

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
October 23, 2019 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:31 PM in the Central Office Board Room.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, Christi Stellingworth, Maria Volpe, Linda Yingling, and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Jon Smith and Brett Woller. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Eddie Then, Director of Human Resources; Jill Seaman, Director of Head Start/Early Childhood/4K; Levi Black, Student Representative; approximately 16 members of the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Smith arrived at 5:32 p.m.

Troyer arrived at 5:34 p.m.

During public comments, Karen Nocco commented on therapy dog policy.

During recognition, the Marching Jays were recognized for having a very successful season this year; as well as, the PRSYL Staff for organizing and hosting PRSYL's Color Run for our Merrill families and community and their commitment to a fun and healthy activity in the outdoors.

Bella Troyer, Student Board of Education Representative, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: National Honor Society induction; DECA Chapter started this year and working with the Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce; college tours; Make-A-Difference Day; ACT prep test for juniors; ACT Aspire test taking; fall sports; winter sports; and, Homecoming week.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Educator Effectiveness Process; Summer School; PRSYL monthly data including enrollment numbers USDA/CACFP meals for students; Third Friday Enrollment; (Ratliff left the room 6:04-6:05 p.m.) Human Resources report; quarterly out-of-state travel report; quarterly summary of purchases between \$5,000-\$9,999; food participation update; monthly budget update; technology update; and, the Superintendent's report.

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

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Proulx to approve keep the policy language as it was presented at the September 24, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and approve Policies 3120/4120 Employment of Professional/Support Staff as second readings. Motion by Ratliff, second by Proulx to rescind the motion. Motion by Smith, second by Volpe to approve Policies [3120/4120](#) Employment of Professional/Support Staff as printed in the agenda notes. Motion carried unanimously.

Updated athletic code of conduct language was shared with the Board.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Ashbeck to approve the 2019-2020 Budget Revisions as presented and to certify the 2019-2020 property tax levy at \$10,952,040. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Ratliff to approve the MAPS 4K contracts for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Yingling to approve the Head Start Annual Report [as presented](#) to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Education reviewed the Head Start Training folder.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Stellingworth to approve raising the sub pay to \$110 per day and \$55 per half day effective October 24, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Smith to approve the budget carryover proposals [as presented](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve the Parent and Teacher Calendar Surveys for consideration in creating the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 calendars. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board had a draft review of the non-renewal process.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve the revised 2019-2021 Merrill Adult Diploma Academy Contract. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board was informed that technical corrections have been made to the Head Start Policy Council addendum to MAPS Student Suspensions, Pre-Expulsions and Expulsions.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ratliff to approve the donation of two wrestling mats from the Wrestling Booster Club valued at \$9,167.00 for the Merrill Wrestling Program. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Yingling to approve the donation of touch-pads from the Merrill Aqua Jays valued at \$5,375.00 for the timing system for swim team meets. Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve consent agenda items a through e, which included the second readings and approval of Policy 8660 Transportation by Private Vehicle; minutes of the September 24, 2019, October 9, 2019 and October 16, 2019 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,770,283.98; the personnel report, which includes the hirings of Bret Byer, District Maintenance Specialist, effective October 17, 2019; the resignation of Debra Blum, effective October 28, 2019; the following limited-term, seasonal or grant employees:

Richard Linder-Burbach, MHS Spring Musical Director; Timothy English, PRMS Football Coach; Todd Nofsinger, PRMS Head Soccer Coach; Zachary Heyne, MHS Assistant Coach; Matthew Ladewig, Washington After School Program; Nate Grefe, MHS Assistant JV Basketball Coach; Josh Klug, PRMS Assistant Intramural Football Coach; Katherine Szmanda, Fall Play Production Manager; Madison Schultz, Jefferson After School Program; and, Tim Moe, MHS Play Director; and, donations totaling \$3,455.00. Motion carried with Volpe and Proulx abstaining from the October 16, 2019 minutes.

There was discussion about the agenda item, "Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof."

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

Radio Schedule: Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 8:15 a.m. at Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- MGCS Governance Board Meeting: Monday, November 11, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m. at MGCS
- PRSYL Policy Governance Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- BVA Governance Board Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2019 @ 1:45 p.m. BVA/Virtual Meeting
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

President Blake called for a MOTION to adjourn into 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; and, 118.125 for the purpose of considering student Early College Credit and Start Now applications that may involve discussions of confidential student records, and to discuss other matters involving student records and personal histories that, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial adverse effect on the reputations of the persons discussed. The purpose of the closed session is for the consideration of (and possible action regarding) applications for participation in the Early College Credit and Start College Now programs; and, consideration of (and possible action regarding) two professional and one support staff member's requests for a leave of absence. MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

7:57 p.m. - 6 minute break

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to reconvene into open session for the Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the 7 Early College Credit applicants and the 11 Start College Now applicants as presented in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Smith to approve the requested employees' leaves of absence as discussed in closed session, unless circumstances change, the matter would be brought back to the Board. Motion by Ratliff, second by Smith to AMEND the motion and add, "two professional staff and one support staff members'." The motion to approve the requested two professional staff and one support staff members' leaves of absence as discussed in closed session, unless circumstances change, the matter would be brought back to the Board carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Yingling to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder