

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
June 21, 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, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Maria Volpe, Linda Yingling and Jen Seliger. Board members absent: None. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Cindy Heinz, Director of Human Resources; Gerald Beyer, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology Integration; Karen Baker, Director of Pupil Services & Special Education; Eric Becker, Elementary Principal; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Elementary Teaching Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Doug Coddington, Elementary Principal; Dale Bergman, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor; five members of the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Seliger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

There were administrative reports shared with the Board including an end-of-year wrap up for the buildings; Achievement Gap Reduction report; Project SEARCH report; (Ratliff left 5:34-5:35 p.m.) Pine River School for Young Learners monthly data; curriculum & instruction report; food service participation report; English Language Learners report; human resources update; School Forest final report; Jay Stadium update; monthly budget update; technology update; maintenance department update; and, the superintendent's report.

There were committee updates shared with the Board from the Health Insurance Committee, Finance-Human Resources Committee; Policy Committee; and, a combined Facilities/Finance/HR Committee update.

There was no unfinished business.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Proulx to approve the 2017-2018 E-Rate technical upgrades. Motion carried unanimously.

There was an update on the Merrill High School Food Pantry.

Deb Brunett and Nathan Meyer gave a presentation on MAPS' YouTube Channel.

Ashbeck left the meeting from 6:43-6:46 p.m.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the 2017 Federal COLA supplement. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Smith to approve the purchase of the Dodge Ram cargo van package as submitted and also to review policies concerning the decontamination of said vehicle. AMENDMENT by Ratliff to add "upon production and creation of a policy, bring forward for Board review before purchasing the vehicle. For lack of a second, the amendment failed. Motion to approve the purchase of the Dodge Ram cargo van package as submitted and also to review policies concerning the decontamination of said vehicle carried.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Geiss to adopt the resolution to proceed with an energy exemption project or projects through Act 32. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Proulx to approve the 2017-2018 food service budget and amendment to renew the Taher contract for 2017-2018; in addition, ask our administrative team to pursue a survey and possible switch to in house next year and a good idea to get occasional updates on that analysis. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Blake, second by Ratliff to approve the continued exploration of the Daktronics Sports Marketing model to replace the scoreboards in the Merrill High School fieldhouse, including assessing the willingness of local businesses and organizations to enter into sponsorship agreements to support the project. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Geiss to approve reclassifying the Buildings & Grounds Supervisor to Director of Buildings & Grounds at the current rate of pay. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Geiss to approve the donation of funds total value of \$16,661.42 from Friends of Evjue/Merrill School Forest for paying for half the cost of bunk beds, mattresses, and mattress supports, half the cost of custom constructed tables and benches for the mess hall at the School Forest, and camoplast tracks and installation at the School Forest. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to change the September 20, 2017 Regular Board Meeting to one week later on September 27, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about moving to two regular board meetings a month.

Ratliff left at 8:04 p.m.

MOTION by Geiss, second by Smith to change from one meeting a month to two meetings; the first will be information only and an unpaid meeting; the second meeting will be for action and a regular paid meeting; and, will be a trial from August to December. Motion carried unanimously (Ratliff was absent for the vote).

Geiss left from 8:22-8:23 p.m.

The Board discussed having a business plan for marketing the Merrill School Forest. Administration will report back to the Board in October.

The Board discussed having a "financial impact" summary, which tracks expenses related to incidentals and ongoing commitments as a result of Board action. This spreadsheet will begin tracking such details effective July 1, 2017.

Dr. Sample gave the Board an update on the Community Conversation outcomes.

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

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve consent agenda items a through e, which included minutes of the May 17, May 31 and June 7, 2017 meetings; second readings of

presented policies; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,834,408.76; the personnel report; and, donations presented. Motion carried unanimously with Blake, Proulx and Yingling abstaining from the May 31, 2017 minutes; and, Proulx, Yingling and Volpe abstaining from the June 7, 2017 minutes.

For future meetings, Ashbeck asked if we could revisit our seating arrangement. The consensus of the Board was to go back to our previous arrangement.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 8:15 a.m. at WJMT Radio Station.

#### Future Meetings

- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday – July 19, 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)(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. The purpose of the closed session was to discuss administrators'/supervisors' evaluations; and, to review the pre-expulsion history since the 2010-2011 school year per a board member's request. MOTION by Proulx, second by Geiss to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

8:47 p.m. – 11 minute break.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Geiss to adjourn at 9:42 p.m.

Kevin Blake  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder