

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
January 15, 2020 – Minutes**

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The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:30 PM in the Merrill High School Auditorium.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Christi Stellingworth, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling, Maria Volpe and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: None. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Eddie Then, Director of Human Resources; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology Integration; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Jill Seaman, Director of Early Education/4K/Head Start; Dr. Dawn Nonn, Elementary Teaching Principal; Bella Troyer, Student Representative; approximately 43 members of the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public comments, Peter Fromm Wade commented on the children of Maple Grove as per Johanna fromm Schedler. Terry Fondow commented on Maple Grove. Arabella Baumann commented on Maple Grove.

During recognition, the following were recognized: Community Partnership with our 4K Community Programs in honor of this year being the 10th year of the collaboration with MAPS. The 4K site directors and their teachers at each site have worked closely with our MAPS 4K Director to provide education to Merrill's 4-year-olds to prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. Those individuals over the 10 years include: Jill Seaman, current 4K Director; 4K Teachers: Joan Tabor, Amanda Filter, Kate Shimel, Naomi Schneider, Amy Handlin; and, former MAPS 4K Directors: Beth Tepper, Rich Thwaites, Joan Krohn and Dr. John Sample. The MHS eSports Team, who made it to State, competing in Overwatch, at Madison Area Technical College. The team tied for 3rd place overall. This was the first year the district officially supported a team, and they managed to make an appearance at state level. Thank you to Brian Cline and Aaron Svcek for donating their time to provide this opportunity to students, and congratulations to the following students for their accomplishments. Team members: Damien Woodard, Connor Stender, Brennen Schotz, Theodore Hehling, Cody Gray, Gabriel Small, Seth Brown, Bryce Roper and Colin Jacobson. Ananda Van Wie has placed 2nd in the Student Art Exhibit and Awards sponsored by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, the Wisconsin Art Education Association and Liberty Mutual. Ananda's artwork will be displayed at the 99th State Education Convention in Milwaukee on January 22 and 23. Also recognized was high school art teacher, Rene Wagenaar.

Bella Troyer, Student Board of Education Representative, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including: MHS Dinner and a Show put on by the choir; a meeting next Wednesday for parents and seniors regarding local scholarships, with February 10, 2020 being the deadline to submit; winter sports, girls basketball, boys basketball and wrestling; spring sports sign up has started; and, next week is finals week.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Quarterly student achievement pillar monitoring report; quarterly student and staff wellness pillar monitoring report; student

withdrawal survey data; PRSYL monthly data; Human Resources report; food participation update; monthly budget update; quarterly summary of purchases between \$5000-\$9999; quarterly out-of-state travel report; 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 Woller, second by Ratliff to approve the 2020-2021 MAPS Head Start Five-Year Strategic Goals. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Stellingworth to approve the 2020 MAPS Head Start Self Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ratliff, second by Woller to approve the Head Start Cost Allocation Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the Head Start Transportation Waiver for 2020-2021. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to not deny students with disabilities based on space, for the 2020-2021 open enrollment period. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ratliff to approve the renewal of the hockey co-op with Wausau East and Wausau Newman High School. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve the renewal of the girls' lacrosse cooperative for the years of 2020-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Ratliff to approve the changes to the Employee Anti-Harassment Policies #3362 and #4362. Motion carried unanimously.

Technical corrections made to Policies 3210/4210 Staff Ethics was shared with the Board.

The 2020-2021 preliminary budget forecast was shared with the Board.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda, hearing none, he called for a motion. MOTION by Smith, second by Proulx to approve the consent agenda items a through e, which includes approval of the revisions and the second readings of Policies 3122 and 4122 Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity; the minutes of the December 18, 2019 and January 8, 2020 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$3,055,648.35; the personnel report, which includes the retirements of Roxane Eggersgluess, Kathleen Nelson and Claire LaValley, all effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; and, the termination of Barbara Grawien, effective November 14, 2019; and, donations totaling \$5,306.46. Motion carried with Ratliff abstaining from the January 8, 2020 minutes.

"Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof" was shared with the Board.

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

Radio Schedule: Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. at Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

#### Future Meetings

- School Forest Advisory Meeting: Monday, January 27, 2020 @ 4 p.m. at the School Forest
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Tuesday, February 5, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, February 10, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. at Maple Grove
- PRSYL Policy Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 @ 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; (e) deliberating or negotiation of the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; (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, (g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss two support staff's leaves of absence; and, to confer with legal counsel who is rendering legal advice regarding the consideration of the closing of the Maple Grove School, specifically the potential/likelihood of litigation associated with doing so, and the strategies/options available to the Board which may be the subject of negotiations with the Maple Grove Governance Board, and to take possible action related to same. MOTION by Proulx, second by Ratliff to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

7:01 p.m. - 7 minute break.

Ratliff left the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to approve the leave without pay and benefits for Emily Heckendorf from January 24, 2020 to June 11, 2020. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

MOTION by Smith, second by Proulx considering the legal memorandum delivered by the chairperson of the Maple Grove Governance Board to the MAPS Board of Education at the November 20, 2019 Regular Board Meeting during public comment session in an apparent response to the November 6, 2019 Finance and Human Resource Committee taking up the topic, "Preliminary Discussion Regarding the Potential Consolidation of Maple Grove

Elementary School in the Three In-Town Elementary Schools”; The Finance/HR committee on December 4, 2019 and the full MAPS Board on December 18, 2019 in closed session under the guidance of legal counsel, discussed and thoroughly reviewed the terms and conditions agreed upon by both parties, the “District” and the “Governance Board”, defined by the Charter School Contract referenced in the legal memorandum and by representatives of the Governance Board. The review and findings uncovered multiple events of default: I hereby motion to notify the Maple Grove Governance Board of these material breaches and require the Maple Grove Governance Board to cure or otherwise remedy to the satisfaction of the terms of the contract no later than April 1, 2020. Motion carried 6-2-0 on a roll call vote (Ayes: Woller, Smith, Stellingworth, Volpe, Proulx and Blake. Nays: Yingling and Ashbeck.)

MOTION by Smith, second by Yingling to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder