

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
June 19, 2019 – 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, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Christi Stellingworth, Maria Volpe, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board member absent: Paul Proulx. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology Integration; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Glenda Oginski, Elementary Principal; approximately 9 members of 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 by the Board: Dalie Thomas for being a State Qualifier in the 400 Meter Dash. Russell Dettmering for winning the WIAA Division 1 state golf title! Russell is the first champion from Merrill since Dave Preboske had the title in 1972. Evyn Schmitz, a 4th grader from Jefferson Elementary School, who was one of only 9 winners in the whole state for the Age in the Classroom essay contest. Deb Brunett for her 18 years of services to the Media Productions Program. The dedication she has shown is something that will be missed by all in that program.

Gary Broesch presented the Strategic Plan to the Board. MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the Strategic Plan and incorporate the Priority Actions into the District scorecard as a means of measuring success. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: District Scorecard data; Achievement Gap Reduction report; Parent Satisfaction Survey results; Employee Engagement Survey results; District Services Survey results; PRSYL monthly data; English Language Learners report; School Forest Final Report 2018-2019; Title Monitoring report; Special Education/Pupil Services report; food participation report; monthly budget update; technology update; and, the Superintendent's report.

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

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve sending the 66.30 Reading Recovery agreements and invoices to the consortium members. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Ratliff to approve the Merrill Police Department School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Woller to approve the 2018-2019 Wisconsin State Head Start Grant. AMENDMENT by Yingling, second by Woller to strikeout 2018-2019 and add 2019-2020. MOTION to approve the 2019-2020 Wisconsin State Head Start Grant carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ratliff to approve the contract between LCHD and Pine River School for Young Learners for health screening services. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Volpe to approve the Associate Principal position at Merrill High School. There was discussion by the Board.

Dr. Sample left the meeting at 7:04 p.m. for two minutes.

Blake left the meeting at 7:07 p.m. for two minutes.

Ratliff left the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

AMENDMENT by Smith, second by Volpe to add, "conditioned upon the administration provides an academic return on the investment plan prior to the 2019-2020 school year." Amendment carried 6-1-0 on a roll call vote (Ayes - Woller, Smith, Stellingworth, Volpe, Yingling and Blake. Nay - Ashbeck.) Motion to approve the Associate Principal position at Merrill High School conditioned upon the administration provides an academic return on the investment plan prior to the 2019-2020 school year carried 6-1-0 on a roll call vote (Ayes - Woller, Smith, Stellingworth, Volpe, Yingling and Blake. Nay - Ashbeck.)

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the Associate Principal position at Kate Goodrich conditioned upon the administration provides an academic return on the investment plan prior to the 2019-2020 school year. Motion carried 4-3-0 on a roll call vote (Ayes - Woller, Smith, Stellingworth and Blake. Nays - Volpe, Yingling and Ashbeck.)

MOTION by Volpe, second by Smith to increase the contracted days of the Activities Director to 240. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Volpe to approve the 2019-2020 food service budget as [presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to approve the revised 2018-2019 budget as [presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the preliminary 2019-2020 budget as [presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to enter into a lease with the City of Merrill to rent space for MADA to hold classes as outlined in the [lease agreement](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Stellingworth to construct a space to accommodate the plasma table purchased with the grant money obtained by the Fab Lab Director. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ashbeck to approve the Simplivity purchase from RMM and the server upgrade purchase from Dell. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board was presented with modifications to the Merrill High School bell schedule for 2019-2020.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the 2019-2020 WIAA Membership renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Smith to place Dr. Sample on Step B of the Superintendent's Salary Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year and Step D for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Stellingworth to change the July 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting to July 18, 2019 and the September 25, 2019 Regular Board meeting to September 24, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the 2020-2021 school calendar and adding on days/minutes for potential make-up days.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve the [resolution](#) accepting the generous gift from Gerald and Charmain Whitburn that will fund annual scholarships for seniors valued at \$250,000 in memory of Bree Whitburn. Motion carried unanimously.

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

President Blake asked if anyone wanted to pull anything from the consent agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

MOTION by Smith, second by Stellingworth to approve consent agenda items a through e, which includes the second reading and approval of Policy 9150 School Visitors; minutes of the May 15, 2019, May 23, 2019 and June 5, 2019 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,266,936.78; the personnel report, which includes the hirings of Amy Stutzriem, Kate Goodrich Elementary School Principal, effective July 1, 2019; Jason Wadzinski, PRMS Math/Science Teacher, effective August 20, 2019; Katherine Maney, Kate Goodrich Special Education Teacher, effective August 20, 2019; Kaitlyn Lau, Kate Goodrich Special Education Teacher, effective August 20, 2019; and, Cortney Wadzinski, PRMS Special Education Teacher, effective August 20, 2019; the transfers of Danielle Bloch to PRMS Special Education Teacher, effective August 27, 2019; and, Debra Sprague to CO Accounts Payable Specialist, effective date to be determined; the resignations of Bryce Befort, PRMS Math and Science Teacher, effective May 31, 2019; Leah Milbeck, Kate Goodrich Teacher, effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year; Rhonda Bengtson, effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year; and, Olivia Kranz, effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year; and, the retirement of Sue VanDerGeest, effective date to be determined; and, donations totaling \$2,274.59. Motion carried with Ashbeck abstaining from his donation and Volpe abstaining from the June 5, 2019 minutes.

For items for Future Meetings, President Blake said that he will be adding on a fourth step for items requested, they will need majority consensus from the Board to support moving forward with it. Volpe asked for future personnel reports to show the transfers between buildings/building assignments. It was unanimous consent by the Board of adding this item to the Finance/HR Committee agenda. Yingling asked for more information on the looping going on at the middle school with a teacher moving with the kids 6th grade on up to 8th grade. It was unanimous

consent by the Board of adding this item to the CTP Committee agenda. Blake asked to look at where MAPS stands on a teacher substitute compensation plan. It was unanimous consent by the Board of adding this item to the Finance/HR Committee agenda.

The Board decision financial impact summary was shared with the Board.

Radio Schedule: Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 8:15 a.m. at Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, July 1, 2019 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 18, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

President Blake announced executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under Section 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 is to review the pre-expulsion history. MOTION by Volpe, second by Yingling to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

8:48 p.m. - 12 minute break

MOTION by Yingling second by Volpe to adjourn at 9:22 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder