

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

---

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Blake at 5:30 PM by Google Hangout virtual meeting.

Board members present by remote: Nubs Ashbeck, Paul Proulx, Jon Smith, Christi Stellingworth, Maria Volpe, Brett Woller, Linda Yingling and Kevin Blake (a quorum was present). Board members absent: Jeremy Ratliff. Others Present by remote: Dr. John Sample, Superintendent; 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; Keshia Mashak, Director of Technology; Shannon Murray, High School Principal; Ryan Martinovici, Middle School Principal; Heather Skutak, Elementary Principal; Trisha Detert, Elementary Principal; Amy Stutzriem, Elementary Principal; Dawn Nonn, Teaching Elementary Principal; Alex Mashak, Associate Elementary Principal; Jill Seaman, Director of Early Education/4K/Head Start; approximately 7 people from the staff and public; and, Tammy Woller, Recorder.

President Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve Bylaw 0167.1 Voting as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Woller to waive the first reading of Bylaw 0189 and approve as a second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratliff here at 5:37 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Recognition was postponed.

Christi Stellingworth was recognized for her service as a school board member; and, Ron Liberty was introduced as the incoming school board member.

Administrative reports were shared with the Board including: Quarterly Student Achievement Pillar Monitoring Report; Quarterly Student and Staff Wellness Pillar Monitoring Report; (Troyer here at 5:53 p.m.) PRSYL monthly data; Human Resources report; food participation update; monthly budget update; Quarterly Out-of-State Travel Report; Quarterly Summary of Purchases Between \$5000-\$9999; technology update; and, the Superintendent's report.

Bella Troyer, Student Board of Education Representative, updated the Board on activities at the Merrill High School, including how virtual learning is going for her as a student.

Committee reports were shared with the Board from the Finance/HR (Black here at 6:22 p.m.) and Curriculum/ Technology/Pupil Services Committees.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Smith to continue to pay transportation contractors the full payment for regular home-to-school and school-to-home routes. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Volpe to continue to pay Taher to continue salaries for food service employees. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve pursuing a lawsuit against Repair EM, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Volpe to approve the 2019-2020 budget revisions as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Woller, second by Ratliff to table item e (2020-2021 Staffing Plan). Motion carried unanimously.

The Board did a first reading of the 2020-2021 handbook revisions for teachers and support staff and discussed changes they would like to the handbooks.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve changes to the FMLA policies (#3430.01 and #4430.01) as presented in the attached documents with an effective date of July 1, 2020 and for administration to handle the transfer of employees who are currently on FMLA under the old cycle terminology. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to continue to pay in full for all academic and athletic co-curricular positions through their normally assigned time, but not beyond June 30, 2020. Motion carried with Blake abstaining from the motion if it applies to his son, Kobe Blake.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to accept the health insurance renewal with option 2 as [presented](#) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year which includes the additional coverage for physical therapy visits. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Woller to approve the 2020 Federal COLA Supplement an. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Ratliff to reduce staffing levels of the adult workers in the Media Productions program in order to increase opportunities for the students in that program. AMENDMENT by Ratliff to add, "and not make any staffing changes within Merrill Productions until after June 1." President Blake called three times for a second to the amendment. Amendment failed for lack of a second. Motion to reduce staffing levels of the adult workers in the Media Productions program in order to increase opportunities for the students in that program carried.

MOTION by Proulx, second by Volpe to approve the charging station purchase through Zones. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Volpe, second by Stellingworth to waive Board Policy 5460 Graduation Requirements for the Merrill High School Class of 2020 and, instead, require that students in that class meet the State of Wisconsin graduation requirements as defined under State Statute 118.33. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ratliff left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

President Blake asked if anyone wanted anything pulled from the consent agenda, hearing none, he called for a motion. MOTION by Volpe, second by Yingling to approve the consent agenda items a through e, which includes the minutes of the March 18, 2020 and April 8, 2020 meetings; claims, vouchers and receipts totaling \$2,969,643.91; the personnel report, which includes the hiring of Rachel Akey, BVA Art Teacher, effective August 10, 2020; the resignations of Chase Nelson, Stephanie Nelson, and Stephanie Pittman, all effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; recognition of donations received for the Great Speaker Committee totaling \$1,660.00; and, other donations totaling \$269.46. Motion carried with Woller abstaining from the April 8, 2020 minutes.

"Items for Future Meetings and Possible Action to Approve the Future Discussions Thereof" was briefly discussed.

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

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

#### Future Meetings

- Organizational Meeting: Monday, April 27, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Safety Committee Meeting: Monday, May 4, 2020 @ 12:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Facilities Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.- *meeting conducted remotely*
- Finance/HR Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Maple Grove Governance Board Meeting: Monday, May 11, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- PRSYL Policy Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Curriculum/Technology/Pupil Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m. - *meeting conducted remotely*

Ratliff returned to the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

President Blake called for a MOTION to adjourn into executive (closed) session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes under 119.85(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.

The purpose of the closed session is for 1) Review the list of teaching staff who will be receiving a contract for the 2020-2021 school year and their respective eligibility for movement on the salary schedule for 2020-2021; 2) Consideration of issuance of notice of preliminary consideration of non-renewal to teachers affected by reductions for economic reasons; 3) Consideration of issuance of final notices of non-renewal to teachers who received a notice of preliminary consideration of non-renewal; 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 same. The Board will reconvene to open session and may take action upon the matters discussed during the closed session portion of the meeting. MOTION by Volpe, second by Proulx to adjourn into executive session. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

7:44 p.m. - 6 minute break.

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

MOTION by Proulx, second by Ashbeck to approve the teachers and specialists eligible for 2020-2021 Teacher Contracts [as presented](#) as well as the corresponding eligibility for step and lane movement on the Board approved teacher compensation plan pending successful completion of the 2019-2020 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Smith, second by Volpe to approve the issuance of final notices of non-renewal to teachers who were previously issued a notice of preliminary consideration of non-renewal, specifically Talena Bliven and Amy Ewan. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Yingling, second by Volpe to adjourn at 10:02 p.m.

Nubs Ashbeck  
Clerk

Tammy Woller  
Recorder