for such consideration by the Board (no action regarding this agenda item is contemplated). MOTION by Geiss, second by Ashbeck to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

8:17 p.m. – 7 minute break.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ashbeck to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Blake, second by Geiss to approve the administrative/supervisor/superintendent contracts of Dr. John Sample, Gerald Beyer, Brad Potter, Brian Dasher, Cindy Heinz, Dale

Bergman, Dr. Dawn Nonn, Doug Coddington, Eric Becker, John Hagemeister, Karen Baker, Keshia Mashak, Mark Seaman, Ryan Martinovici, Shannon Murray and Trisha Detert. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Ashbeck to adjourn at 10:56 p.m.

Kevin Blake  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder