

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Merrill Area Common Public School District was called to order at the Merrill High School Auditorium at 6:00 PM on September 17, 2018 by Kevin Blake, President of the Board of Education. President Blake introduced the members of the Board: Vice President Eric Geiss, Clerk Nubs Ashbeck, Treasurer Smith, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, Maria Volpe and Linda Yingling; Superintendent John Sample; Director of Finance Brian Dasher; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder. Board member absent was Brett Woller. Five members of the staff were in the audience.

Board President Blake gave a brief opening statement. President Blake also stated that parliamentary procedure will be followed at this meeting, referenced the green handout for the Notice of Publication, the blue handout for the ground rules and voter qualifications, and the yellow handout for the powers of the annual meeting.

President Blake requested nominations for a chairperson of the meeting.

**MOTION BY** Proulx, second by Ashbeck to nominate Kevin Blake as chairperson.

President Blake called for nominations for a total of three times. Hearing no other nominations, the motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Kevin Blake as chairperson carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairperson Blake called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. **MOTION BY** Volpe, second by Ratliff to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairperson Blake called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as they appear on the pink handout. **MOTION BY** Geiss, second by Volpe to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the September 18, 2017 Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing minutes as they appear on the pink handout. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Jon Smith, Board Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report which indicates the following for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018: 1) Beginning cash balance and investments (July 1, 2017) = \$ 5,116,860.97; 2) Receipts = \$66,332,082.69; 3) Disbursements = \$65,599,795.71; and 4) Ending Cash balance and investments (June 30, 2018) = \$5,849,147.95. (This includes Fund 10, Fund 21, Fund 23, Fund 27, Fund 29, Fund 30, Fund 50, Fund 72, Fund 80 and Fund 99. Receipts for final State Equalization Aid, final grant claims and June Food Service Aid paid during the month of July are not reflected in the ending balance. Final property taxes paid in July and August of \$2,669,707.91, are not included in the above ending balance. Beginning and ending cash balances on this report are reconciled with the bank statement and are reflected on the balance sheet as actual cash on hand.)

Chairperson Blake requested a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting and convene the Budget Hearing. **MOTION BY** Ratliff, second by Proulx to adjourn the Annual Meeting and convene the Budget Hearing. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairperson Blake stated that the electors have the right to be heard on the proposed budget. The electors do not approve the budget. The electors do vote on the local tax levy needed to implement the budget. However, in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 120.12 (3), the school board, on or before November 1, determines the amount necessary to operate and maintain the district schools and, on or before November 10, certifies the final tax levy.

There was an update from Brian Dasher regarding a budget presentation.

**MOTION BY** Geiss, second by Ratliff to reconvene the Annual Meeting. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

**MOTION BY** Proulx, second by Volpe to adopt Resolution A: The 2018-19 tax levy for the Merrill Area Common Public School District is voted and approved in the amount of \$10,736,501. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

**MOTION BY** Ratliff, second by Proulx to adopt Resolution B for compensation and authorized reimbursement of expenses of school board members: 1) the board president and the board clerk will be paid \$90.00 for each school board meeting attended, and will be paid an additional \$90.00 when attending a school board meeting lasting longer than five hours (including travel time); 2) all other board members will be paid \$55.00 per meeting for each school board meeting attended, and will be paid an additional \$55.00 when attending a school board meeting lasting longer than five hours (including travel time); 3) all board members will, in addition to the foregoing, be reimbursed when traveling by automobile in the performance of board duties at the I.R.S. rate per mile in effect at the time such travel occurs; 4) all board members will, in addition to the foregoing, be reimbursed when traveling in the performance of board duties for actual costs of meals, not to exceed \$25.00 per diem, subject to school board approval; and 5) all board members will, in addition to the foregoing, be reimbursed when traveling in the performance of board duties for actual costs of overnight accommodations, subject to school board approval. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

**MOTION BY** Volpe, second by Geiss to adopt Resolution C: Authorizing School Lunch Program designating that the Merrill Area Public School Board shall furnish school lunches to the pupils of the Merrill Area Common Public School District and appropriate funds for the specific purpose. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Superintendent John Sample presented the State of the District to the audience, including such topics as Community Conversation, operational referendum planning, attracting and retaining quality staff, Fab Lab, partnership with current businesses, facility projects, scholarships and no administrator turn over this last year.

**MOTION BY** Ratliff, second by Volpe to set the next annual meeting for September 16, 2019 in the Merrill High School Auditorium. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairperson Blake announced that she would entertain any other matters, provided by law, relating to the management of school district affairs. Hearing none, Blake asked for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION BY** Ashbeck, second by Volpe to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote. (TIME: 6:30 p.m.)



Nubs Ashbeck  
Clerk, Board of Education

Tammy Woller  
Recorder

