

**Merrill Area Public Schools  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
March 18, 2020 – Minutes**

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The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:37 PM in the Central Office Board Room.

Board members present: Nubs Ashbeck, Paul Proulx, Jeremy Ratliff, Jon Smith, Christi Stellingworth, Maria Volpe (by remote), Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: None. Others Present: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent. Others present by remote: Brian Dasher, Director of Finance; Eddie Then, Director of Human Resources; Glenda Oginski, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Dale Bergman, Director of Buildings & Grounds; Karen Baker, Director of Special Education/Pupil Services; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Mark Seaman, Middle School Associate Principal; Jaime Farkas, BVA Assistant Principal; Jill Seaman, Director of Early Education/4K/Head Start; Laura Krause-Zastrow, Food Service Director; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

Recognition was postponed.

The Student Board of Education Representative report was postponed.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: the Mid-Year Achievement Gap Reduction report; Student Monitor report; Coronavirus Preparedness update; PRSYL monthly data; Human Resources report; 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; Policy; and, Curriculum/ Technology/Pupil Services Committees.

MOTION by Smith, second by Proulx to continue to pay everybody. AMENDMENT by Smith, second by Proulx to add "the payment of wages and benefits at the current levels to full-time or part-time regularly-scheduled employees of the District." Amendment carried unanimously. Motion to continue to pay everybody the payment of wages and benefits at the current levels to full-time or part-time regularly-scheduled employees of the District carried unanimously. (It was the intent of the Board that this will be in effect until the end of the school year and then re-evaluated, if needed.)

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to continue offering meal service beginning on March 30 through the end of the closure on April 6 or beyond if the state mandated COVID-19 closure is extended. AMENDMENT by Proulx, second by Woller to change the date to March 23. Motion to continue offering meal service beginning on March 23 through the end of the closure on April 6 or beyond if the state mandated COVID-19 closure is extended carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Stellingworth to approve schedules, course offerings and registration materials for MAPS Summer School Enrichment 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratliff left the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to approve the wireless upgrades through Heartland Business Systems for equipment and professional services not to exceed \$40,000. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Yingling to approve the Merrill High School Boys Basketball trip to Minnesota over the winter break of 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Proulx to approve Scenario One to add a Reading Specialist at MHS and an Instructional Coach at PRMS. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Yingling to approve the roofing projects with Kimmons Roofing to begin projects as weather and funding permits. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Yingling to approve the purchase of a new electric steamer for Kate Goodrich. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to approve the refinishing of the gym floor at Kate Goodrich by Basemans. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Stellingworth, second by Woller to approve the purchase of a baseball scoreboard, pending it is fully funded by donations. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve the donation of 350 duffle bags from Connexus Credit Union valued at \$10,000.00 for children at the elementary level. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board was informed of technical corrections made to Policy 8330 Student Records.

Dr. Sample discussed and gave an update on the master facilities plan with the Board.

Stellingworth left the meeting 7:12-7:14 p.m.

Yingling left the meeting 7:14-7:16 p.m.

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 f, which includes second readings and approval of Bylaw 0167.3 Public Participation at Board Meetings; Bylaw 0100 Definitions; Bylaw 0121 Authority; Bylaw 0143 Authority of Individual Board Members; Bylaw 0164.2 Special Meetings; Policy 1130 Conflict of Interest; Policy 3230 Conflict of Interest; Policy 4230 Conflict of Interest; Policy 3213 Student Supervision and Welfare; Policy 4213 Student Supervision and Welfare; Policy 2210 Curriculum Development; Policy 2260 Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity; Policy 2260.01 Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability; Policy 2261 Title I Services; Policy 2261.01 Parent and Family Member Participation in Title I Programs; Policy 3340 Grievance Procedure; Policy 4340 Grievance Procedure; Policy 5113 Open Enrollment Program; Policy 5330 Administration of Medication; Policy 5517 Student Anti-Harassment; Policy 5630 Corporal Punishment; Policy 6325 Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds; Policy 6605 Crowdfunding; Policy 7440.01 Video Surveillance and Electronic

Monitoring; Policy 7540.01 Technology Privacy; Policy 7540.02 Web Content, Apps, and Services; Policy 8146 Notification of Educational Options; Policy 8310 Public Records; Policy 8320 Personnel Records; Policy 8390 Animals on District Property; Policy 8800 Religious, Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances; Policy 9130 Public Requests, Suggestions, or Complaints; and, Policy 7510 Use of District Facilities/Auditoriums; the deletion of Policy 6220 Budget Preparation; the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,820,251.95; the personnel report, which includes the retirement of Melody Jones, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; and, the hiring of the following limited-term employees: Spring Musical Musicians Lynn Curry, Bailey Iwen, Amy Raddatz, Mary Premeau, Phillip Burclaff, Amber Chula and Jessica Wenzel; Summer School Principals Trisha Detert, Alex Mashak and Brad Potter; Middle School Assistant Track Coach Mandy Petts; and, Middle School Softball Head Coach Scott Semling; Merrill High School Special Olympics Track Coaches Gina Krause and Trina Pawlicki; and, PRMS Head Girls Soccer Coach Nathan Grams; and, donations totaling \$714.73. Motion carried unanimously.

“Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof” was shared with the Board and will be updated to make it current. Smith asked to propose payment only occurs for board members that are there for adjournment of meetings.

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

Radio Schedule: Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. at Bluejay 730 Radio Station.

#### Future Meetings

- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- Special Board Meeting - Board/ALT Workshop: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room
- School Forest Advisory Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. at the School Forest
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. at Maple Grove
- PRSYL Policy Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. at PRSYL
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 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 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; (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; 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 1) Consideration of (and possible action regarding) a professional staff member's request for a leave of absence; 2) The consideration of (and possible action regarding) applications for participation in the Early College Credit and Start College Now programs; 3) To consider and act upon parental requests for student opt out of state assessments, including the potential for a closed session(s) to review the specifics applicable to the affected student(s) if the discussion of such in open session would be likely to have an adverse effect upon the reputation of such student(s) pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(f), Wis. Stats. Any such closed session(s) shall be immediately followed by reconvening in open session for further consideration and, ultimately, action upon the parental requests. 4) To consider litigation strategies/options available to the District with respect to litigation with Friends of Maple Grove, Inc., and to take possible action related to the same. The Board will reconvene to open session and may take action upon the matters discussed during the closed session portion of the meeting. 5) For consideration of impact of educational programs/staffing decisions upon the employment of personnel for the 2020-2021 school year, including the consideration of issuance of notices of preliminary consideration of non-renewal to affected personnel. MOTION by Woller, second by Volpe to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

7:33 p.m. - 9 minute break.

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

MOTION by Proulx, second by Stellingworth to approve the parental requests for Students A, B and C to opt out of state assessments. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Woller to approve the 11 Early College Credit courses and the 31 Start College Now courses as presented in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Proulx to approve unpaid leave for Sadie Boyle up to 12 weeks with the option to use PTO. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Proulx to approve the issuance of notices of preliminary consideration of non-renewal to teachers affected by changes in educational programming at the middle and high school which include Amy Ewan for Foreign Language and whose positions may be eliminated by the pending consideration of the closure of Maple Grove which includes Talena Bliven as an elementary teaching reduction and Ryan Plautz as a physical education reduction. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Ashbeck, second by Proulx to adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder