

**Merrill Area Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 20, 2019 – Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:45 PM in the Merrill High School Auditorium.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Christi Stellingworth, Maria Volpe, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling, and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: None. 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; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Elementary Teaching Principal; Levi Black and Bella Troyer, Student Representatives; approximately 86 members of the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comments, John Sturm commented on the closing of Maple Grove and the effects on the MAPS budget; Peter Fromm Wade commented on the Fromm Family, Walter Mable Fromm Scholarship regarding the item 12e on tonight's agenda; Stevie Klockziem commented on the benefit and impact Maple Grove education has had on her student with special ed needs and an IEP; Dr. Angie Servi commented on facts regarding Maple Grove enrollment success and legality of closing Maple Grove prior to June 30, 2022; Trina Lutzke commented on unique resources for a school with declining enrollment and what attracted her to the district as non-natives of Merrill; Melissa Yates commented looking at the broader picture of potential budget savings, with public comment, prior to making a school closure decision; and, Eric Vogel commented on the Walter Fromm Scholarship and Maple Grove closure.

During recognition, Elizabeth Schmidt was recognized for qualifying as a State cross country runner. Also recognized were the following individuals who applied for and received a Beyond Crayons and Computer Grants: Sherri Schultz, Barb Lyon, Ida Kujala, Jason Wadzinski, Lynn Kurth, Kris Krug, Erin Bailey, Kevin Keeffe, Megan Sherman, Kelly Wallace, Karrie Koss, Amy Drew, Emmalee Smith, Robin Hanson, Lisa Handlin, Terri Eckes, Tiffany Bucheger, Steve Weix and Olivia Dachel.

Bella Troyer and Levi Black, Student Board of Education Representatives, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: the Veteran's Day assembly, students were respectful; fall sports just ended; Elizabeth Schmidt went to State for Cross Country; winter sports are starting; Michael Casper just signed a letter of intent with Bemidji State; Clubs are fulling running, such as Junior Optimist and National Honor Society; there are lots of volunteer opportunities; Make A Difference Day; Merrill Social Norms; Thursday during flex period there will be a pre-ACT exam offered; next week is Thanksgiving, off the full week; just had fall play *Disorder in the Court*; and, the spring musical was just announced, *The Music Man*, with auditions on December 10th and performances in April.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Professional Development; review of strategic actions with progress monitoring; PRSYL monthly data; MAPS NAC Programming update; Human Resources report; resignee/retiree trend data; food participation update;

monthly budget update; technology update; State Report Card; 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 Smith, second by Volpe to approve the purchase of the addition of a standby generator for Central Office and the maintenance building. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Proulx to approve the HVAC service agreement with Complete Control Inc. [as submitted](#). Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Stellingworth to approve the purchase order of \$115,821.41 for the Door Monitoring Project with Complete Control Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board took no action on the agreement with Nexus.

The Board had a preliminary discussion regarding the potential consolidation of Maple Grove Elementary School into the Three In-Town Elementary Schools.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to schedule a Community Question/Answer Session on January 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to be held at the Merrill High School Auditorium. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Education was informed of technical corrections made to Policies 3121, 4121, 3122.01, 4122.01, 3122.02, 4122.02 and 6235.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ratliff to allow President Blake to send out the letter of support along with the Wisconsin Fab Lab Grant application on behalf of the Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted to pull anything from the consent agenda. Hearing nothing from other Board members, President Blake asked to remove the Personnel Report from the consent agenda.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to approve the personnel report which included the hiring of Annette Dupke, Early Childhood Aide - Special Education, effective December 10, 2019; the following limited-term, seasonal or grant employees: Roger Plautz, PRMS Boys Basketball Coach; Coty Guenther, PRMS Boys Basketball Coach; Jacob Schalow, MHS Boys Basketball Varsity Head Coach; Thomas Curry, MHS Boys Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach; Jay Peterson, MHS Boys Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach; Brian Kwasny MHS Boys Basketball JV Head Coach; Nathaniel Grefe, MHS Boys Basketball Head JV2 Coach; Lisa Handlin, PRMS Boys Basketball Coach; Jacob Schalow, PRMS Boys Basketball Middle School Head Intramural; Thomas Curry, PRMS Boys Basketball Middle School Assistant Intramural; Jay Peterson, PRMS Boys Basketball Middle School Assistant Intramural; Brian Kwasny, PRMS Boys Basketball Middle School Assistant Intramural; Joeline Weix, MHS Girls Basketball Head Varsity Coach; Matthew Schult, MHS Girls Basketball Assistant Varsity Coach; Adam Smith, MHS Girls Basketball Assistant Varsity Coach; Morgan Wilde, MHS Girls Basketball JV2 Head Coach; Eric Losee, MHS Girls Basketball JV2 Assistant Coach; Dawn Leland, MHS Girls Basketball JV2 Assistant Coach; Eryn Grefe, PRMS Girls Basketball Coach; Christopher Hahn,

PRMS Girls Basketball Coach; John Bezier, PRMS Girls Basketball Coach; Mollie Stencil, PRMS Girls Basketball Coach; Lisa Handlin, PRMS Girls Basketball Head Intramural; Patience Pyan, PRMS Girls Basketball Head Intramural; Adam Smith, PRMS Girls Basketball Head Intramural; Mollie Stencil, PRMS Girls Basketball Assistant Intramural; Christopher Hahn, PRMS Girls Basketball Assistant Intramural; Joelene Weix, PRMS Girls Basketball Assistant Intramural; Chris Marlowe, MHS Head Hockey Coach; Tim Wagenaar, MHS Assistant Hockey Coach; Brian Suchocki, MHS Head Wrestling Coach; Carey Mullenberg, MHS Assistant Wrestling Coach; Benjamin Natzke, MHS Assistant Wrestling Coach; Scott Arneson, MHS Assistant Wrestling Coach; Eric Ball, MHS Assistant Wrestling Coach; Jered Severt, MHS Assistant Wrestling Coach (50%); Ryan Martinovici, MHS Assistant Wrestling Coach (50%); Steve Schenck, PRMS Head Wrestling Coach; Logan Figueroa, PRMS Assistant Wrestling Coach; Nathan Beyer, PRMS Assistant Wrestling Coach; Brian Suchocki, PRMS Wrestling Head Intramural; Eric Ball, PRMS Wrestling Assistant Intramural; Jered Severt, PRMS Wrestling Assistant Intramural; Benjamin Natzke, PRMS Wrestling Assistant Intramural; Logan Figueroa, PRMS Wrestling Assistant Intramural; Carey Mullenberg, PRMS Wrestling Assistant Intramural; Steve Schenck, PRMS Wrestling Assistant Intramural; Geoff Depies, PRMS Wrestling Assistant Intramural; Kobe Blake, MHS Boys Basketball Assistant JV Coach; Gina Krause, Special Olympics Bowling Coach; Trina Pawlilcki, Special Olympics Bowling Coach; Gina Krause, Special Olympics Ski/Snowshoe Coach; Katy Nelson, Special Olympics Coach/Coordinator; and, Adam Smith, Special Olympics Coach. Motion carried with President Blake abstaining.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Volpe to approve consent agenda items a, b, c and e, which included second reading of Policy #TBD Rights and Responsibilities of Divorced/Separated Parents/Guardians and Parents/ Guardians Not Sharing the Same Household; minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,043,003.34; and, donations totaling \$1,640.44. Motion carried with Woller abstaining from the October 23, 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, November 21, 2019 at 8:15 a.m. at Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

Future Meetings

- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m. at Maple Grove
- PRSYL Policy Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 18, 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. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss the non-renewal philosophy and specific historical references in order to create an effective understanding of the process. MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

8:17 p.m. - 14 minute break to move back to the MAPS Central Office Board Room.

8:17 p.m. - Ratliff left the meeting

MOTION by Proulx, second by Smith to adjourn at 9:26 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck
Clerk

Tammy Woller
Recorder